

Discussion Questions Course 202–1

Large Group

1. Is it easy to trust someone else; why or why not?

Small Group

Game

1. What was Chris's big plan that he was rushing to complete?
2. Did the plan work; why or why not?
3. After their journey to see Joseph, what did Chris say he was going to start following instead of his own plan?
4. That was a great race. Did any of your plans take you in a straight line?

Teaching

1. Joseph must have thought that his life was going to be a successful adventure from that point on. But what was the reaction of his older brothers?
2. When we create our own plans, do we like to include difficult tasks, hard times, ups and downs, and twists and turns?
3. If your plan is to become a professional soccer player, would you put in your plan to spend 5 years in a junior league before you went to the pros?
4. Would you put in a delay of a year for a bad injury?
5. Joseph must have thought God's plan for his life would look like this straight rope—smooth sailing! But, then what happened?
6. Is this rope straight anymore?

Prayer

1. What do you think Joseph thought when he was thrown into the well?
2. Can you name some times that you might have been afraid, if you were Joseph?
3. What does 24/7 mean?

Additional Activities

Relay Game

1. Do you think that as Joseph looked back on his life, he was happy and thankful to be a part of God's plan despite all the hardships he endured? Please explain.

Object Lesson

1. Can you name some of the times that Joseph had to trust in God and His plan for him?
2. Can you name another person in the Bible who trusted God's plan completely even when it meant that He would die?
3. Move halfway between chairs. Did Jesus trust God with only part of His heart?
4. Adjust your position on the chairs to represent the amount of trust before asking each question. Are we going to trust God with our hearts 25 percent? 50 percent? 75 percent?
5. Well then, how much are we going to trust God?

Bible Study

Genesis 37:1–11

1. Do you think Joseph understood that his dreams were given to him by God?
2. Have you ever had a dream you believe was from God?
3. Would it have been easy or difficult to share your dream with your family?
4. Do you think Joseph should have kept it to himself, or just shared it with his father; why or why not?
5. Are there times we should just keep things that God shares with us to ourselves; why or why not?
6. Have you ever been affected by jealousy? How can you overcome it?

Genesis 39:1–6a

1. What do you think was going through Joseph's mind as he was attacked and then sold into slavery by his brothers?
2. Do you think Joseph was angry at God; why or why not?
3. How do you think Joseph felt, being sold to an important Egyptian like Potiphar? Would you feel that God had given you favor?
4. Why did Joseph succeed? Do you think Joseph knew it was God and not his human ability that gave him success; why or why not?
5. Look at verse 3. What does this verse tell you about Joseph's trust and relationship with God?
6. Would it be difficult for you to keep a good attitude with all the things that happened to Joseph?
7. How do you think Joseph felt when he was promoted and put in charge of Potiphar's whole house, while he was still a slave?
8. What results can come to us and others when we trust God, do our best, and keep a good attitude regardless of the circumstances?

Genesis 39:19–23

1. If you were Joseph, how would you feel if you did everything right, and with a good attitude, yet now you are in prison?
2. Have you ever been falsely accused of something? What was the outcome, and how did you feel?
3. Did Joseph react with anger and bitterness? What did he do?
4. Did God abandon Joseph when he was thrown into prison? What did God do?
5. What does the fact that Joseph was put in charge say about his attitude and his service to God?
6. Has God shown you favor when you were in a difficult situation?
7. What does this say about trusting God, serving Him faithfully, and giving Him all we have? What can the result be?