

Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of February 15, 2015

Romans 8:25-28

NRSV (New Revised Standard Version)

²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷ And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸ We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

CEB (Common English Bible)

²⁵ *But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.*

²⁶ *In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans.*

²⁷ *The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will.* ²⁸ *We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

Connection Questions:

1. Has the retelling of some unlikely heroes in the Bible helped you see your story with God in a new light? If so, how?

2. Joseph was the favorite son of his parents. Talk about the family dynamics of a family when one child is favored over another.

3. Who is to blame in Joseph's story for the level of anger that lead to a plot to kill him and him being sold into slavery?

4. Do you think Joseph being sold as a slave to a high official of Pharaoh's was an act of God or was Joseph just in the right place at the right time?

5. Potiphar's wife makes a sexual advance toward Joseph. He rejects her offer and Potiphar's wife in response has him thrown in jail. Discuss the fairness of this situation and how it might compare to our own life experiences.

6. Do you believe everything happens for a reason? Why or why not?

7. In the end, Joseph has an opportunity to sit in the judgment seat over his brothers who had plotted to kill him and sold him into slavery. In tears he forgives them and reunites with his father. Discuss the factors involved that motivated Joseph's forgiveness.

8. Do you agree that many of our life situations just happen, good or bad? If you agree, how does our story with God have an impact in our life situations? If you don't agree, how do you explain why bad things happen to good people?

9. You have heard numerous people at church services recently share their life story with God. Do you think sharing how our life stories intersect with God's story is important? If so, why?

10. How does our understanding of stewardship relate to claiming our story with God?