

LIVING THE DREAM

This is Your Moment | Discussion Notes

As we wrap up this series, take a moment to reflect on the series as a whole.

- What have you noticed in this series about Joseph's life that you hadn't thought about before? What things have struck you?
- Have you changed how you think about God's dreams for your life?
- A theme throughout the series has been learning to trust in God. How are you actively trying to do that in your life at the moment?

This week we're finishing up our look at Joseph's life, looking firstly at how he responded when he was given a huge opportunity and then whether or not he would forgive his brothers when the time came.

A MOMENT OF TRUTH

Read Genesis 41:9-16 and Genesis 41:37-43 together. This for Joseph is a 'moment of truth', the point which Joseph's skills, experiences and dreams have all been leading to - he interprets Pharaoh's dream and then tells him to appoint someone to oversee Egypt's crops to survive the years of famine. Pharaoh appoints Joseph to this incredibly powerful position, fulfilling the dream from years before.

- Can you give an example of a 'moment of truth' that someone might experience? Have you had any experiences like this in your own life so far? How did you handle it?
- Philip explained that everything in Joseph's life had led up to this. What can we do now to prepare for moments of truth that are to come in our lives?

A MOMENT OF GRACE

Read Genesis 42:6-9, 45:1-2 and 50:19-20. In this finale to Joseph's story, his brothers arrive in Egypt but don't recognise him. So, he creates his own test of character for them. When he sees how much they've changed he's able to be fully reconciled with them.

There are 3 things for us to think about in restoring relationships:

1. TIME - Joseph didn't rush it. He gave himself time to process things.
 2. TRUST - Joseph worked out whether his brothers had changed and if full reconciliation was possible. Forgiveness does not always mean complete restoration of relationship.
 3. TRUTH - Joseph spoke truth to them saying "you intended to harm me, but God meant it for good". He doesn't hide away from the painful truth. But he also saw the greater truth of God's sovereign plans and purposes working for his good.
- What can we learn from Joseph's story about how to forgive well?
 - Can you identify with any of these stages in your experience of forgiveness/reconciliation?
 - Which of these lessons do you most need to take to heart?
 - Have you ever experienced a 'moment of grace' where you forgave or were forgiven?

Finally, take time to pray over one another for God's purposes for you. His dreams for us are so much greater than we realise. Pray for a revelation of what that might look like and ask God for the ability to continue trusting Him as we prepare for our time to come.