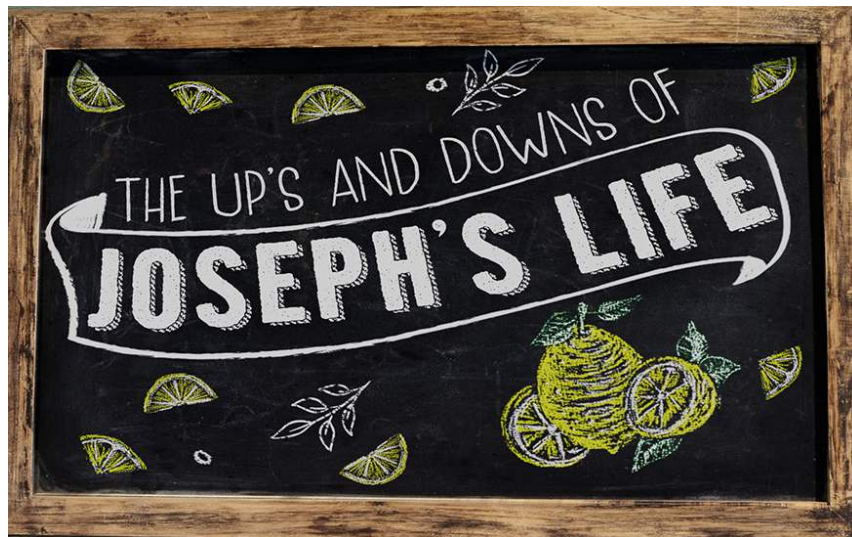


SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

FEBRUARY 19, 2023



ICEBREAKER

What smells better lemon or lime? Which one do you prefer in your drink? What about in a dessert?

STORY

Keep it going! Who is sharing their story this week? 3 positives and negatives that have impacted who you are today.

LEADER

We are in a new series called "When Life Gives You Lemons ..." taking a look at what to do when life is tough and full of troubles and how we can encourage ourselves and each other. This week Abe shared what not to say when someone is going through a tough time and how to trust God to make lemonade out of life's lemons as we study the life of Joseph in the Bible.

QUESTIONS

- We all need encouragement from each other but sometimes we are not very good at it. Abe mentions 3 cliches none of us wants to hear when going through something difficult:
 - It could've been worse!
 - BUT you have so much to be grateful for!
 - I know how you feel...when I went through a similar situation, I _____.
- What other phrases come to mind?
- What is a phrase you'd like to hear when you're going through a tough time?

READ

Genesis 37:2-8

QUESTIONS

- How does it feel to be the favorite – to your parents, friend, teacher or boss?
- What was it that caused jealousy among Joseph's eleven brothers?
- How did you feel when you shared a dream or goal with someone only for them to rain on your parade? (Choose wisely with whom to share the special things God has placed on your heart.)

READ

Genesis 37:19; 27-28

QUESTIONS

- Joseph goes from daydreaming about his brothers bowing down to him to being trafficked to a place far away from home. What do you suppose was going through his head during all of this? (a loss of hope, a feeling of being forgotten by family or God, a sense that his dreams were no longer a reality)
- Have you ever felt like your entire life was being derailed? Share your experience with the group.

READ

Genesis 39:2-4

- We all have dreams but often the reality of our life doesn't match the dream we've envisioned. What can we learn from Joseph's story about how God uses a circumstance or difficulty outside of what we were hoping or expecting? (Our

dreams hardly ever look like our reality, when we face an unexpected reality – be faithful. Regardless of the different ways life gives you lemons, God’s plans for our lives cannot be derailed)

- Abe said, If you’re in the middle of a tough situation say to yourself, “I know my situation sucks now, but forget what’s happened up until this point; how can I be faithful to God?”

What do you find challenging about this?

READ

1 Peter 2:20b and Romans 8:28

- How do you remain faithful in an unexpected reality when life doesn’t seem to get better? (Trust God, Know God didn’t deal you the lemons, Lemons are a product of the broken world we live in, Believe God can make the sweetest lemonade out of any lemons)
- How did the discussion today connect with your current situation or with what God has been teaching you?

LEADERS: Rodeo weekend at RPC|WE is coming up on Thursday, February 23 (Richmond only) and Sunday, February 26 on all campuses. Grab your group and your favorite cowboy boots and get ready for great country music, photo stations, special guests Woody & Jessie for the kids, and rodeo food! Thursday night only we are giving away free rodeo ticket and there will be BBQ Chicken Pizza before the service.

PRAYER: Thank you, Lord, for giving us this time together. We are so grateful for the lemonade you make out of the lemons in our lives. Help us trust you when we face an unexpected reality, knowing you are continually working all things for our good. In Jesus’ Name – Amen.