








Small Group/ Reflection Notes

23-02-2025		Joseph & those highs and lows	
 Start	<input type="checkbox"/> What's been the high point of your week? <input type="checkbox"/> What was the low point of your week?		
 Discuss	<input type="checkbox"/> What gets you through the tough times? <input type="checkbox"/> Does God exist because we <i>believe</i> God exists? Does God exist because we <i>feel</i> God exists? <input type="checkbox"/> Is it easier/ harder to praise God when things are going well or bad?		
 Read	<u>Genesis 37:17-36</u>	 Listen again	ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/Watch
 Explore	<input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.17-18</u> : What had Joseph's half-brothers decided to do to him? Why? When had they made this decision? When is violence <i>not</i> physical? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.19</u> : Why wouldn't they use Joseph's name? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.20</u> : Where did Joseph's dreams ultimately come from? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.21-22</u> : How/ why was Reuben troubled by his brother's attitudes/ behaviours? Should Reuben have challenged them/ spoken out? How/ why did Reuben <i>think</i> he was supporting/ being good by Joseph? How might that have felt from <i>Joseph's</i> perspective? How was Reuben colluding with oppression? When have you or others struggled to find your voice? What does it mean to be an 'ally' of those who experience oppression? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.23</u> : Why were the brothers so fixated on <i>that</i> 'coat of many colours'? Why did they react so strongly/ violently against it? What were they really attempting to strip Joseph of? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.24</u> : What were cisterns? Why were they so vital? What would empty cisterns suggest had already started to happen? Rather than regarding Joseph as a 'threat', what was the real threat to them? How was their prejudice killing <i>them</i> ? Why does prejudice blind us to what really matters? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.25</u> : What had 'the brothers' just done? By having a meal, what were they 'turning a deaf ear' to? What were the nomadic tribesmen transporting? Where to? Why? What had these people of different/ no faith grasped that 'the brothers' hadn't? Can you think of examples when those outside of the Church have had a better understanding than those within? <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.26-27</u> : What was Judah's plan? What does history remind us that discriminatory attitudes/ beliefs about 'others' have led to in the past? Why did acknowledging that Joseph was family make it all the more chilling? Why do such actions often start with use of de-humanising language that sees others as 'less than' (e.g. <u>v.19</u>). <input type="checkbox"/> <u>v.28</u> : What price did they get for 'selling out' Joseph? What is 230 grams of silver worth today? What is the price today of a lamb? What's the connection? How could 'the brothers' have tried to use the Bible to justify their action? See		

	<p>Leviticus 27:1-7, esp. v.5: “I can do all things through a verse taken out of context.” What price was Judas Iscariot forced to accept for ‘selling out’ Jesus? See Matthew 26:14-16. What had the Chief Priests done and, according to Leviticus 27:3, not done?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> v.29-30: Why was Reuben so distressed? What had this confirmed? What should Reuben have done – and when? In the future, will you look back on now and think you did enough to challenge discrimination/ oppression?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> v.31-35: Who was Jacob to Joseph? How did he react? Why? How might God react when those made in their image are mistreated/ discriminated against/ oppressed?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> v.36: What happened next to Joseph? See Genesis 50:20. What were the <i>highs</i> in Joseph’s life/ story? What were the <i>lows</i> in Joseph’s life/ story? A number of times throughout ch.37-50 it says, “God was with Jospheh”. How is Gid with you in your <i>highs</i>? How is God with you in your <i>lows</i>?</p>
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<p>Go further</p> 	<p><input type="checkbox"/> How was Joseph’s life/ experiences a forerunner for/ a bit like Christ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Godly servant; despised, rejected • Betrayed by those closest to him • Beaten, stripped, sold for silver • Thrown into a pit/tomb for dead • Later, would rise again • Saves those who sold him out
 <p>Reflect</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Which one verse stands out to you? Why do you think it grabs your attention?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Which verse(s) will you need to think more about? Why?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> What does it mean to be a good ‘ally’?</p>
 <p>Do</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Go for a walk that involves <i>highs</i> and <i>lows</i>. Chat with God as you walk, acknowledging your own <i>highs</i> and <i>lows</i>. What are you saying to God? What is God saying to you?</p>
 <p>Pray</p>	
 <p>My questions:</p>	

If you’re not yet in a small group, why not join one! Check out: ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk/SmallGroups
 Can’t see a group to suit your availability/interest? Start one! SmallGroups@ChesterRoadBaptist.org.uk.