

Grief

Series: Family Portraits

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Scripture: Genesis 37:34-37

He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces."

Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "No," he said, "in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son." So his father wept for him.

Group Session

Opening Questions

What is the most devastating event that has ever happened to you?

Discussing the Scripture & Life

1. Read the focus passage and discuss the background. Why do you think Jacob refused to be comforted? Have you ever felt like that?
2. It has been said that if you haven't experienced hardships in life, you will soon. Do you agree with that? How encouraging is that? Can one prepare for hardships? If so, how?
3. When God allows hardship in our lives, it doesn't mean that God doesn't love us. Do you personally struggle with that? Why would God allow hardship? Read James 1:2-5.
4. Do you ever feel like God doesn't hear your prayers in the midst of hardship? Does God ever hear and choose not to answer? (Psalm 66:18 indicates our sin may affect God's hearing.)
5. Read Romans 5:3-5. What is the path to hope?
6. In times of grief, God provides Himself and others to comfort us. Read 2 Corinthians 1:3-5. What does this passage say about one purpose of painful times?
7. Who has ministered and comforted you most in times of hardship? What did that do to your relationship? Did you see it as a gift from God?
8. Remember that devastating event that we shared. Did God use it for any good in your life? How

did that come about?

9. What can we do in times of crisis, in order to make sure we handle things in a godly way?

Closing Challenge

Who in your life is going through a crisis right now? What can you do this week to show God's love in their lives?