



Study 3



These bible studies are designed to be used a simple ways of helping connect God's story with the world, experiences and stories of young people.

They comprise some simple reflective questions and exercises focused around a biblical passage.

They are designed to be used in small group settings, but could be adapted for use in other environments.

Feel free to use all or elements of them as appropriate for your setting.

Victims of circumstance?

Why not begin this bible study by asking those present to piece together the story of Joseph that is found in Genesis. Ask them what they think they can remember about it. When they have done this, read bits of the story from Genesis 37-41 to see which bits they remembered correctly.

It might be said that Joseph was a bit of a 'know it all' teenager. He really got on the nerves of his brothers in the way that he came across. Some might say he was a big headed, arrogant so and so!

As a consequence he got blamed for everything and was victimised by his brothers.

Do you think it was justified in portraying Joseph as a 'know it all'?

Take a moment to think about how Joseph might have felt. How do you think it feels to be victimised?

There is no doubt that some young people can come across as 'know it alls'. There is equally no doubt that some young people do some bad things for which they should have to apologise, put right what they have done wrong and accept the consequences of their actions. It is, however, very unfortunate that all those young people who do very little wrong are tarred with the same brush as the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour.

In essence, many young people have been victimised by the media and politicians and are often all labeled as, 'yobs', 'hoodies', 'criminals'.

Joseph ended up in a hole and lots of young people end up in holes too. Be it through their own actions or the actions of others, they can end up in tricky situations, unable to get out of them.

Pause for a moment, and ask the group if they can recall any stories of any young people they know who have got into such situations. What happened to them? Did they get out of the hole they were in?

Things eventually came right for Joseph and they do so for many young people. Sadly, some young people never seem to get out of the holes they find themselves in and they get into spirals of problems and end up marginalised from the rest of society.

There are no quick fixes to help such young people, but lots can be done. Pause again, and ask the group what they think should be done to help them.

Spend some time praying about these responses and look to turn them into positive actions. Ask the group to pledge to do something positive to help.

As a commitment to their pledges and a symbolic reminder of the story of Joseph, invite the group to cut or tear off a piece of multi-coloured fabric which you should have to hand. Invite them to take the piece of cloth home with them and keep it in their purse or wallet as a reminder of the pledge they have made and the story of Joseph.

In six months time, see what has happened with the pledges and what difference has been made to the lives of young people.