

How To Take A Hit

Week 4 – November 21, 2020

Scripture: Genesis 39:20-41:57, Romans 5:3-5, Philippians 1:6

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Tell about something you waited a really long time for. (Stories can be funny or heartfelt!)

Read Genesis 39:20-41:57 (especially if you missed the weekend service, it's long!), Romans 5:3-5, and Philippians 1:6 together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

Many of the “hits” in Joseph’s story were completely undeserved and unexpected, yet Joseph endure these hits. Reflecting on your own life, what parallels do you see in Joseph’s story? In these moments God can be speaking to us. What is God saying? What does He want you to know or do?

Share your thoughts about following questions:

1. Blessing and suffering are not mutually exclusive. (Genesis 39:21) Sometimes our greatest blessings will be found in our darkest dungeons. If you’re in a difficult season, how have you seen God’s kindness displayed in the midst of the struggle?
2. Joseph’s story reveals that how we respond in our present circumstances can create our future opportunities. Joseph’s time in prison is often referred to as a time of refining.
 - a. What do you observe Joseph learning and growing in that would be important for his coming position and purpose?
 - b. God uses waiting and hardship to grow, strengthen, and refine us. (Romans 5:3-5) Share how you have experienced refining in a season of waiting or hardship.
 - c. What if God has to break us free from an internal prison before He sets us free for the plan and purpose He has for us? Take a moment to silently consider – Is it possible God wants to break you free of something (ex: pride, lust, addiction, self-reliance, fear, anger) so you can be set free for the purpose He’s prepared for you?
3. A surefire way to find purpose in your waiting is to serve someone else. (Genesis 40:7) Taking notice of people, asking them how they’re doing, and being a good listener are some of the most powerful ministry acts we can offer.
 - a. Who do you know that is distraught or dejected right now? Ask God to bring someone to mind.
 - b. Have you ever felt forgotten in your suffering?
 - c. What does Isaiah 64:4 tell us about God?
 - d. Joseph is given the opportunity to interpret Pharaoh’s dream (Genesis 41:15-16) and he trusts God and God’s faithfulness to keep His promise. We may be tempted to think or feel, “I can’t”. Let’s remind ourselves of God’s power at work in us and speak it aloud. Share something you feel unable to live out right now, but end your statement with, “But God can.” (For example, “I can’t extend forgiveness... but God can.”)

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Confess what is difficult in current seasons of hardship or waiting. Thank God that he has not left us alone. He has not forgotten us. He is mindful of the injustices we experience. He is powerful and able to deliver us! Pray for the courage to lean into His presence and be refined until deliverance.

