

## Active Faith Friday – April 24, 2020

### Discussion Guide

#### MAIN IDEA

- Even if things in our lives don't feel foxy or better, we can have confidence that God is with us.

#### SCRIPTURE

**Genesis 37:18 NIV** But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

**Genesis 37:19-20 NIV** “Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”

**Genesis 37:21-22 NIV** When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. “Let’s not take his life,” he said. “Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don’t lay a hand on him.” Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

**Genesis 37:32 NIV** They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, “We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son’s robe.”

**Genesis 39:2a NIV** The Lord was with Joseph...

#### INTRO

- The thing about these shockingly painful moments is that they often hit us out of nowhere. And because of that, it’s difficult for us to know how they’ll make us feel.
- And because of *that*, it’s difficult for us to know how we’ll respond.
- Sometimes we surprise ourselves by how well we handle it.
- Sometimes we surprise ourselves by how much it tears us apart.
- Sometimes we feel closer to God when stuff rocks us, but other times we wonder where God is *at all*.
- Because we’re all wired differently, we experience hurt differently. But that **doesn’t change the fact that hurt, hurts**. And when life hurts, we all find ourselves wondering what to do next.
- Joseph is one of the most famous people in the Old Testament of the Bible. Joseph had some family drama—drama that he definitely played a part in creating.
- He was his dad’s favorite child and therefore given special treatment compared to his brothers. On top of that, he had a dream that his brothers—and even his parents—bowed down to him out of respect and honor.
- So how did they respond? (*Genesis 37:18 NIV*).
- Despite his anger towards Joseph, one of his brothers actually had a conscience in the moment (*Genesis 37:21-22 NIV*).
- The brothers listened to Reuben. And when Joseph approached, they ripped off the special coat his father had given him, and they threw him in a well.
- They notice a caravan of traders approaching. Judah, another one of Joseph’s many brothers, suggested that they sell Joseph to these traders. Then they dipped Joseph’s coat in the blood of a wild animal, took it to their father, and told him that Joseph was likely attacked and killed by an animal (*Genesis 37:32 NIV*).
- We simply cannot imagine the fear, despair, uncertainty, anger, and hurt that he felt. Betrayed by his own flesh and blood.

- Our stories are different than Joseph's. But we'll all experience pain of some kind. We'll all have painful moments that catch us off guard.

**Genesis 39:2a NIV** *The Lord was with Joseph...*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe a situation where you felt things were out of your control. (Examples: being stuck in traffic, when the electricity goes out, etc).
2. What are some words you would use to describe what you felt in that situation? What's the worst part of being in that situation?
3. In your own words, describe Joseph's situation. What do you think were some thoughts Joseph had while in the cistern? What would be some of your thoughts?
4. One of the worst parts of Joseph's situation was his being alone. Why do you think situations that feel out of our control are more difficult to handle when you feel alone?
5. If you weren't alone in that situation, how would it have changed how you felt about it?
6. What are some ways we can be reminded that God is with us?
7. **For upperclassmen:** Why do we often want to have perfect resolutions, even when we know they don't always happen?
8. **Don't skip this:** What could help you get through situations when you feel stuck?
9. If one of your friends were in that situation, what would you say to them or remind them?

REMEMBER

**When there's nothing you can do, God is with you.**