



...beginnings
the gospel according to Genesis

Genesis 37-50

the intent of God

This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

in the week leading up to growth group pray & read through Genesis 37; 45.1-15; 50.15-26

What stands out to you from these readings?

Are you puzzled about anything in these readings?

What do you **feel, think** or what might you **do** in response to these readings?

a taste of theology pre-reading: In Romans – the revelation of God's righteousness (Christian Focus, 2003, p200) Paul Barnett writes: Confidence in the sovereignty of God in dire circumstances is one of the fundamentals of the faith. It is one thing – and very necessary – to assent to the great historical facts of the gospel as touching the birth of Christ, his miracles, his atoning death, resurrection from the dead and return in glory. But, I submit, confidence in God's sovereign goodness in the midst of a baffling and painful providence is equally important, if not more so. Yet as we actively trust him in those circumstances we share in his kingly rule during the 'not yet' times ahead of the Last Day. But why can Paul make the assertion that 'all things work together for good for those who love God?' ... the apostle wrote of the glory yet to be disclosed, namely, the revelation of the sons of God, liberated from their bondage to decay and death. ... Paul [then] elaborates about the children of God, that they are a family of brothers and sisters clustered around the elder brother Christ, in whose 'image' they have now been 'conformed'. This is a magnificent vision of God's great future for his sons and daughters. ... His intention was effectively to identify them beforehand so as to save them from the ravages of the present evil age and finally to gather them safely into his great family.

PRAY in thankfulness for God's providential care of you now and his intention save you from evil and deliver you into his forever family kingdom.

WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time

Chat about things that happened this week that didn't go as you intended! Why is that, do you think?

1. the intent of God | read Genesis 37; 45.1-15; 50.15-26

- Discuss what stood out or any questions you have from Chapter 37:

- Discuss with one another what you know of the Joseph story, i.e. what happens between chapters 37 and 50?

- What stands out to you from the readings in chapters 45 and 50?

- The life of Joseph starts (the favorite son of the Father) and ends (the favorite son of the Father and his people) at the highest place but in between plumbs some terrible depths of suffering and despair. Read Philippians 2.3-13 and discuss the parallels you can see between the Joseph story and the Jesus story!

2. the gospel according to Genesis | read Romans 8.18-39

- Take some time just to reflect on the good intent of God for each of his children as we live in this evil age. Share what encourages you from these verses.

- Share some of your highlights from studying the Gospel according to Genesis together. Share your 'one thing' that's grown you as a follower of Jesus in recent weeks.

PRAY! In thankfulness for God's good intent towards you as one of his kids!