

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- What can you do this week to trust God in a stormy area of your life?
- Are you actively pursuing a life of honor, excellence and integrity before God? If not what steps can you take in that direction?
- Joseph recognized the goodness of God at work in his horrible circumstances. How might God be working good in your difficult areas? How can you work with God in those areas this week?

PRAYER

- Ask God for the faith to trust in his word and promises over your life.
- Pray for eyes that see past your current situation and eyes that are focused on the hope we have in Jesus Christ.
- Ask God to strengthen you and give you encouragement in times of weakness.

NOTES



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WEEK 2: JOSEPH THE DREAMER

CONNECT

- What does the word 'epic' mean to you? What is your favorite epic adventure – personal or literary?
- What would you say is the biggest challenge you have ever faced in your life?
- What have you discovered about yourself through the challenges you have faced? How have your challenges weakened or strengthened you?

WHAT

God did not promise us a storm-free life but a storm-proof one. Joseph is a Biblical example of someone who went through one storm after another with epic success. We all identify with Joseph's epic life because we too, face adversity of many kinds and have an innate desire to overcome them and succeed in spite of them. Through all of the storms he faced, Joseph still kept his faith and trust in God. Let's take a closer look at Joseph so that we can learn how to trust God's faithfulness in the midst of our storms and how to rely on his kindness and favor to help us live truly epic lives.

WORD

“Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.”

Genesis 39:20, 21 (NIV)

1. Joseph was sold by his brothers.

“So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.”

Genesis 37:28

At first, Joseph had everything. He was young, gifted, and highly favored by his father, Jacob. When his brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than them, they plotted to kill him but ended up selling him into slavery instead. Thus began the season of storms in Joseph’s life. At the age of seventeen, Joseph went from a life of favor to one of slavery and great uncertainty in a foreign land. How do you think Joseph felt? Have you ever felt betrayed or sold out by those close to you? How did you feel? How did you respond?

2. Joseph was thrown into prison.

“Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.”

Genesis 39: 20, 21

Because God was with him, Joseph prospered and was successful in everything he did in the house of his Egyptian master, Potiphar who put him in charge of all his possessions. Then Potiphar’s wife began trying to seduce Joseph. His daily refusals led her to slander him and falsely accuse him of attempting to rape her. Sold into slavery, falsely accused, Joseph was now thrown into prison. There are times in our lives where things just seem to go from bad to worse. In those times it is vital to remember that God promises to never leave us, (Deuteronomy 31:6). How do you think Joseph felt at this point in his life? Joseph responded by continuing to live with honor, excellence and integrity. Have you ever been in similar circumstances? How did you respond? What was the result?

3. Joseph trusted God’s divine purpose.

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Genesis 50:20

In all adversities, Joseph focused on the goodness of God and God’s intentions in his life and not on the intentions or actions of his adversaries, nor the severity of his circumstances. He allowed God to use him even when he was suffering because he trusted that God was in control of everything that was happening in his life. God used every miserable moment in Joseph’s life to prepare him to save the region from famine through wise leadership. We may not currently understand God’s purpose for allowing storms to happen in our lives, but let us continue to fix on our eyes on God’s promise of a future and destiny (Jeremiah 29:11). Are you facing any storms right now? What does it mean to trust God in the midst of bad circumstances and severe storms?
