

## Chat with the Children

- Think of things that you could only do once you were a certain age - when you are bigger...:
    - rollercoaster, films (12, 15), driving, reading certain books, (drinking), voting, cheaper car insurance...
  - Was it as good as you thought it would be?
    - were you really ready?
  - *Joseph was ready, and God used him*
- 

## Introduction

- Recap journey Joseph has made:
  - living in covenant, but being prepared for service
  - Patience is a virtue,
  - Possess it if you can,
  - Seldom found in woman,
  - Never found in man

## Maturity brings opportunity

- God has been working towards this for ages!
  - God has prepared him for this opportunity
  - are we ready for the opportunities God has in mind for us?
  - or we in danger of seeing those opportunities either squandered or taken by others?
- Are we pursuing maturity:
  - of understanding?
  - of obedience?
  - of attitude?
  - of relationship with those around us?
  - all of which is grounded in maturity of relationship with God in Jesus Christ, intimacy with him, devotion to him
  - in fact, signs of such relationship with him will be our growth in obedience, in understanding, in attitude, in relationship...

## Maturity brings responsibility

- What a job!
  - would it all have gone smoothly?
- What provision, not just for those who already knew God but for those outwith the community of faith:
  - God intends good for all, and demonstrates signs of his grace in general provision - **common grace** it used to sometimes be called
  - what we do generally, in work - school, Council, selling in a shop and treating people well - is all part of God's common grace to the world
- *In what areas are we serving?*
  - how are we growing in and into service?

## Conclusion

- Joseph is not finished yet, not complete, not perfect
  - there are still things he needs to learn, issues from his past he needs to deal with
  - there are still areas of service he needs to excel in - he can't sit on his laurels...
- But he has learned, allowed God to shape and mould him:
  - have we / are we?

