

SMALL GROUPS

Small Group Discussion Week of January 8, 2012 God Makes All Things New Making Bad Things Redemptive

1. Tell about a time God used a painful or difficult experience you went through to bring something good or redemptive into your life.
2. Why is it important for us to look for the good that God wants to do through the challenging and hard times of life? why is this so tough to do?

Read: Genesis 37:12-36 and 50:15-21

3. Put yourself in Joseph's shoes (or sandals). How do you think you would have felt toward them after they treated him the way they did?

What is surprising about Joseph's response in chapter fifty?

4. What are some of the normal ways we respond to being mistreated by others?

What do you learn from Joseph's response in this story and how might this kind of attitude help you look at hard times in a new light?

Read: Hebrews 11

5. Who is one person of faith in this chapter who inspires you with the way they went through hardship and came out stronger for God? What do you learn from this person's example?
6. In Hebrews 11:1-4 and 39-40 we get a glimpse into what faith is all about. What do you learn about faith in these verses? How are endurance and trust critical for people who want to live by faith?
7. What is one difficult and faith-stretching situation you are facing at this time in your life? How can your group members encourage, support, and pray for you as you face this situation?

Read: Romans 6:1-10

8. Jesus suffered and died on the cross. His crucifixion was the greatest of all injustices! Yet, God brought more good out of this moment than any other in all human history. What good came out of the death of Jesus?
9. How has the suffering and death of Jesus impacted our world? How has it impacted your life?