



Bible Reading Plan : 40 Days on Justice

Day 6

The Restoration of Joseph

Read > **Genesis 40:1-41:57**

Contemplate > Was the cupbearer or Pharaoh concerned about the injustice of Joseph's situation? What does this tell you about how God can use people to bring about his purposes despite their lack of concern? How do you think the time of Joseph's slavery and imprisonment prepared him for his role overseeing Egypt? What lessons about power would he have learnt? What does Joseph's journey teach about how God prepares people for power and influence? What can we learn about the appropriate use of abundance and prosperity? What implications would it have on world-wide issues of poverty if we viewed abundance as being provided by God so that we would provide for those with a lack?

Day 7

Joseph's Brothers

Read > **Genesis 42:1-45:28**

Contemplate > Why do you think Joseph hid his identity from his brothers for so long? Why do you think he put the money in their sacks, and the cup? What was his purpose in testing them? What difference can you see in the behaviour of the brothers from when they sold Joseph into slavery? Did Jacob's attitude to Joseph change? Were there still grounds for his brothers to be jealous? How significant do you think it is that Judah pleaded for Benjamin's release (45:18-34) even though Jacob favoured Benjamin over his other brothers (42:36-38) and this would have been an opportunity to get rid of Benjamin like they had Joseph?

Day 8

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

Read > **Genesis 50:15-26**

Contemplate > Compare this passage to Genesis 45:5-8; how amazing is Joseph's response to his brothers? Given that Joseph now was in a position of power over his brothers, what other ways could he have responded? What can we learn about using power for others, instead of over others from Joseph's story? How would people using power for others rather than over others change some of today's justice issues around the world?



GOD LIBERATES HIS PEOPLE

The story of Exodus is the story that gives identity to the people of Israel. Their identity is as a people who were once slaves but have been delivered from oppression under the Egyptians. The story of Esther is a similar story; it shows God working through Esther, as he did through Moses, to liberate his people from injustice. Keep an eye out for the strong theme of justice and God's response in these passages. Also think about what God expects of people who have the capability to bring about change in situations of injustices.

Day 9

The Oppression of the Israelites in Egypt

Read > **Exodus 1:1-2:25**

Contemplate > What was the Egyptians' motivation to oppress the Israelites?

What examples of injustice can you see in this passage? Was the choice of the midwives to disobey Pharaoh appropriate? What did God think of the midwives disobeying Pharaoh? Did Moses have a similar concern about the injustices that the Israelites were suffering? What was Moses' response? Did Moses murdering the Egyptian bring about the results he was hoping for? Which approach was more beneficial, that of the midwives or Moses? What can we learn from the midwives about civil disobedience and non-violent resistance to unjust rulers? What are some examples of injustice by governments that could be addressed through civil disobedience and non-violent resistance?

Day 10

God hears the cries of the Israelites for Justice

Read > **Exodus 3:1-4:31**

Contemplate > What does God identifying himself by his relationship to his people (verse 6) tell us about how important his people are to him? After

identifying himself to Moses, what is God's first concern? How significant is the suffering of his people to God? How many different ways does God tell Moses that he has heard the Israelites cry for injustice (verses 7-12)? What does this teach us about God's concern for his people, and about whether he hears our prayers against injustice? How has Moses changed since he murdered the Egyptian in Exodus 1? Whose initiative is this rescue plan? Does Moses have any confidence in his own ability to lead the Israelites out to freedom? What is the basis of Moses' ability to lead the Israelites out of Egypt; his own power or God's power? What does this teach us about ways we should work to bring about justice in our world?