

# PERSPECTIVES

TOOLS FOR CREATING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW | ROMANS 12:2

## Journey into Destiny THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

WEEKS 1-6

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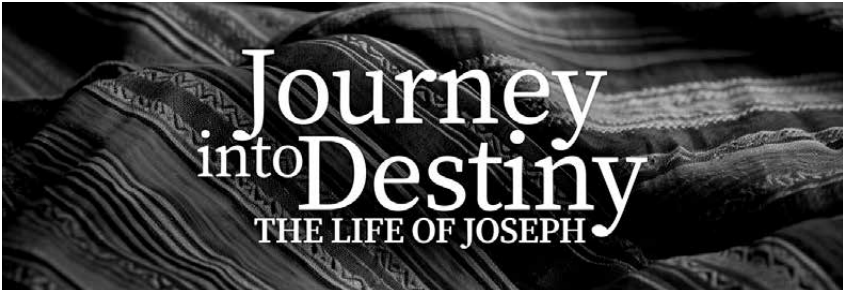


## Where did God show up this week?

As you see the goodness of God, use this page to jot down how He's blessed you. Encourage one another and celebrate victories at opportune times within and/or outside of your group meetings.

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## **WEEK 1**

### **Genesis 37**

## **ICE BREAKER**

## **PRAYER**

## **WORSHIP**

## **INTRODUCTION**

We start a series on Joseph and his life. Joseph received dreams when he was 17 years old that determined his destiny. We all have a destiny and a purpose from God. Today, we will learn about Joseph's early circumstances. Also, we will discuss how we can focus on our destiny to better serve God and others.

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**1**

**Read Genesis 37:5-11 and Genesis 37:23-27.**

- a.** What did Joseph's dreams mean? How did his brothers and father react?
- b.** Have you ever found favor with a parent, teacher, employer? As Dr. Phil would say, "How did that work out for you?" Explain.
- c.** In Genesis 37: 23-27, how was Joseph treated?

d. What did Joseph say during this trial? Who does that remind you of? Could you handle a difficult situation the same way? Why or why not?

## 2

### Read Romans 12:6-8 and Romans 8:28.

- a. How do these gifts relate to your destiny?
- b. What do you do if you do not know your destiny? Give some examples of what you can do.
- c. Joseph's early dreams were brought to fruition much later in his life when he was second in command after Pharaoh. How did these help shape his destiny? How does that relate to Romans 8:28?
- d. Does Romans 8:28 mean you will be happy? How can we be happy in our circumstances? Explain.

## PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Do you see someone who is in the middle of difficult circumstances? Can you, in faith, pray with them that God will use these circumstances for their good?
- Ask God to show you someone who needs prayer for their circumstances. Can you help them to surrender to God's plan for their life? Can you do the same for yourself?

## TAKING IT HOME

What attitude do you need to change about your situation? Do you believe God can work things to good that others/Satan mean for evil in your life? What is one way that you can trust God to lead you towards destiny?

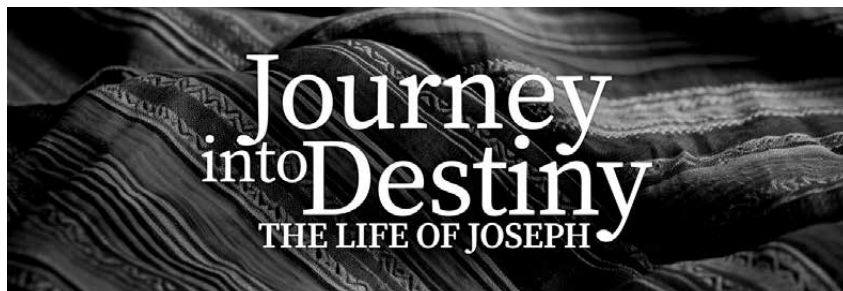
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## MEMORY VERSE

