

“God Meant it for Good”
Reflection Questions June 14, 2009
Genesis 50:15-21, Unlocking the Old Testament

One of my favorite people in the Old Testament is Joseph. I like Joseph because even though he got mistreated multiple times in his life, God shaped his character so that he could see the silver lining even in the midst of his distress. God shaped him to the point that at the end of his life he could say to his brothers who sold him into slavery, “What you meant for evil, God meant for good.” God can take the evil that is done to us or the bad things that just happen to us and turn it into good.

1. Read or skim Genesis 37-50 to get an overview of Joseph’s life. Write down a general overview of the life of Joseph.

2. Look at Joseph in Genesis 37:1-11. What do you notice and/or assume about Joseph in the early part of his life? What do you think Joseph’s character or his relationship with his brothers was like? Describe the picture of what is going on in Joseph’s family prior to his being sold into slavery.

3. On the back of the sermon outline and attached to this study guide is a list of “process items”. These are things that God uses in our lives to strengthen us and to test us. As you listened to the sermon and/or read the story of Joseph, what “process items” is God incorporating in Joseph’s life? How are/could those items shaping Joseph’s character?

4. What negative events have happened in your life that God has used to shape your character?

5. When Joseph finally reconciles with his brothers in our main passage (Genesis 50:15-21) he says, “What you meant for evil God meant for good in order to preserve a numerous people.” How did God preserve “a numerous people” as a result of the negative events in the life of Joseph?

6. How have you seen other people take negative events in their lives and use it to benefit others?

7. What negative events have occurred in your life that you might use to benefit others?