

## Where the Light Shines Through

Week 2 - Brian Kangas

*Hope in Despair*

**Icebreaker:** What is your dream vacation?

### Topics for Discussion:

- Read Genesis 37:3-11  
Have you ever been in a position or circumstance that should be joy-filled, or happy but is really not living up to the dream? For Joseph, he is the favoured son, but he is hated by his brothers. What are some areas that are considered “pain points” for you that you “dreamed” would be different?
- At times, it can seem like all we want is for God to remove the circumstance that we find ourselves in. “If he would just make so-and-so more agreeable” or something similar, then we think we would be better off. But all too often, our circumstances get worse.  
Read Genesis 39:19-23

### Things to Consider:

- Joseph went from favoured son, to favoured slave, to favoured inmate. Not the best track record or trajectory for Joseph. Yet in the midst of it, he was comforted by the Lord and shown great favour in his poor circumstances.
- In your “less-than-ideal” circumstances from above, identify some areas where God is blessing you - or - making you a blessing for others.
- Read Romans 8:27-29  
From this passage, we can gain the understanding that our joy is found in our identity in Christ, not our circumstances. Be confident that what you are going through is being used for good - no matter how dark it seems!

### Going Deeper:

- Read Romans 8:31-39  
You are a beloved son or daughter of God! Nothing can separate you from He whom your soul desires for eternity. Encourage each other to look beyond your circumstances and to see through eternal eyes the hope that can be found, even in despair!

**Prayer:** Gather prayer requests from your group and have one or two people pray out loud for everyone.