



Small Group Discussion Questions
"Restoration and Redemption" • Genesis 41:41-46, 42:1-3, 45:4-7
Pastor Mark Wollan • August 30/31, 2014

Opening Remarks

Are you a leader? Many of us equate leadership with a title or organizational authority. We think of leaders as those who have robust resumes or large paychecks. The simple truth is that leadership is influence. You don't need a title, a paycheck or a PhD to be a leader. You are a leader if you influence others.

In our study of the Life of Joseph – we'll discover leadership characteristics that will help us become better leaders. Most importantly, we'll discover how the leadership characteristics in Joseph point us to the greatest model of leadership we can follow – Jesus.

Warm it Up

1. When you hear the word 'leader,' who comes to mind?
2. Name a leader who has influenced you. What was it about their leadership that impacted you?

Talk it Over

1. The "Big Idea" in Mark's sermon was: "Great leaders use their influence for God's glory and the benefit of others." Do you agree/Disagree? Explain.
2. Read Genesis 41:39-40.
Joseph appears to have attained the highest level of leadership. Talk about what you remember of Joseph's story prior to this position of leadership. What were some of the ups and downs...twists and turns along the way? How do you think it prepared him for this level of leadership? In other words, how did Joseph's circumstances refine his character?
3. Read Genesis 41:56-57.
Mark said that great leaders lead with the welfare of others in mind. What are some of the temptations Joseph may have faced as the famine spread? What do you think kept Joseph focused on the needs of others?
4. Read Philippians 2:3-11.
The Apostle Paul challenges us to be like Jesus. How is his leadership described in this passage? What do you think it means to be a "servant leader"?
5. Read Genesis 45:4-5.
Do you think Joseph was tempted to use his leadership authority to punish or pay back his brothers? What do these verses reveal about what kept him from doing that?
What emotions or feelings did Joseph have to let go of to do this? Did Joseph gain anything by choosing to forgive?

Work it Out

1. How have the circumstances of your life shaped your leadership?
2. Talk about a time when selfishness got the best of you, and you used influence/power/leadership for personal gain more than the welfare of others? How would looking at the life of Jesus be helpful to you as a leader?
3. Think about the people you directly influence. Who are they? What purpose might God have for your influence in their lives? How would seeing your role as a gift from God, change the way you lead?

Pray it Through

Spend some time praying for each other. Pray specifically for the role each of you have as a leader. Pray for those you lead (by name, if possible). Pray that God will fulfill His purposes through your leadership and that others will be blessed by your leadership.