

Characters - Joseph

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REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will listen to the Spirit's voice that says, "You are my child, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
- When I'm discouraged I will find solitude and listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- When I'm convicted of sin I will confess, repent, receive grace, and thank God that the Spirit is at work in my heart and conscience.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Joseph had to wait 13 years to understand God's plan for his life. During those years, he endured challenging experiences that could have shaken his faith and caused him to lose sight of any hope that God really cared about him, much less had something good in mind for his life.

But neither God nor Joseph wavered.

We will learn some lessons from Joseph this week:

1. God has a plan for our lives, and he has a much better view from above.
2. God is always with us, working even when we wait in what seem the darkest of moments or the longest of times.
3. God can take your history no matter what it is, and only he can shape your destiny to make you the right person in the right place to accomplish his right purpose.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. While growing up as a young boy, Joseph could've provoked his brothers to despise him for being pompous about being their father's favorite son. However, did he deserve to have

such hardships in his life? Sometimes calamities and sufferings happen to good people. When we face such hardships and God seems to be silent, what shall we do?

2. Have you personally experienced unjust or painful hardships when you tried to do everything right? Looking back, what did you or can you gain from those experiences?

3. How did Joseph make sense of the hardships in his life? And what part of the scripture indicates that?

4. Even throughout the times of serious trouble, Joseph was steadfast trusting in God and striving to live with integrity and righteousness. He thrived in whatever circumstances he was in, even as a slave and as a prisoner. What was the source of such strength?

5. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to purchase grains after Joseph became a powerful person in Egypt, he tested the sincerity of their hearts then forgave them. Had Joseph not forgiven them, what might have happened?

6. If someone wronged us in the past, is there a better option than forgiveness?

7. Read Genesis 50:15-21. After death of their father, Joseph's brothers were worried about Joseph's retaliation. It is obvious that they still did not trust him nor embraced him as their brother. Most people in Joseph's situation would be very bitter because it was betrayal all over again. However, Joseph responded differently: he was broken-hearted when he saw their worries, then he reassured his brothers, provided for them and their families, and

spoke to them with kindness. What event in the New Testament does this passage (Gen 50:15-21) resemble?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will trust God has a much better view from above.
- I will turn to God to find strength during the dark days of doubt.
- I will be the right person in the right place to accomplish God's purpose.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Jeremiah 29:11
- Genesis 37:3-8
- Genesis 37:21
- Genesis 39:2, 21, 23
- Psalm 121:4-5
- 2 Corinthians 12:9
- Genesis 45:3-5, 8
- Genesis 50:18-20

Prayer Request(s)
