



Growth Group discussion questions for Genesis 37-50

Week of April 8-11, 2018

1. NCC Q31: What do we believe by true faith?

A: Everything taught to us in the gospel. The Apostles' Creed expresses what we believe in these words: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Memorize, meditate on and be ready to recite Jude 3.

2. What principles or thoughts had the most impact on you from the message on this passage on Sunday, April 8th? How were you specifically challenged? What points of application did you take away from the message?

3. [Optional: read Genesis 37-50. Otherwise, reference the specific passages cited below]

Genesis 37-50 contains the striking story of Jacob's son, Joseph. It's a beautiful demonstration of the faithfulness, sovereignty, and providence of God through great trials.

Define providence as it relates to God. What is it? Why is it important and also encouraging?

4. In order to trace the hand of God in Joseph's life experiences, let's start with the end in view. What heights did God ultimately bring Joseph to? What was his position and responsibility? (Gen. 41:37-46)

5. How do you see God's hand in leading Joseph to this position in the following passages:

- Gen. 37:2-8, 25-28

- Gen. 39:1-6

- Gen. 39:6-23

- Gen. 40:1-23

- Gen. 41:14-36

- Gen. 45:4-15,27

6. How long did God's plan take to unfold? (compare Gen. 37:2, 41:46)

7. What indication do we have that Joseph was keenly aware of God's hand at work in all the circumstances of his life? (Gen. 45:5, 7-8; 50:15-21) Where else do we see an important example of God's hand at work in and through godless men to bring about his purposes? (Is. 53:4-5, 10; Acts 2:22-23, 4:27-28)

8. In the end, how important was God's sovereign preservation of Joseph and his family through the widespread famine? (Matt. 1:1-2, ...16)

9. There is a natural temptation to see trials as only bad. Sometimes we don't see God's good plans and purposes in our lives until years later as we look back on our lives. As you look back on your life, how have you seen God's sovereign providence in your life? How have you seen God work through good and bad circumstances to accomplish his purposes in your life and others? Give an example.

10. God was always with Joseph through his many trials and experiences (Gen. 39:2-3, 21). How would this have encouraged and strengthened Joseph? How can you know that God is always with you, no matter what you're going through? (Matt. 28:19-20, John 14:16-17, Heb. 13:5-6) In what ways does this encourage you?

11. How can you develop a peaceful hope in your soul as you go through difficult circumstances in your life? What do you need to regularly remind yourself about God? What do you need to "preach" to yourself? (Ps. 27:14, 105:4; Lam. 3:22-24, 1 Peter 1:3-9, Rom. 8:28-39, James 1:2-4, what else?)

PRAY IN THE GROUP

- Praise God for his gracious providence in leading us to hire Josiah Kenniv as our new worship leader. Pray that God would prepare him for this new role (he will start at Cornerstone on May 21st), also for our pastoral staff as we work with Josiah for his development during his initial internship.