

ChristChurch London Life Group Discussion Outline – 31/08/08
“God uses weak people” – Rhys Scott

Read Genesis 45-46

Consider...

Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers and sends them to bring his father Jacob to him in Egypt. Jacob is revived by the news that Joseph is alive, and a transformation happens within him. The passage offers us insight into three important themes that run throughout scripture:

- God uses weak people to accomplish His wonderful eternal purposes
- God desires a people of His own
- Joseph delivers the people of God from death through the famine. Joseph is a type of Jesus, the ultimate deliverer of God's people.

1. The story shows how God uses weak people. What were some of Jacob's weaknesses?

2. Upon hearing that Joseph was alive we see a transformation in Jacob. What were the characteristics of this transformation?

3. In chapter 46 we see that there are three sets of brothers: those born to Rachel (Joseph & Benjamin), those born to Leah (Whom Jacob never loved) and those born to Rachel and Leah's slave girls. Like those born to Leah and the slave girls it is very easy to let our past to define us, for us to see ourselves as second-best in the Kingdom of God, and to live for less than God has for us. **Does anyone in the group have story to share about this happening to them?**

4. Joseph has an amazing perspective on his life: "God sent me here to deliver you", he says to his brothers. Even though they had perpetrated this terrible act against him, God was able to turn their sinful act into an act of redemption. God placed Joseph in one of the most influential cities in the world. God used him to deliver Egypt, the surrounding nations and the people of God from the famine. God has called us to this great city. God has called us to be deliverers. **In what ways can you be a deliverer for other people in the city in which you live?**

5. There is tremendous grace in God's heart for people. When we looked at what the family comprised, only Joseph came out well. The rest of the family were a sad mixture of violence, selfish ambition, lack of discipline and turmoil. But God had His hand on all of them. They all shared in the destiny that God had chosen for them, they all shared in the blessings of life in Egypt. **You may have a past that needs to be repented of, forgiven, and put behind you. If it is appropriate for people to pray with one another that might be good.** Otherwise, maybe you can encourage people to get together outside of the meeting to pray and make decisions to leave the past behind, and to step into a new attitude and perspective like that of Joseph.