

2008-09 BSP#9 Group Time Discussion

L – Low, M – Medium, and H – High, indicate the difficulty of a question. Group leaders should select questions that are challenging to their groups but not so difficult that their group members cannot answer.

(A) “He Opened to Us the Scriptures” - Questions for scriptural reading and discussion (Time available: 10 minutes. Do at least 2 questions.)

1. [L] Read Genesis 33:1-11. As Jacob approached his brother, what was the first thing he wanted Esau to understand about this encounter, even as he saw Jacob from a distance (v.3)?
2. [M] When the brothers got hold of Joseph in Gen 37:23, they “stripped him of his robe” and cast him into a pit. Why do you think stripping him of his robe was the first thing they did to him?
3. [M] In Gen 39:14, the woman made false charges against Joseph. Why do you think he spoke not a word in his defense?

(B) “Did Not Our Hearts Burn?” – Question for meditation, sharing and prayer. (Suggested time: 15 minutes)

What amazes us about Joseph was his ability not to allow the misery and pain he undoubtedly felt over his various misfortunes – being sold as a slave, being falsely condemned and imprisoned, being forgotten – to paralyze him. In each new set of circumstances in his life, even though he hadn’t chosen them, he had something to contribute. He made the best of each situation, not wasting time in anger, getting even, or sorrow over what was wrong. He could live that way because he knew, increasingly, that God was with him.

And so do we. There isn’t anything that can happen to us that will separate us from the love of God. Is that a truth you really need to hear today? Can Joseph’s example help you to make the most of even the worst in your life?