



SDG Discussion Guide

Genesis 39:1-6; 20-23

September 17, 2017

For starters:

In what job setting have you enjoyed the most “success”?

What kind of “boss” do most identify: Everyone’s friend? Law and order tough? A hands-on operator? A detached delegator? Why?

Interaction with the text: (The following questions are meant to provide points of interaction with the respective sermon text. Feel free to forward the questions to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday; or, group members may find these questions in print on that Sunday. Further, feel free to facilitate your own discussion regarding the respective text.)

1. Trace the development of Joseph’s ability and responsibility from the time he enters Potiphar’s house. What do you notice? What stands out in the text?
2. Read every word slowly and contemplatively in verses 1-6? What questions arise for your group? What other biblical characters come to mind and why?
3. Read every word slowly and contemplatively in verses 20-23? What questions arise for your group? What other Scriptures or biblical characters come to mind and why?
4. How do Joseph’s prospects look in verse 1? In verse 20?
5. What truths about God and Joseph are conveyed by the symmetry of Joseph the trusted slave (vv. 1-6) and trusted prisoner (vv. 19-23)? What can we surmise about Joseph’s attitude toward his new, more humiliating situation?
6. In what way is your life like Joseph’s right now? Feeling imprisoned in some way? Not sure what is going to happen to you in days ahead? Experiencing God’s blessing in your life? Difficult work environment? You are constantly facing temptation? Other?
7. In what situation have you been treated unfairly or unjustly for taking a moral stand or refusing to do something wrong? What was your experience?
8. What motivates you to live a holy life before God? Love for God? God’s love for you? Fear of God -- your desire to not be punished? Other persons -- your desire to not disappoint them? Desire to please God and do his will? Self respect -- desire to be true to yourself? A mixture of these? Other? Be transparent with your group about the mixed motivations we often experience living the Christian life.

How can your group pray for you now and in the days ahead?

*These questions were adapted from *The NIV Quiet Time Bible* (InterVarsity, 1996), *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998), and *The NIV Life Application Study Bible* (Zondervan, 2011).