

The Torah

Community Group Discussion Guide

January 17, 2016

Week 3 | God Brings Life Out of Death
Genesis 37-50

Questions for study & group discussion

1. The "Joseph story" at the end of Genesis covers a lot of ground! As a group, spend some time briefly reviewing and summarizing what is going on in Genesis 37-50.
2. Identify some of the circumstances in Joseph's life that could have made him feel abandoned by God. Make a list of these things as a group.
3. And yet Joseph never was abandoned by God! List out the ways the author of Genesis makes it clear that God was with Joseph. Also list some of the things Joseph says and does that make it clear he knows that God is active in his life.
4. Have you ever felt abandoned by God? Why did you feel like this, and what "ripple effects" did this have on other parts of your life?
5. Genesis 37-50 shows us that God is with us even in the most difficult of circumstances, and that things that seem meant for harm and evil God can redeem for good (Genesis 50:20). How do these truths about God's presence and His control and His redeeming activity shape how you approach difficult circumstances?
6. Joseph isn't the only story in the Bible that reflects God's presence in the midst of suffering, His control over difficult circumstances, and His ability to redeem evil, broken situations. How are these same themes present in what we know about Jesus' life and His crucifixion?
7. Share any personal stories you may have about how these truths (God's presence, control, and redeeming activity) have proven true in your life, in the midst of difficult circumstances you've been through. How should seeing God work that way in the past shape how you move forward in the future?
8. Way to go for finishing the book of Genesis! With any remaining time you may have left, reflect back on big "take-aways" from this first book of the Bible. What have you learned about God? What have you learned about humanity – us? What does faithful living look like?