

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

Why Here?

July 17, 2011



ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. For all Rock Church events, please visit <http://www.therocksandiego.org/eventcalendar/>
2. Let your friends know that they can always live stream the Rock Church Sunday worship experience by visiting <http://www.therocksandiego.org/live/>.

MEMORY VERSES

“But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.” (Gen. 39:21 ESV)

“As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.” (Gen. 50:20 ESV)

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN? (WHY HERE?)

Getting Started

1. Review the 3 points of “Why Here?” as listed in the lesson plan:
 1. Grow where your trials **plant** you.
Joseph honored Potiphar, the man who bought him. Genesis 39:1-3
Joseph faithfully served the jailer who imprisoned him. Genesis 39:21-23
Joseph imparted God’s wisdom to Pharaoh. Genesis 41:28-32
 2. Find God’s power and **favor** amidst your pain. *Genesis 39:1-3, 39:21-23, 41:28-32*
Joseph was more committed to fulfilling God’s plan and taking revenge on his brothers. Genesis 45:1-8
 3. Discover God’s plan to **bles**s others through your painful experience. *Genesis 45:1-8, 50:19-20*
Joseph graciously forgave his brothers who sold him into slavery.
2. Were there any points from the message that stood out to you?

Digging Deeper

In the last point of Pastor Miles' sermon, he reflected on the popular passage found in Genesis 50, "...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..." Have you ever viewed life in this light? It is not typical for people to view suffering and trials in this light. But we should! The following discussion will focus around our response to the Lord working "bad things out for good" according to those who love God.

1. Considering everything that was mentioned about Joseph in the sermon, explain to the group ways in which you are feeling that same pressure.

This will include anything from relationships, finances, loss of family and friends.

2. Read Romans 8:26-30 together as a group. Go through verse by verse and describe the details of which Paul is trying to convey.

Feel free to write them down if necessary. The point is to look at the text as a whole and see exactly what Paul is trying to communicate.

3. How would this passage encourage you based on the findings that you listed in #2?

Your encouragement can be based on personal pain and suffering you are experiencing now, or even just a reflection of the text in general.

4. Explain the encouragement we have that is "good" in verse 28, based on what we find in verses 29-30.

Check out this article on how we should respond to suffering biblically. This is a Pastor in Dallas that had brain cancer a couple years ago. I hope this article encourages you. Click on the following link to view it <http://fm.thevillagechurch.net/blog/pastors/?p=758>.