

Sunday, October 4, 2020 - "Average Joe - Week 1: God Was With Him - Doug Kempton"

Key Passages: Acts 7:9, Psalm 3:1-4, Psalm 121, Revelation 21:1-4

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- The story of Joseph is a heroic story because Joseph overcame great obstacles
- Making a hero is about overcoming obstacles
 - It's about the way we respond
 - There are heroes all around us
- Story of Joseph is a historical document
 - We hear the historical facts about his life and the surrounding events
 - We have to engage our imagination to dig a little deeper
- Acts 7:9 - Joseph's mantra... "but God was with him"
 - Joseph faced major difficulties
 - Key word is BUT. God was with him through it all
- We get in trouble when we think God being with us means life is perfect
 - God uses challenge/difficulty to grow us and shape our character
 - "We seldom grow apart from pain." Scott Shaum
 - We can go through hard things with God and grow or without him and it will be wasted
- Our circumstances are not an indicator of God's presence (expressing feeling/emotion but knowing what is actually true)
- When you are in a painful situation, you have the opportunity to know God more
- What do do when it doesn't feel like God is with you
 - 1. Lift your head
 - See more of what's around you
 - Psalm 3:1-4, Psalm 121
 - Ask God to lift your head for you
 - Revelation 21:1-4 (this life is a dot on an eternal line)
- Remember what is true His steadfast love)
 - What is true always trumps what you feel
 - Read the promises of God in scripture
- Forgive
 - Stay tender, soft, and gentle
 - How did Joseph stay soft and open
 - Don't allow your circumstances to make you bitter
- God is with you

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. What are some obstacles and difficulties that you have overcome in your life and walk with God?
2. Can you remember a season when you tried to walk through a hard time without God? What was that like?
3. How have you come to know God deeper through pain and hardship?
4. What does it mean to you personally that God is with you?
5. Which of the three things do you need to do most right now: Lift your head, Remember what is true, forgive?
6. What promises of God are you holding onto and remembering most right now?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: Psalm 89:27-52 Tues: Psalm 90 Wed: Psalm 91 Thurs: Psalm 92 Fri: Psalm 93

Songs from the weekend: [You Are Good - Israel Houghton] - [Mountaintops - The Belonging Co] - [New Wine - Hillsong Worship] - [You Know My Name - Tasha Cobb-Leonard]