

Chat with the Children: Are we nearly there yet?

- *(Need tape measure and paper for heights)*
 - How big will you get?
 - measure some heights, and perhaps of parents....
 - If you stopped growing at this height would you be happy?
 - Wish you were bigger now?
 - What's the longest journey you've ever been on?
 - how long did it take? What did you do while you were travelling? Has anyone ever been held up by some travel delay - weather, or a strike, or something?
 - Then link to how far we are from perfection, how much work God has still to do to make us like Jesus:
 - he uses us now, but is always looking for us to grow in likeness to him
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Developing his Gift

- Joseph given opportunity, taking opportunity, to use the gift he's been given by God
 - interpreting dreams, seeing more in dreams than others do
 - (degree of interpretation in the recounting his own dreams back home...)

Background details

- Who is the captain of the guard - its Potiphar - its his prison where Joseph is currently a "guest"...
 - see also v.7 - "in his master's house" - across the compound, as I mentioned last week...
- Are we/how are we developing in the gifts that God has given us?
 - can we see the difference since last year?
 - what new situations/opportunities has God given us to use our gift?
 - what more have we learned about exercising that gift in God's service?
 - give examples: dreams, sharing faith, praying, serving, teaching...
- If kids stopping growing - concern
- How have you grown in faith in the last year?

Growth is not complete

- Dolphins - only see them when they come up for air, but there is lots of work going on under the surface between breaths.
 - Joseph - we are only seeing the points where Joseph is called on to make a choice, where the character formation comes out into public view - but there is much that has happened in his heart, out of public sight
- How is God forming Joseph's character?
 - was he cooperating with God, or resisting Him?
- Ask congregation what is wrong with this verse (v.8): 'Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."'
- How is God forming our character?
 - are we cooperating with him, or resisting him?

Conclusion

- Are we practising, using, trying out our gifts?
- Are we practising, using, trying out our gifts in ways that bring glory to God and do not put ourselves at the centre?