

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

"BUT GOD" SERIES

These questions are for the **October 1, 2017** sermon, "But the LORD was with him." Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 39:1-23) together out loud.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. What does it mean that "the LORD is with" us? (39:2, 21)
 - a. Blessing
 - b. "The LORD is near you"
 - i. God reveals himself and then invites people to approach him--to "come near."
 - ii. "Cleanse your hands" before him (James 4:8)
 - iii. NOTE: Joseph approached the Lord in holiness by resisting temptation.
 - c. "The LORD is for you"
 - i. The Lord promote his causes through those who draw near to him.
 - ii. The Lord prevails against all his enemies.
 - iii. The Lord loves his servants and forgives all of your sins.
2. Reasons we doubt that "the LORD is with" you (Genesis 39)
 - a. The way that life has happened to me so far (39:1)
 - b. Where I thought I would be by now (37:5, 39:21)
 - c. I feel completely alone and utterly outnumbered.
 - d. Time continues to pass while I waste away (41:1)
3. How we know for sure that "the LORD is with" us.
 - a. We believe it by faith (Matthew 28:18-20)
 - b. A growing and powerful prayer life (39:21)
 - c. A growing experience with God's loyalty to us.
 - d. Sometimes beginning to understand the Lord's perspective on things
 - i. NOTE: Joseph, in jail for two years was removed from temptation.
 - ii. NOTE: Joseph, in jail, made contacts that would bring about his most significant impact on the world (Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker).

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: "The LORD was with him" teaches us that "he was near the Lord." To be near the Lord requires an effort on our part to sanctify him, to ask him to forgive us and to walk in his ways--even if we do so completely alone. In what ways are you drawing near to the Lord?
2. Based on #1, above: "The LORD was with him" teaches us that the Lord is for us (those who are drawing near to him). Recount 10 ways in which "the Lord is for you." Stop and thank him!
3. Based on #2, above: What are some of the reasons which you have used in the past to think that the Lord was not with you? Which of these reasons still sometimes trip you up?
4. Based on #3, above: As you seek the Lord, you can be certain of his presence. Which of the assurances under number 3, above, bring you the most comfort and why?
-Talk about a past moment when you knew God was with you in the "hard." How did God bring good from that "hard" situation?