

## **FAITH SERIES – Community Group Notes**

**Sermon title:** Joseph - living by faith

**Summary of sermon:**

*Note: ideally, please ask group members to read Genesis chapters 37 to 50 in advance.*

Joseph is probably one of the most well-known characters in the Bible. Through his various experiences of suffering, temptation, power and wealth, he demonstrated true faith and trust in God. This was worked out in practical ways to honour God and fulfil His purposes which ultimately, led to the saving of many lives in Egypt during the 7 years of famine.

The sermon draws out 4 areas from Joseph's life which are fundamental for our faith in God to grow and flourish:

- 1. God was with Joseph** – despite his early suffering and trials, God was with him (39:2)
- 2. Joseph was dependent upon God** – he knew what he did was down to God (40:8; 41:16; 41:28)
- 3. Joseph had a Godly character** – uncomplaining, integrity, compassion, wisdom, forgiving (39:3; 41:38-40; 50:18-21)
- 4. Joseph was used by God** – he was influential and given responsibilities to fulfil God's purposes (39: 21-23; 41:39-44)

**Discussion points:**

1. Why do you think Joseph shared the dreams with his brothers? How would you have done it?
2. What would Joseph have been thinking and feeling when he was captive heading to Egypt?
3. How do you think Joseph's faith in God developed throughout his life?
4. What parallels do you see between the lives of Joseph and Jesus?
5. Why is Egypt and Jacob and his family's return there so significant?

**Action points:** *how can I apply the word this week?*

1. Consider if you need to be more dependent on (trusting in) God for any areas of your life.
2. Consider which characteristic of your life you would change to become more like Jesus.
3. Look out for and have the faith to act upon a specific opportunity to be used by God.

**Prayer points:**

1. Thank God for being with us and enabling us to have a relationship with him through Jesus.
2. Ask God to help us surrender every area of our lives to Him so that we can become wholly dependent upon Him.
3. Ask God to shape our character and enable us to be used more by Him.