

Home Group Notes

“Hold On”

Week of April 22, 2018

SHARE IT

When was a time when someone was there for you in a difficult time?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *The focus for this week is on trusting God to use us in the lives of people by meeting needs and pointing them to God who cares and provides truth.*

STUDY THE BIBLE

What was Joseph’s situation and what was he doing?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *By this time, Joseph has been betrayed by brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and thrown into prison. While in prison, he was aware that “The LORD was with him,” showing him kindness and granting his success. This success was noticed by the warden and he became a leader in charge. So Joseph was . . .*

- *Still trusting God even though his circumstances were dire and painful*
- *Faithfully serving with diligence and excellence, a trustworthy servant*
- *Caring about and for the other prisoners*
- *He was also hoping to get out of prison*

How do we see God at work in all parties? What do we learn about the character and ability of God in this passage?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *God was with Joseph (empowering, comforting, present), enabling Joseph to serve in a way that was noticed (see above), granting him favor with the officials and other prisoners, enabled him to interpret dreams, positioned Joseph to be in the purview of the Pharaoh (comes later).*

How was Joseph faithful and glorifying of God even in this situation? (see also Matthew 25:23)

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Joseph doesn’t waver in his faith – he continued to believe in and trust in God throughout his prison time. When he heard their dreams, Joseph pointed them to God (“Do not interpretations belong to God?”),*

What part of this story speaks to your heart? What does it make you think about or want to do?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *It would be good to hear people’s answers to this question.*

DISCUSS TOGETHER

In Genesis 40:4, God assigned Joseph to “attend” to people and he noticed their condition (40:6). How would we do that? How does God help us? What keeps us from being attentive to the people in our world? How can you be helpful?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Though it was the “captain of the guard” who assigned Joseph, God granted him this assignment. Joseph was caring enough to notice and then ask about why they were “dejected.” Then, he addressed their need by focusing God’s ability to bring them truth.*

This is the main discussion question. Be willing to discuss the how, when, and what of how we can care and influence people to come to God with their needs. In addition, be sure to discuss what keeps us from being God’s ambassadors (e.g. distractions, focused on our own needs, etc.)

Joseph ‘spoke for God’ to the people in his world. In what kinds of situation might we also do this? How does God help us do this?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *We are often paralyzed because we rely on our own resources or try to control the situation. Instead, we should trust in God, be prepared, and expect God to put people in our path who have needs and questions. Then, we don’t have to be able to answer all questions. Rather, this is a good opportunity for a second conversation after we have had the time to consider their question.*

What does Paul say in Colossians 4:2-6 about how to pray for and be this kind of influence in our world?

NOTES TO LEADERS: *Paul’s pattern was to pray, watch, and thank God for working. Paul expected God to open doors for opportunities to love, care, and influence people. Paul also suggested that we use God’s “wisdom” when we are interacting with outsiders (unbelievers). I believe Jesus’ would often ask good questions and point them to our good and powerful God. Paul also believed that God would help us know how to answer people (have conversations).*

APPLY IT THIS WEEK

Pray for and be ‘on the lookout’ for opportunities to love and serve people.

NOTES TO LEADERS: *HEY LEADERS: COULD WE ALL SUGGEST THAT WE DO THIS AND THEN REPORT BACK NEXT WEEK? LET’S PRAY THAT GOD GIVES SOME GOOD OPPORTUNITIES TO LISTEN AND SERVE.*

Grace to you,
Steve