

Sunday, November 1, 2020 - "Average Joe - Week 4: It's All Part of the Plan" - Doug Kempton

Key Passages: Genesis 40. 2 Corinthians 1:8-10, Hebrews 5:8

- 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

- Context matters
 - The Bible is the story of humankind and Gods' relentless and loving pursuit of his people
 - Joseph makes up 30% of Genesis...but why?
 - 1) It sets up the rest of the story of the Bible and ultimately Jesus' redemption of God's people (Genesis is like an intro to the other 65 books)
 - 2) To show that God is in control (nothing happens outside of the pre-ordained plan of God)
- God uses difficulty to shape our character and prepare us for what he has called us to do
- Genesis 40: The Baker and the Cupbearer
 - Joseph new them well enough to see that they were downcast
 - They both dreamed similar dreams and Joseph knew the interpretation was from God though him
 - Joseph interprets the dreams and says...this is what WILL happen
 - He is SO sure
 - He knows it will happen and asks the cupbearer to remember him when he is restored...but Joseph is forgotten
- We can relate to being forgotten
 - It hurts
 - Joseph had another wound to figure out and to process through (sold into slavery, framed by his boss' wife)
- But God wanted Joseph to know that it was him working all along (not Joseph's talent, or his connections or gifting)
 - God was building in Joseph un utter dependance
 - God is our only hope of success
 - When we get to the end of our rope we let go and hold onto Him - Meg Kempton
- 2 Corinthians 1:8-10
 - Paul was at the end of his rope
 - Worried to the point of death but it created utter dependance on God just like Joseph
- Hebrews 5:8
 - Jesus learned to be obedient through his suffering
 - It is easy to be obedient when life is easy
- 2020 has all been part of God's plan
- God is at work for your good in every circumstance. You can trust Him. Even when you can't see it He's working, He never stops - Doug Kempton

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

1. When was a time where it felt like God wasn't in control? What did you feel? How did God teach you in this time?
2. Talk about a time when it became clear to you hope God's plan was playing out all along.
3. Have you ever been to the end of your rope? How did God meet you there?
4. In your own words, what does utter dependance on God look like for you?
5. How has God trained you in obedience through suffering?
6. How have you seen God moving in 2020? In your life? In your heart?
7. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or sermon?

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

Mon: Psalm 109 Tues: Psalm 110 Wed: Psalm 111 Thurs: Psalm 112 Fri: Psalm 113

Songs from the weekend: [Joy - *VaShawn Mitchell*] - [The Way - Pat Barrett] - [Made A Way - *Travis Greene*] - [What A Beautiful Name - Hillsong Worship]