

From Conflict to Community

Part 3, Genesis 39:1-23

1. When did you first encounter an injustice in your life? How do injustices make us feel? How did Jesus respond to injustice? Give examples.
2. Read Genesis 39:1-23
3. How much power does a slave have? How much power does the wife of the slave owner have? In what ways can these types of power differences end badly? What examples do we have in the wider community? What is God saying in this passage about injustice?
4. What is God doing in Joseph's situation?
5. What is Joseph's response to this situation?
6. How could we describe Joseph's faith in this situation? When did Joseph first begin his faith journey? How important is developing faith when we are young?
7. How true is the following observation?
 - Fierce characters – argue – and escalate conflict
 - Fragile characters – avoid – and extend conflict
 - Faith-filled characters – adapt – and ease conflict
8. What does a faith-filled character look like and how does it help us in conflict?
9. Read the following passages. In what ways do they illustrate faith-filled characters? Philippians 3:4-6, then, Philippians 3:7-8, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, 1 Timothy 4:12
10. What is Joseph's spiritual gift? What examples do we have of Joseph exercising his spiritual gift? (Genesis 29:22-23)
11. Read 2 Timothy 1:6-7 – In what ways do spiritual gifts help us to deal with conflict?
12. Is the following statement true? *All the spiritual gifts are useful in dealing with conflict because the heart of God's Holy Spirit is a spirit of unity, a power seeking to bring people together into community*(Ephesians 4:3). How does it work?
13. How does a faith-filled character and your spiritual gifts; help you in negotiating conflicts?
14. Spend some time in prayer.