

## Joseph Week 6 Notes

*Hi Ladies! Wow- there was A LOT packed into this week of homework. I guess that makes sense- Joseph experienced so much, and we had to consider all the complex and deeply rooted emotions and behaviors linked to his experiences. I will most likely keep the notes short, because I feel like you have enough to consider just following the flow of each day's lesson. It is hard to know which aspects of this week's homework will most resonate with your ladies- but I will be praying that the Holy Spirit guides and directs you when you are in the midst of your group. As always, I love and appreciate you all. Thank you for leading your group this spring.*

### Day 1

We find Joseph was in another tough spot- physically and emotionally. In this day, we consider how to live in the present, in light of our past experiences. We learned that we can benefit from a painful past in three ways:

- To celebrate joyful memories.
- To avoid repeating our past mistakes.
- To recount the faithfulness of God.

How would our faith be made strong if we did not suffer?

Does God relish in our pain, or does He allow it and then use it for His good purpose?

The author had us consider how our suffering may be connected to our perceived control over the future. Did any of the verses on page 120 resonate with your ladies?

### Day 2

One of aspects of this study I have enjoyed the most, is the author's ability to share a perspective of Joseph's life that I had never considered. Perhaps, Potiphar was well aware that Joseph was framed. Joseph could have been killed. Joseph could have been housed with far worse criminals, but instead was placed in the "better" of the two prisons. Later, perhaps Potiphar vouched for Joseph's character when Pharaoh inquired. It is amazing how the perception of an event can change when you have the opportunity to consider a different set of facts.

Page 124 lists some great application points from this portion of the story. If you have time, go over them with your ladies, and see what most resonates with them.

### Day 3

Who in your group has felt let down or forgotten in their life? Hopefully your group is able to provide that woman comfort- it can be very painful. Joseph certainly could relate. Jesus certainly can relate too.

We are asked to do a pretty detailed assessment on our reputation on page 126. I found this exercise difficult as I have blind spots to my weaknesses. Sometimes how I perceive my

reputation is not how others perceive my reputation. In addition someone's perception of me can be based on things that are not factual. So I am not sure how helpful I found it to self assess my reputation.

However, I think it is invaluable to have a friend who knows you well (and also loves you!) who is willing to tell you truth in an effort to help you grow in Christ, even if it means an uncomfortable moment. And, as the recipient of that correction, it is a true and wise friend who will graciously accept and consider the correction that she has received.

In all things-our reputation should be one that we are a follower of Jesus. After that, it is just details. I love how the author pointed out that four times, Joseph brought glory, honor and attention to the LORD (Gen 41:16,25,28,32).

Representing God can bring both persecution and peace- depending on the softness or hardness of the heart that is receiving the gospel. Joseph represented God his whole life- sometimes it brought persecution, and sometimes it brought peace. This is why in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus mentions both being a peacemaker, as well as encouragement when we are persecuted. (Matt 5:9,10)

#### Day 4

I loved the characteristics identified at the bottom of page 131: deference, confidence, humility, courage and respect. We can spend our whole lives honing these aspects of our character!

Another aspect of Joseph's story that I had never considered is how Joseph, once given complete power, did not go after Potiphar, his wife, or the cupbearer that forgot him for two years. He was not eaten up by bitterness and resentment. How can we be like Joseph and not retaliate? What stood out to the ladies in your group?

#### Day 5

I loved Psalm 103: 1-13. What a great set of verses to memorize!

How has shared suffering and shared comfort played out in your life circumstances? Part of the reason going to church in person on Sundays is so important, is so we can have connection and comfort one another.

How can we be a comfort to others? What an impact it would make if we could do one of the things listed on page 137 each week.