

Small Group Guide

Week of March 17, 2024

Speaker: Jace Hargrove

Don't Burn the Bridge



Icebreaker



- If you could have any superpower, what would it be and why?
- If you could trade lives with a fictional character for a day, who would you choose and why?



Discussion



- Share about a time you experienced jealousy or resentment towards someone who seemed to be favored or more successful than you. How did you deal with those feelings?
- Have you ever had someone dismiss or belittle your goals or aspirations? How did you respond?
- Can you think of a time when you acted impulsively or said something hurtful that you later regretted? What did you learn from that experience?
- Have you ever tried to stand up for someone or intervene in a difficult situation, but felt like your efforts were ineffective? How did you deal with that disappointment?
- Have you ever struggled with being completely honest in your relationships, even with those closest to you? Why is honesty so important, and how can we become more vulnerable with those around us?
- Despite the betrayal and adversity he faced, Joseph remained faithful to God. Can you share a time when your faith was tested, and how did you get through that challenging period?



Thought for the Group



Joseph was a young man who had been given a special gift from God – the ability to interpret dreams. But instead of being happy for their brother, Joseph's brothers were filled with jealousy and hatred towards him. In verse 19, we see them referring to Joseph as "the dreamer," with a tone of mockery and resentment.

Their jealousy quickly spiraled out of control, and they even considered killing Joseph. Verse 20 tells us that they said, "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him." Can you imagine the darkness in their hearts, to want to harm their own brother in such a way?

Thankfully, Reuben intervened and convinced them not to kill Joseph, but instead to throw him into a cistern. While this was still a cruel act, it saved Joseph's life.

As we reflect on this story, let's ask ourselves: Are there areas of jealousy, anger, or selfishness that we need to address in our own lives? Are we treating others with empathy and compassion, or are we turning a blind eye to their struggles? And are we willing to stand up for what is right, even when it's difficult?

By learning from Joseph's example and leaning on God's strength, we can overcome the temptations that lead to division and cruelty, and instead cultivate lives of faithfulness, integrity, and love for one another.



Next Steps



- Get honest. Think of one area in your life where jealousy arises. Write out a prayer asking God to help you overcome those feelings.
- Think about a situation where you've had to choose between doing the ethical thing or going along with the unethical group decision. Reflect on what you learned about God's will during that time.