

### Connection

What is something about this fall you are excited for?

### Content - **The life of Joseph gives us a glimpse of hard times and what God does in the midst of them.**

First read John 16:33 and then turn back to John 14:27. What gift is Jesus giving us and how is it different than anything of this world?

### **Sometimes Bad Things Come From You**

**1.** Read Genesis 37:2-11. This is the beginning of Joseph's story, where we see how Joseph's relationship with his family is formed. If you were one of Joseph's brothers, how would you feel towards him in regards to his dreams and overall relationship with his father?

How did Joseph perpetuate the problem?

### **Sometimes Bad Things Come To You**

**2.** Read Genesis 37:18-25. Joseph's brothers plot to kill him, but one brother, Reuben convinces them to sell him into slavery instead. Can you imagine what Joseph must have felt to be betrayed by "his own flesh and blood" and sold into slavery? How would you feel if you were in his shoes?

### **In The Midst Of Bad Things God Is Up To Good Things**

**3.** Read Genesis 39:1-6. Joseph was noticed by a captain of Pharaoh's guard named Potiphar, and as such became his attendant and was placed in charge of his household. Potiphar "saw that the Lord was with him (Joseph) and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did." What do you believe this looked like and how can we model this in our lives?

## **Bad Things Often Refine Our Skills**

4. Read Genesis 39:21-23. Joseph has been placed in prison after being falsely accused, and again the Lord was with him as he was now placed in charge of the entire prison by the warden. God can grow us, even in our darkest moments. How can you see how God is preparing you for something more with your own hardship?

Do you see this playing out right now in your life circumstances?

## **Bad Things Happen So Don't Be Surprised**

5. Through Joseph's story, he continually has bad things happen to him and yet his story is one that embodies 1 Peter 4:12-13 as he continues to trust in the Lord.

How do you tend to react when faced with hardship? How can we see Christ's glory in our struggles?

## **Commitment**

6. Romans 8:35 says "Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?"

God is with us, and nothing will ever separate us from His love. How can we practice that and remember that this week as we face our own struggles?



**Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.**

This week, **begin with prayer** for a person in your life who needs to hear and feel Jesus' love. Begin today with this tool of how to B.L.E.S.S. them.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?