

INTRO

- Often parents hear the line, “that’s not fair” from their children. Were you one of those kids?

In this Lent series, we’re exploring how to trust God even when we feel His absence from our lives. We’ll ask tough questions and discover that God is big and good enough to handle them.

READ AND REFLECT

Acts 7:9-13 ESV

The life of Joseph as recorded in Genesis is filled with trouble, most often because of circumstances beyond his control:

- the favouritism of his father
- the hatred and violent acts of his brothers
- the accusation against him by the wife of his master and subsequent imprisonment
- forgotten and overlooked by the cupbearer during his time in jail.

Yet, many years later, after the death of his father Joseph was able to say to his brothers:

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. — Genesis 50:20 ESV

RESPOND

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. — 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 NIV

Qu: Does reflection on the story of a man like Joseph bring consolation and comfort to you? Be specific.

Qu: How does the life of Joseph help you trust God when the answer or outcome you are hoping for seems slow or far off?

Qu: Why do you think it takes the passage of time to clearly see the goodness of God in circumstances of your life?

PRAY

Much of this sermon series is reminding us to wait on the Lord when he seems slow or silent or when our current circumstances cause us to question whether or not God is fair.

As Easter approaches we are reminded:

“On the cross he (Jesus) went beyond even the worst human suffering and experienced cosmic rejection and pain that exceeds ours as infinitely as his knowledge and power excels ours. In his death, God suffers in love, identifying with the abandoned and godforsaken...

God takes our misery and suffering so seriously that he was willing to take it on himself. ... So, if we embrace the Christian teaching that Jesus is God and that he went to the Cross, then we have deep consolation and strength to face the brutal realities of life on earth.” — Tim Keller *The Reason for God*

- *In light of the love of God expressed through Jesus, pray specifically for one another for areas in life where God seems slow, silent or your current situation leaves you feeling life/God is unfair.*