



Joseph: Not Your Average Joe – Turn Your Pits Into Pit Stops

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 1)

TRADITIONAL MODEL:

How do you identify with Joseph's "pit stop?"

In what ways have you found yourself following the misconception that a life of faith is an easy, perfect life?

What's the most difficult part of being in the pit for you and why?

How does following Hebrews 12:2 sustain you in low periods?

In what ways can you look back and see how the biggest challenges in your life brought about necessary changes? (Is 38:17)

Read 2Cor 5:17. How do the words of this verse affect your perspective on life?

What words of encouragement do you have for someone who is currently in the pit?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: (Page 2)

CONTEMPLATIVE MODEL:

What are you learning about God from this message?

What are you learning about yourself from the message?

What questions does this message bring up for you?

What is God doing in your heart lately?

What things do you feel are getting in the way from what God wants to do in you?

What is the biggest thing causing you concern these days? (something to pray about)

What is the Gospel?

The Gospel is the “good news” that Jesus entered into our broken world to rescue us from sin. The good news is that through Christ’s redemptive sacrifice on the cross, sinners are pardoned, the undeserving are given grace, and the broken are restored. There is no sin too heinous for God’s forgiveness. There is no person so good in-and-of-themselves that they do not require forgiveness. Salvation is a free gift of God to anyone who genuinely acknowledges their brokenness and confesses saving faith in the Son of God. It doesn’t take strong faith, just genuine faith in order to be saved.



An example prayer you could pray:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge I'm broken and a sinner. I believe that Christ died on the cross for sin, and through his resurrection overcame sin and death. I believe in you. I thank you for saving me.

The good news does not end with a confession of faith. New faith can grow into deep faith if cultivated. Let someone at Sunridge know about your new-found faith, and inquire about our new believer's resource: God Time: Your First 31 Days. Follow Christ wholeheartedly by professing your faith publicly through baptism, learning the Bible by attending church regularly and pursuing the unique calling of Jesus in your life!

Leader Guide: Pit Stops **Genesis 37**

Joseph: An ordinary person living a remarkable life through extraordinary circumstances.

Sometimes, life is the pits.

Joseph turned his pits into pit-stops

Gen 37:4 But his brothers hated Joseph because of their father's partiality. They couldn't say a kind word to him.

8 "So you are going to be our king, are you?" his brothers taunted.

8 And they hated him all the more for his dream and what he had said.

18 When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance and made plans to kill him. 19 "Here comes that dreamer!" they exclaimed.

20 "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into a deep pit. We can tell our father that a wild animal has eaten him. Then we'll see what becomes of all his dreams!"



21 “Let’s not kill him,” he said. 22 “Why should we shed his blood? Let’s just throw him alive into this pit here.

Dry cistern: This pit was normally used to store water, but it was empty at the time.

23 So when Joseph arrived, they pulled off his beautiful robe 24 and threw him into the pit.

27 Let’s sell Joseph to those Ishmaelite traders. Let’s not be responsible for his death; after all, he is our brother!” And his brothers agreed.

35 His family all tried to comfort him, (Jacob) but it was no use. “I will die in mourning for my son,” he would say, and then begin to weep.

In one chapter of his life, Joseph goes from favored son to slave, almost murdered, betrayed by family who was jealous of him, sold into slavery. And you thought your family was dysfunctional?

If you were reading this with no prior knowledge would you say Joseph’s life is over?

We all do time in the pit

1) Pit Vipers: One day you’re not minding your own business stopping in to say hi to your brothers and they beat you up and throw you in a dried up well!

2) Pitfalls: Didn’t see it coming but maybe you should have?

3) Pit digger. You had a shovel and dug your own pit then jumped in it.

Every pit has the same view – dark.

Can you imagine what was going through Joseph’s mind? Even the one way out for Joseph seemed blocked with his brother’s faces.

Joseph seems to have the unique ability to...

Turn pits into pit stops

Some things to remember when you’re in the pits:



1. You're not alone.

The two questions we ask in the pit:

- 1) Where is God?
- 2) Why did this happen?

GOOD READ: The Question That Never Goes Away. Phillip Yancey

Jer 14:9 Why are you like a man taken by surprise, like a warrior powerless to save?

Jud 6:13 "But sir," Gideon replied, "if the LORD is with us, why has all this happened to us?"

Isa 45:15 Truly you are a God who hides himself.

The idea that a life of faith comes *sans troubles* is a myth and unbiblical.

Is 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Ps 34:18 The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Jesus never preached a life w/o pits. Instead he chose to: 1)Change their reality (sometimes by miracle) 2)Remind them of his presence. 3)Invite them yet closer to Him.

Mt 11:28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

"I have never had clarity. What I have had is trust. So I will pray that you trust God."

Mother Theresa

A repetitive phrase -

"The Lord was with Joseph"

If you're in the pit, remember this:

You are not alone...The Lord is with you.



2. Remember who you are

If you're in the pit long enough you can start thinking you belong there.

You are not a pit dweller...you are a Child of God

You have been made righteous 2 Cor. 5:21

You are a saint Eph. 1:1

You have been adopted as God's child Eph. 1:5

You are a citizen of heaven Eph. 2:6; Phil. 3:20

You have been redeemed and forgiven of all your sins Col. 1:14

You are Christ's friend John 15:15

You are the dwelling of God/Temple 1 Cor. 6:19

You are a member of Christ's body the Church 1 Cor. 12:27

You are joined to the Lord, and one spirit with Him 1 Cor. 6:17

You have been raised up and are seated with Christ Eph. 2:6

You can approach God with boldness and confidence Eph. 3:12

You are a child of God John 1:12; 1 John 3:1–3