



STUDY GUIDE

November 7, 2021

Message Series:

Origin

Message Title:

Responding to Hurt and

Trauma

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker:

Share a high and a low from the previous week.

Pray:

Lord, lead us into Your Truth today. Help us to understand who You are and Your kind intentions toward us. Protect Your Word and help us to understand from the story of Joseph how You desire for us to respond to the hurt and trauma that happens in our lives. Open our hearts to hear from You, and allow Your Spirit to show us new things. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started:

"Bad things happen. To all of us. Even the most faithful among us. The question isn't IF they will come, the question is how do we respond WHEN they come." - Pastor Brian Hughes

- Based on what you know about the Bible and about the character of God, why do you think bad things happen, even to people who are faithful?

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Isaiah 55:8-9, and Genesis 50:19-21.

"What you meant for evil, God used for good. This is one verse that every follower of Jesus should memorize, hang on your wall and engrave into your soul. Genesis 50:20- what you meant for evil, God used for good. Because it embodies the essence of what we believe and it has major implications about our response to injustice and tragedy and evil in our lives." - Pastor Brian Hughes

- What gives us a clue as to how Joseph is able to respond in the manner that he did? What does that reveal about Joseph's heart and his understanding of God?
- Gen 50:20 indicates that we aren't the only ones that benefit from God's ability to take something that is intended to harm us and use it for our good. Who else potentially benefits and how?
- What are some examples in your own life or the life of another where what was intended for evil God used for good? Was anyone else impacted?

Watch and Discuss Video: (running time approximately 13 minutes)

- Take a moment to silently reflect on the following questions and ask God to help you do an honest inventory:

- How am I maintaining integrity between what I say and what I do? (Is there any area of my life where there's a discrepancy?)
 - Is my primary allegiance to God, or do I have other allegiances I allow to take priority? (Where do I spend my time, money, energy, thoughts?)
 - Do I understand my position relative to God? (Do I allow God to be in charge of everything in my life, or do I try to maintain control in any area? What gets me bent out of shape when it doesn't go my way?)
- If you feel comfortable, share one area you need to work on with your group and ask them to help by praying for you in this area.

Reflect and Commit:

“Joseph was able to see past the evil. Can we? Because God never fails to use every situation - even evil - to cheat it of its corrupt intent. Joseph understood this, and he refused to become the evil that had caused him so much harm. Instead, Joseph rose above his human circumstance and grabbed the perspective of God- one that knew that God was bigger and stronger than evil. So, whatever you are facing or about to face, you can be sure of this: The power of God working in your life will overcome the power of evil pushing against you, if you will stand firm against it. No matter what, What the enemy means for evil, God will use it for something good.” - Pastor Brian Hughes

- What is one step you can take toward allowing God to heal a past or current hurt or offense? (It could be simply talking to Him about it, or talking to a pastor or Christian counselor. There are also some great resources on RightNowMedia <https://pccwired.net/small-group-resources/>)
- If the Lord has brought you through a tragedy or hardship, how can you allow Him to use what He did in your life to help others?

Read 1 Peter 2:20-23, Luke 23:34, and Romans 12:17-21.

- Jesus was the only truly righteous One, yet He suffered more than we can imagine. He is our ultimate example of how to respond to hardship. What do these verses tell us about Jesus' response in the face of adversity?
- In what ways can we be more Christ-like in our response to adversity? What role do you think forgiveness plays in this?

Pray:

Lord, thank you for Your Word that is alive and active and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating and dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; and judging the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts. Thank You for what You have taught us about how You desire for us to respond to hardship and tragedy in our life. We trust You to work all things - even the hard things and the things intended for evil - together for our good and Your glory because we love you and have been called according to your purpose. Help us to maintain integrity between what we say and do, to give You all of our allegiance, and understand our position relative to You, our creator. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.