

Life group notes

Joseph part 2. GENESIS 37

The story of Joseph highlights the important theological idea of 'providence.'

There is visible or seen providence - miracles, healing, audible voices etc

There is invisible or unseen providence - our experiences, the people we meet, our education, our parents etc

Both of these are important in the life of Joseph:-

The seen providence may include the dreams Joseph has

The unseen may include what some call co-incidences in life

Read Genesis 37

Question:-

What are the unseen providences of God at work here. Things we might call co-incidences?

Answer:

The caravan that just happens to pass by so Joseph can get into Egypt.

The stranger who happens to meet Joseph when he could not find his brothers.

Note:

Some times the providence of God seems stranger and even painful but looking back we can see the hand of God. Perhaps Joseph felt like this. At the time he would not see the hand of God but later he was able to say 'you meant it for harm but God meant it for good.'

Sharing idea

Can anyone remember something that happened that seemed so strange or painful but you can now see the hand of God in it all?

How do we help one another through times that seem so hard? Often we want to opt out and run away!

Perhaps some of the group are going through confusing times? We want to pray that God would solve the problem or take us out of it. Possibly we need to pray that God would give us strength and grace to walk through the challenge with faith as perhaps God will use this to extend His glory.

Are any of the group going through tough time? Pray for them! I would encourage you to lay hands on people and ask for the Holy Spirit to come and give words of encouragement etc.

Training note:- be cautious of words that always say - God is going to get you out of this as often God wants us to walk through things to learn and to grow and perhaps extend His glory to those around us.

Idea:-

Have any of the group experienced God-incidences this week? If not then a bit of homework for next time the group meets - look out for conversations and events that God has initiated. Be prepared to share them next time you meet as a group.

Eg you just rang someone at the right time or someone sent you a text at just the right time.

How do we recognise when God is prompting us to do something? Eg send a card, a text, a letter or whatever. We need to learn to listen to God.

Idea - if you have someone in the group you know is really good at listening to God get them to share how it works for them. But make sure that we all know that things work differently for different people.

We are looking for God to act in both unseen and seen ways.

ALWAYS be prepared to pray for miracles, healing, provision.