



Small Group Sermon Response Questions – Week of 7/6/14
Genesis 37 – “Now Israel Loved Joseph More Than Any Other...”
(*God’s providential care for His people is far greater than their own limited ability to comprehend it.*)

- 6:30 to 6:45 — Meet & Greet / Conversation
 - 6:45 to 7:30 — Sermon Response Time
 - 7:30... — Smaller Groups for Accountability and Prayer
1. Reflect on the sermon’s assertion that discussing whether God *causes* various situations of suffering versus *allowing* them is actually far less valuable than asking what God’s purpose is through the suffering.
 2. Joseph’s Preferred Status (vv. 1-11)
 - a. Do you have any comments/questions regarding the circumstances that let to Joseph’s brothers’ animosity?
 - b. How much difference does knowing whether or not Joseph was completely wise and humble in stewarding his preferred status make in understanding the story?
 - c. Discuss the significance of Joseph’s dreams (and people’s responses to them) over and above the other parts of his preferred status. What do they indicate about the fundamental problem in this family, and in all of us?
 3. The Brothers’ Jealous Scheming (vv. 12-28)
 - a. Do you have any comments/questions regarding the brothers’ hateful treatment of Joseph?
 - b. Review all the “coincidences” that had to happen in order for Joseph to end up being sold into slavery, and consider the words of Genesis 45:5 and 50:19-20.
 4. Jacob’s Bitter Sorrow (vv. 29-36)
 - Reflect on the brothers’ ongoing sin in verses 35-36 and the depth of *Jacob’s* suffering. How have you seen God powerfully work over and through sin and suffering in your life, or what current circumstances in your life need to be instructed by the fact that He works this way?
 5. What other initial reflections, questions, or evaluation do you have regarding the sermon? What have you seen of God, yourself, the gospel, and/or the life of faith?
 6. What has God been teaching you in your own personal study lately?