

The Big Picture: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament: **Week 4 – Joseph: More Than Dreaming Big**

Genesis 37; 39–50

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God, Thank You for bringing us together to grow in faith and encourage one another. As we reflect on Joseph's story, help us to see Your faithfulness in both the joyful and difficult seasons of life. Open our hearts to Your Word, teach us to trust You when life doesn't make sense, and remind us that You are always working for our good and Your glory. May Your Holy Spirit guide our conversation and strengthen our faith today. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Theme:

God Can Redeem What Others Meant for Evil. Joseph's life reminds us that faith does not keep us from hardship. Instead, it assures us that God is with us through every season. Betrayal, disappointment, waiting, and suffering are not the end of the story. God has the power to redeem brokenness, bringing hope and purpose out of situations that seem hopeless. Joseph's life ultimately points us to Jesus, whose suffering on the cross became God's greatest act of redemption.

Secular Quote:

"Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about learning to dance in the rain."
— **Vivian Greene**

Starter Question:

Everyone has experienced disappointment. Share about a time when something didn't go the way you hoped. Looking back now, were there unexpected blessings or lessons that came from that experience?

Digging Deeper Questions

Read Genesis 37:23–28

Joseph is betrayed by the very people who should have protected him.

- Why do you think betrayal often hurts more than other kinds of suffering?
- Have you ever experienced hurt from someone you trusted? How did it affect your faith?

Read Genesis 39:20–23

Even in prison, Scripture says, *"The Lord was with Joseph."*

- Why is it difficult to believe God is present during painful seasons?
- How can we recognize God's presence even when our circumstances don't improve immediately?

Read Genesis 41:15–16

Joseph refuses to take credit for interpreting Pharaoh's dreams.

- What does Joseph's humility reveal about how suffering changed him?

- Why is humility often produced through difficult experiences?

Read Genesis 45:1–8

Joseph reveals himself to his brothers.

- What emotions do you imagine Joseph experienced in this moment?
- What would have made forgiveness difficult?
- Why do you think Joseph chose reconciliation over revenge?

Read Genesis 50:15–21

Joseph tells his brothers,

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good."

- What does this verse **not** mean?
- Why is it important to remember that Joseph never calls evil "good"?
- How does God's redemption differ from simply pretending painful things never happened?

Looking to Jesus

Joseph's life points us toward Christ.

- What similarities do you notice between Joseph and Jesus?
- How does Jesus take Joseph's story even further?
- Why is the resurrection the ultimate example of God bringing good from evil?

Actionable of the Week:

This week, spend a few minutes each day reflecting on a difficult season in your life—past or present.

Ask yourself:

- Where have I already seen God's faithfulness?
- Is there someone I need to forgive?
- Is there a situation I need to trust God with instead of trying to control?
- How can my story become a source of hope for someone else?

Then pray each day: **"Lord, help me trust that You are still writing my story."**

Look for one opportunity this week to encourage someone who may be walking through their own "pit" or "prison" season. Sometimes the greatest reminder of God's presence comes through another believer.

Closing Prayer:

Faithful God, thank You for reminding us that You never leave us. As You were with Joseph through every trial, help us trust that You are with us in every season of our lives. Give us hearts that choose forgiveness, hope, and faith, even when we cannot yet see what You are doing. As we leave today, remind us that through Jesus Christ, You are always at work bringing redemption and new life. In His holy name we pray. Amen.

Daily Scripture Guide:
The Big Picture: Finding Jesus in the Old Testament
Week 3 — Abraham & Isaac: More Than Obedience
Based on Genesis 22:1–14 and this Sunday's message

Monday: God Is With Us in Every Season

Scripture: Genesis 39:1–6

Focus Verse: *"The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered..."* (Genesis 39:2)

Even after losing everything, Joseph was not alone. God's presence did not depend on Joseph's circumstances. As you begin your week, remember that God's faithfulness remains constant, whether you're celebrating on the mountaintop or struggling in the valley.

Tuesday: Trusting God While We Wait

Scripture: Psalm 27:13–14

Focus Verse: *"Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord."* (Psalm 27:14)

Waiting is one of the hardest parts of faith. Joseph waited years before he saw God's plan unfold. This Psalm reminds us that waiting is not wasted time when it is spent trusting in the Lord.

Wednesday: God Works Through All Things

Scripture: Romans 8:28–39

Focus Verse: *"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..."* (Romans 8:28)

Paul echoes the truth Joseph learned centuries earlier. God does not promise that all things are good, but He promises to work through all things for His purposes. Nothing—not suffering, hardship, or even death—can separate us from His love.

Thursday: Choosing Forgiveness

Scripture: Matthew 18:21–35

Focus Verse: *"I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times."* (Matthew 18:22)

Joseph chose forgiveness over revenge, reflecting the heart of God long before Jesus taught His disciples about limitless forgiveness. Forgiveness is not pretending the hurt never happened—it is entrusting justice to God.

Friday: The Greater Joseph

Scripture: Philippians 2:5–11

Focus Verse: *"He humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!"* (Philippians 2:8)

Joseph's story points us to Jesus. Both were rejected, suffered unjustly, and were exalted by God. Yet Jesus accomplished something even greater—bringing eternal salvation through His death and resurrection.

Saturday: God Finishes the Story

Scripture: Revelation 21:1–5

Focus Verse: *"He will wipe every tear from their eyes... He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'"* (Revelation 21:4–5)

Joseph's story ended with reconciliation and preservation, but God's story doesn't stop there. Through Christ, God is making all things new. Whatever chapter of life you find yourself in today, remember that God has not finished writing your story.

Weekly Prayer: Faithful God, thank You for being with me in every season of life. Help me trust You when I cannot see the whole picture. Give me the strength to forgive, the patience to wait, and the faith to believe that You are working even through difficult circumstances. May my life point others to Jesus, who brings redemption, hope, and new life. Amen.