

DOTHAN.

A Discussion Guide for Groups or Individuals

Today's Theme Verse

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” – Matthew 25:40 ESV

THE TEXT

Before you watch this session read the following passage:

- Genesis 37 (main passage)
- Genesis 42:21, Genesis 45:1-5, Genesis 50:15-21
- John 13:34-35, Matthew 25:34-40

THE TEACHING

Watch the video, “Dothan”

SMALL GROUP STUDY – TO BE DISCUSSED BEFORE THE VIDEO

START BY READING GENESIS 37 IN YOUR GROUPS.

- 1) Why did Jacob love Joseph more than his other sons, and what was the significance of the colorful robe? Note, that some commentators suggest that because he was the son of Jacob's favored wife, Rachel, he was the heir. Pastor George DeJong will suggest it may have been more favoritism. What do you think the Scriptures tells us? Consider Joseph's behavior with his brothers. What role did his actions play in their feelings of hatred and envy toward him?
- 2) The brothers were not, in fact, in unison with their plan to kill Joseph. What alternate plans did Reuben and Judah have in mind? Reuben, in particular, seems to be caught between caring for Joseph and going along with his siblings. It would appear he was not there when they sold Joseph. What was good about Reuben's actions, and what would you say was wrong?
- 3) Joseph, we know, was not fully at peace in the moment with his situation in the pit (see Genesis 42:21). When reuniting with his brothers in Egypt, his perspective could not have been more opposite (see Genesis 45:1-5). Why the change?

SMALL GROUP APPLICATION – TO BE DISCUSSED AFTER THE VIDEO

- 4) Looking at Genesis 50:15-21. Have the brothers forsaken their earlier behavior entirely? Their manipulation of the story earlier brought great sadness to their father. Do you think it was needed here? What's the problem of "shading" a story?
- 5) In John 13:34-35 Jesus declares, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." How does Jesus view our belonging together, as brothers and sisters in Christ? How are you (and how are we) "hearing" the cries of others **in the church** and addressing their needs?
- 6) Read Matthew 25:34-40. Jesus speaks of the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the needy, the sick and the imprisoned. How are you (and how are we) "hearing" the cries of others **in our world** and addressing the needs?
- 7) George suggests that we, as the body of Christ, live in Dothan - between two pits. In the one are the cries of the broken; the other the empty tomb. What can you (we) do with people in the pit? Will you commit to...? What might that look like this week?
 - Listen Intentionally
 - Love exceptionally
 - Live graciously