



SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week of: 5/31/2020



Series: Life Disrupted

Big Idea: God's providence works through relational disruptions for God's glory and our good!

Scripture: Genesis 17:12-36

Connect and Opening Thought – 10 minutes

1. Share about a broken relationship in your life that ended up being restored.
2. Joseph certainly experienced a disrupted life. Sold to traders by his brothers at an early age and taken to live in a foreign land. He experienced some dramatic and disruptive life events. However, through it all, Joseph saw the hand of God at work in his life (see Genesis 50:20). Our challenge this week is to identify the disruptions and relationship conflicts that have entered into our lives. Like Joseph, we want to trust that God can work through some very difficult situations for His glory and the end goal of restoration in the lives of His people.
3. Pray and read Genesis 37:12-36.

Bible Discussion

4. In your opinion, why do you think Joseph's brothers wanted to kill him?
5. Have you ever experienced a relationship that became broken? Please share the story behind that broken relationship.
6. Considering the passage of scripture we just read, what was unique about the contributions of both Reuben and Judah? What do you think would have happened if they did not react the way they did?
7. It has been said that broken relationships can lead us into one of two directions. Think back to the relationship you identified in question #5. What path are you currently traveling down?

Pathway #1: Sadness → Disappointment → Frustration → Anger

Pathway #2: Sadness → Discovery → Opportunity → Restoration

Life Application

Chapter 37 ends with Joseph's father, Jacob, mourning the loss of his son but there is a lot more to the story. Joseph goes on to prominence in the Egyptian kingdom and later saves his brothers and family from starvation by providing them with sustenance after a prolonged drought. In Genesis 50:20 Joseph states, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." Identify a strained or broken relationship in your life and try to imagine how God could work in it for His glory and for Christ centered restoration.

Challenge

Take a first step this week to restore a disrupted or broken relationship.

Celebrate and Care

Share wins from this past week. Share other prayer requests.

