

Life Group Study

Joseph

We have all faced difficult times - family, friends, faith, work, health, finance - all kinds of trials.

Joseph faced many challenges but was able to keep his attitude right in the middle of it all. Our attitude will define our reactions and actions. Our attitude will define what goes on in our hearts. Bad attitude = bad heart = bad action

So how do we keep a good attitude?

Read Genesis chapter 45

What do you discover about Joseph's attitude to all that has happened to him?

Answer:- he has a God centred faith not a me centred attitude.

How do we keep God centred?

Gather ideas from the group.

Possible answers.

A) Think about the needs of others not our own!

B) remind ourselves that the theological truth of the providence of God is far bigger than our feelings or emotions.

C) The truth is more significant than feelings and emotions which easily change.

D) Remember the promises of God

E) forgive quickly

There may be others.....

Note for leaders:-

Even in this discussion we could easily get into 'feeling' rather than truth and the Word of God. Keep the group asking:- 'What does the Bible say?'

Chapter 45:4. 'Come close to me,' said Joseph

If there was any bitterness or anger left in Joseph he would be unable to be so welcoming to his brothers. Unforgiveness creates a distance between people. We do not know what to say to someone. It is all a bit awkward.

Exercise

Ask the group to quietly think about their life and ask God if there is anyone they would not want to walk into the room right now due to unforgiveness.

Don't forget - forgiveness is not the same as trust! Joseph tested his brothers. He needed to know they had really changed before he revealed himself to them. This was wise.

The group may want to share if there are any particular circumstances to pray about. Any broken relationships to pray into for forgiveness or reconciliation.

BLESSING PEOPLE

Throughout the story Joseph has been an example of grace and blessing.

Go back over the whole story and think of as many examples of his grace and blessing.

We are ALL called to bless people.....

How can we do this? Think of as many examples as possible.

A CHALLENGE

I would like every Life Group to think of a way to be a blessing to others. Here are a few ideas:-

Visit an old folks home very couple of months just to see how you can help.

Litter pick in the area once every few weeks

Make cards and send them different people to encourage them - not just friends!

Have a five pence jar each week and collect money for CityCare

No doubt there are other things you can do as a group. Try something!!