

Life Groups exist at Kingsway to provide authentic relationships for the life application of the Core 4 elements of worship, grow, serve, and share.

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So, what happens when the family portrait has been marred? Whether it be a death in the family, divorce, betrayal, teenage rebellion, abandonment, or simply the struggle to push forward through the muck of the fallen human condition, every family experiences breakdowns. If anything could be considered "normal", that's it.

Discussion:

This morning's lesson comes out of Pastor Matt's sermon in which he highlights the life of Joseph to illustrate how God uses every family to accomplish His good purposes. Let's consider the life of Joseph for a few minutes.

Joseph was one of the twelve sons of Jacob, and from the beginning he was one of Jacob's most cherished sons. As we might imagine, this privileged position invited jealousy and hatred among his brothers and started Joseph on a path that would be fraught with hardship.

God eventually redeemed Joseph's life, but not until after he had been thrown into a well, sold into slavery, falsely accused of adultery, and forgotten in prison for over two years. And this sordid journey started because of the family dynamics in Joseph's family.

Q:: Read Genesis 37:1-11. What family dynamics were at work in the relationships between Joseph, his father, and his brothers? Why is this significant?

"God Uses Cracked Pots":

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Q:: Why does the genealogy mention each of these particular women?

Q:: What might that reveal to us about God? And, about ourselves?

God's Plan B for Righting the World:

"You intended to harm to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." – Joseph, to his brothers (Gen. 50:20)

God's original blueprint for our planet involved life in the most beautiful garden imaginable, combined with a perfect, intimate relationship with the Creator of the Universe. What could be better than that? But then, we human beings brought about the Fall through our willful disobedience to the commands of God.

We have been marred ever since. And not just humanity, but all of God's creation was affected by our sin (Rom. 8:19-22). We are damaged goods, unable in our own strength to set things right. So, God came up with Plan B, the most seemingly-illogical plan of redemption ever conceived. God Himself would come to earth and save the day for us. Imagine that!

Q:: Why was that plan of redemption the only plan that could truly work (Psalm 49:7-9)?

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Application:

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If your family is "normal," then you have presumably experienced a variety of significant breakdowns, perhaps some that are similar to Joseph's experience. But God is in the redemption business. And He wants to use you and your family to make a Kingdom difference. The challenging question is, "Will you allow Him to work in and through your dysfunction to carry out His purposes?"

Q:: What can we learn from the story of Joseph and his family?

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We have been marred ever since. And not just humanity, but all of God's creation was affected by our sin (Rom. 8:19-22). We are damaged goods, unable in our own strength to set things right. So, God came up with Plan B, the most seemingly-illogical plan of redemption ever conceived. God Himself would come to earth and save the day for us. Imagine that!

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Joseph came to love his brothers, despite what they had done to him earlier in his life. We can imagine that this was probably not an easy place to come to. And yet, it was God working through him to bring about the redemption and restoration of his family.

If your family is "normal," then you have presumably experienced a variety of significant breakdowns, perhaps some that are similar to Joseph's experience. But God is in the redemption business. And He wants to use you and your family to make a Kingdom difference. The challenging question is, "Will you allow Him to work in and through your dysfunction to carry out His purposes?"

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God eventually redeemed Joseph's life, but not until after he had been thrown into a well, sold into slavery, falsely accused of adultery, and forgotten in prison for over two years. And this sordid journey started because of the family dynamics in Joseph's family.

Q:: Read Genesis 37:1-11. What family dynamics were at work in the relationships between Joseph, his father, and his brothers? Why is this significant?

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God's Plan B for Righting the World:

"You intended to harm to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." – Joseph, to his brothers (Gen. 50:20)

God's original blueprint for our planet involved life in the most beautiful garden imaginable, combined with a perfect, intimate relationship with the Creator of the Universe. What could be better than that? But then, we human beings brought about the Fall through our willful disobedience to the commands of God.

We have been marred ever since. And not just humanity, but all of God's creation was affected by our sin (Rom. 8:19-22). We are damaged goods, unable in our own strength to set things right. So, God came up with Plan B, the most seemingly-illogical plan of redemption ever conceived. God Himself would come to earth and save the day for us. Imagine that!

Q:: Why was that plan of redemption the only plan that could truly work (Psalm 49:7-9)?

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Despite God's salvation through Jesus Christ, the effects of the Fall linger. Life is still hard. And yet, God is continuing to carry out His redemption of the world, and He uses us to do it.

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Application:

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If your family is "normal," then you have presumably experienced a variety of significant breakdowns, perhaps some that are similar to Joseph's experience. But God is in the redemption business. And He wants to use you and your family to make a Kingdom difference. The challenging question is, "Will you allow Him to work in and through your dysfunction to carry out His purposes?"

Q:: What can we learn from the story of Joseph and his family?

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