



Small Group Discussion Questions

Larry Burg, April 21, 2024

How to Make Better Decisions: The Legacy Question

Ice Breaker: What number are you in your family's birth order and how many siblings do you have?

Question This Week: What Story do I Want to Tell?

Key Passage of the Week (Read Aloud): Genesis 39:1-10; Genesis 45:1-7

Questions for Discussion:

- 1) Joseph, in his refusal of Potiphar's wife, employs several tactics to resist temptation. He names out loud the stakes, he specifies why it is evil, and he clearly says no. How can you apply this to areas where you are tempted day to day? What does saying things out loud do (as opposed to just thinking them)?
- 2) Larry points out that the cards were stacked against Joseph in this scenario...he was alone, away from home, in a foreign country. As humans, we are susceptible to the limitations of our body and it is clear our self-control is subject to fatigue and circumstances (see Matthew 26:40-41). For example, when we are **Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired (HALT)**. How might this insight impact your decision making or diligence in certain scenarios?
- 3) Words are important and the words we use to describe our sin offer a window into our true belief about our guilt. Why do you think words like "Adultery" or "Debauchery" have fallen out of favor for subtler terms? Is there any redeeming value in this change? (See 1 Thess 4:3-8)
- 4) Through everything, Joseph is not bitter against God and again he verbalizes this to his brothers, "God sent me ahead of you" (Gen 45:7). In the hard moments, it is difficult to keep this attitude. How does Joseph's story refresh in your mind the truth that God is good all the time, even when it doesn't feel that way?
- 5) When Joseph finally reveals himself to his brothers, he chooses to give Grace rather than Revenge. Revenge wrecks every story. Is there a part of your life being wrecked by revenge? How can Grace redeem that story instead? (See Matt 18:21-35)

Verse to Meditate on this Week: How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God? - Genesis 39:9 NIV

Prayer Focus (Together Out Loud): Pray for wisdom to resist temptation of sexual sin, despair and revenge. Boldness to name and address sin for the evil it is, not sugar coat or hide. Ability to recognize our physical weaknesses and adjust appropriately, not naively.