



## God In Adversity | Genesis 37:1-36

1. Joseph's life could be mapped out by the words: favoured, conflicted, betrayed, enslaved, imprisoned, forgotten, honoured. What positive or negative words might map your own life journey thus far? Can you share a few snapshot stories to highlight why you chose those words?
2. When you think of seasons of adversity in your life, did you know the presence of God or purpose of God in them? Why? Why not? Have you discovered God used or is using these seasons for some greater purpose yet? How? How not?
3. *"The saddest thing about betrayal is that it never comes from your enemies!"* How have you found this statement to be a reflection of your own life experience?
4. What do you make of Joseph's two dreams? Was he right/wise to share such dreams with his brothers and/or father the way he did? What were the implications of Joseph sharing as he did?
5. Discuss Genesis 50:20, John 16:33, Jeremiah 29:11ff, Romans 8:28, James 1:1-4, Isaiah 55:8-9. Do these Scriptures challenge or change the way we, as Christians, journey through trouble, hardship and/or pain?
6. *'God's plans are greater than our circumstances.'* Discuss this statement, especially reflecting upon how working it out in practice might be harder than simply saying it.
7. What other themes or words from Genesis 37 stand out to you or challenge you? Share these thoughts with your group and discuss the application of them.
8. Spend some time praying about the 'cisterns/pits' which you are facing in life. Pray that you will have the courage to look upwards.



What did you discover about God in this passage?  
What did you discover about people in this passage?  
How will you commit to obey this passage this week?  
With whom will you share what you have learned?

