

#4 – TRAUMA AND TRIUMPH* (Amy Orr-Ewing)

- Where have you seen God at work in your life this week? (Share any brief examples and encouragements).
- Was there anything from Sunday's message which you found particularly inspiring or challenging?
- Was there anything else you particularly noticed?

Genesis 39:2-7;20b-23

² The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. ³ When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, ⁴ Joseph found favour in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him **in charge** of his household, and he **entrusted to his care** everything he owned. ⁵ From the time he put him **in charge** of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. ⁶ So Potiphar left **everything he had in Joseph's care**; with **Joseph in charge**, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷ and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!' ⁸ But he refused. 'With me **in charge**,' he told her, 'my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has **entrusted to my care**...

... while Joseph was there in the prison, ²¹ the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favour in the eyes of the prison warder. ²² So the warder put Joseph **in charge** of all those held in the prison, and **he was made responsible** for all that was done there. ²³ The warder paid no attention to anything **under Joseph's care**, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

1. The writer of Genesis repeatedly mentions that Joseph was 'in charge'.
 - *How do you feel about being in situations where you are 'in charge'? Do you enjoy it? Do you prefer to be in charge, or do you avoid it, if at all possible?*
2. All through the Bible we see people entrusted with authority only after they have experienced some sort of trauma, or, at least major challenges – rejection, hardships, false accusations, brokenness etc.
 - *Who else can you think of from the Bible who endured trouble and trauma on the way to success?*
 - *What other significant leaders have triumphed out of hardship? What difference do you think it made to the way they acted when they were in charge?*
3. Amy said, "Trauma is not the terrible things that happen to you. Trauma is what happens inside you as a result of what happened to you."
 - *We sometimes use the word 'trauma' rather glibly, but real trauma can be utterly devastating. Have you ever experienced trauma? How have you been able to process it? [Or, perhaps it isn't something you have been able to properly process yet, or even talk about.]*
 - *Have you ever been hurt by people who are 'in charge'?*
4. Joseph is able to overcome all the rejection, false accusation, and trouble he experienced because he realises that through it all, God has been at work.
 - *What does it mean that Jesus is your Rock, your place of safety?*
 - *How can we each overflow with the goodness of Jesus' resources and be careful to steward the power we are given today?*