

NERVE2SERVE: Week 1-The Story of Joseph

ICE BREAKER QUESTIONS

1. There are now 25 hours in a day! How do you spend your extra hour?
2. What is one important skill that you think everyone should have?

WORD

What's stopping us from serving? What is hindering us from serving the Lord? What are we afraid of? Is it circumstances? Is it what happened in the past? Is it lack of knowledge or confidence? Is it lack of ability or courage? Is it time? Is it fame? Is it pride or just don't care..... we are going to start a brand new series that deals with serving the Lord and His people.

Genesis 37:1-11 (NIV)

37 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.**2**This is the account of Jacob's family line.Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.**3** Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate[a] robe for him. **4** When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.**5** Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. **6** He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: **7** We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."**8** His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.**9** Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."**10** When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I

and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?”
11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he had been born to him in his old age. Rachel was not bearing a child (Gen. 30:1), until God remembered Rachel and God listened to her and enable her to conceive. Jacob & Rachel are getting old at that time. Israel loved Joseph because he is the son of his first love, first kiss. Genesis 29:11. Joseph had a dream and his brothers hated him. They were jealous of him (Verse 11). He was mistreated and didn't realize that God is preparing him for something big and God is giving him a gift to save God's people.

Joseph served God through his circumstances even though it was painful. He was mistreated and rejected by his own brothers ((*Genesis 37:1-11,39:1-5*). He didn't know that God has chosen him and God is redirecting him through his circumstances. He felt forgotten while in prison but God made a way and he was pardoned and forgiven (*Genesis 39:20-23,40:14*) He may not understood at a young age but his calling was fulfilled after 13 years of suffering. Throughout the years of his suffering, God was with him.

DISCUSSION

Have you felt mistreated once in your life? How did you handle it? Did you continue to trust God in the midst of it? What was your response?

WORD

Serving is a gift (*I Peter 4:10-11*). Serving find its way to be fulfilled, Joseph through his circumstance, he was redirected into his purpose. In the text, we learned that where ever Joseph goes GOD IS WITH HIM.

God orchestrated every detail of Joseph`s life including the suffering. This started when his father Jacob asked him to GO and see if his brothers are going well while pasturing the flock (*Genesis 37:12-14*). When we GO and serve, it serves to save peoples lives. God sent us ahead, God has given us a command to go and a gift to serve His purpose and will.

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

DISCUSSION

What are the possible hindrances that hold us up to serve God and His people?

LIFE APPLICATION

Jesus is gifted to us by the Father, to save us. He was rejected but it meant to redirected Him even to the point of death, death on the cross by obeying his Father. He came to SERVE God and not to be serve. Let us follow Jesus` example. Yes, life is busy but let us REPURPOSE what matters to God. During the day from 8:00-5:00 pm, we make a living but after that, we make a life that is dedicated to God either by serving our family, friends and others.

VERSE TO MEDITATE ON

Mark 10:45 (NIV)

45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”



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