

Discussion Questions

"No Ordinary Joe"

The Story of Joseph found in Genesis 37 through 45

1. Joseph recognized that his abilities came from God and that God had sovereign rule of his life. How do you think recognition of these items helped him endure the difficulties that he encountered?
2. Why do we sometimes feel that when everything is going "great" we must be doing the will of God but when things are broken down in life that God must not approve of something in our lives or has abandoned us?
3. Could it be that God brings adversity into our lives to move us past our current status and into a deeper faith in Him? How?
4. Is the adversity guaranteed to move us or do we sometimes fail in the face of adversity? If so, what then?

Hebrews 12:1-3 from The Message by Eugene Peterson

"Do you see what this means—all these pioneers who blazed the way, all these veterans cheering us on? It means we'd better get on with it. Strip down, start running—and never quit! No extra spiritual fat, no parasitic sins. Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we're in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever. And now he's there, in the place of honor, right alongside God. When you find yourselves flagging in your faith, go over that story again, item by item, that long litany of hostility he plowed through. That will shoot adrenaline into your souls!"

5. Comment on Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of this scripture passage. In what ways has he captured the impact that Jesus' example can have on our life when we face adversity?