



Origins: Joseph - Flourishing by God's Grace

Date: Sunday 17th March 2019

Speakers: Paul Gatting and Adam Pipe

Key Verses: Genesis 41-50, in particular Genesis 50:20

Talk Summary:

What do we learn then from the life of Joseph? He was a cocky teenager, probably shaped by his father's favouritism amongst all his brothers. His character was likely refined by all the turmoil he went through after being sold to slavery by his brothers. The first test of his faithfulness was when his master's wife tries to seduce him, and he flees from the temptation which costs him greatly.

But God is faithful in looking out for him and Joseph is faithful in his role, even in prison, so he rises the ranks there. Even when he manages to get on the good side of the cupbearer who then goes back to working for Pharaoh, he still has to wait another two years until God has things perfectly aligned for him to be in a position of power at just the right time. Then when he becomes second in command in Egypt, he is still faithful to that role. When Jacob and his family join Joseph in Egypt to be protected from the famine, they are faithful in who God has called them to be and their background as shepherds.

But ultimately, it's God who we see as faithful throughout all of this. He made a promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and by the end of Genesis we see that starting to happen in Jacob's twelve sons and all their children. We see these people not only being protected by God but protecting other nations as they're in need.

Group Discussion Questions:

The Bible Project has a great 5 minute summary of the second half of Genesis that you could use as an overview of the last few talks: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VpbWbyx1008>

- What has stood out most to you from our journey through the book of Genesis this term? Is there anything from these often familiar stories that you hadn't noticed before?
- How have you seen where God might be working for good in really difficult situations in your life or the lives of people you know?
- What can we learn from the process Joseph went through in forgiving his brothers? What challenges do you face in forgiving people that have hurt or offended you?
- What are some of the most comforting promises that God has given us in the Bible?
- What are some of your current roles (e.g. job, student, housemate, husband/wife/father/mother) and what do you think it means to be faithful in those roles?

To ponder or pray about this week:

Take some time to reflect over the difficult periods in your life so far – can you see where God may have been using those experiences for good? If you're in the middle of a difficult time in your life, ask God to remind you of His faithfulness and His concern for your well-being. If you feel like things are going well at the moment, then spend some time thanking God for that and asking for His wisdom in understanding what it means to keep being faithful in the good times.