### Romans 11:33:

*"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!"*

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## **WEEK 2**

**Genesis 39**

### **ICE BREAKER**

### **PRAYER**

### **WORSHIP**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The life of Joseph is about taking hold of all that God took hold of for him; destiny, purpose, possibility; spiritual potential. His life should give you hope to press through the battles and reach your destiny.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**1**

**Read Genesis 37:1-11.**

- a.** Joseph shared his dream with his brothers about how they would someday bow down to him. In light of this, why do you think the Lord immediately allowed him to be put in a position of servitude for so many years?
- b.** Have you ever been given a dream or a prophecy for your life and then found your life turned upside down before seeing it fulfilled?
- c.** Do you still hold on to it? How do you honor the Lord in the meantime?

d. Genesis 39: 2-3 says, "The Lord was with him." It also says that Potiphar could also see that the Lord was with him. How do you think he could see that?

**2**

### **Read Genesis 39:5-6.**

a. Joseph considered himself to belong to God. How did this mindset help him to prosper?

b. Joseph did not become wealthy under Potiphar, but he prospered. What does prosper mean to you?

c. Read Genesis 39:7-23. How do you handle success? What happened to Joseph when he became successful?

d. When God honors you, do you honor Him back? When He gives you position, do you keep it clear in your head and heart how you got there?

## **PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME**

Take some time to read and pray Philippians 4:12-13. Ask God to make you content in every circumstance. Surrender to Him.

## **TAKING IT HOME**

What motivates you? Success? Money? Power? Are you willing to let Jesus motivate you? Ask God now to help you see things differently. What is one way you can let God begin right now to change your heart to surrender to His destiny for you?

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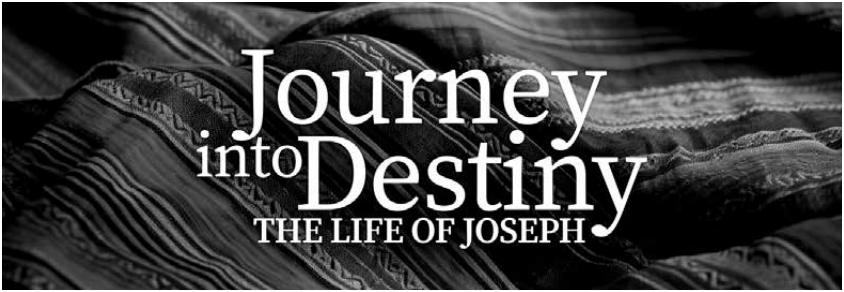
## **MEMORY VERSE**

### **Colossians 3:23-24:**

*"Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve."*

## NOTES

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## **WEEK 3**

**Genesis 39**

### **ICE BREAKER**

### **PRAYER**

### **WORSHIP**

### **INTRODUCTION**

God created you with a destiny: purpose, possibility and spiritual potential. As we journey through the life of Joseph, we see a man who had his heart set on God and regardless of where he found himself, he never lost sight of his Godly destiny. We see the enemy always working to cause him to lose his destiny but Joseph took hold of all that God had for him. Joseph continued to rise up spiritually above his circumstances and temptation because God was "all over this" and he fulfilled his destiny.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**1**

#### **Read Genesis 39:5-7.**

**a.** In Joseph's workplace, he had the highest position of trust. In the workplace, in what ways would you say you conduct yourself like Joseph did in his workplace? In your home life (cable TV, the internet, pop-up ads that are inappropriate)?

- b.** Could Joseph have justified saying "yes" to Potiphar's wife as an attempt to fulfill his destiny? Why or why not?
- c.** Because we live in this fallen world but are not of it, temptations face us every day. How do you see the following scripture helping you in light of what the bible tells us about living in this fallen world but not being part of it? 1 John 2:15-16.
- d.** Genesis 39 illustrates that success and temptation go together, as we see with Joseph. Discuss what 1 John 2:15-16 says about this. Do you struggle applying this scripture to your life, and if so, are you comfortable asking your group for prayer?

## 2

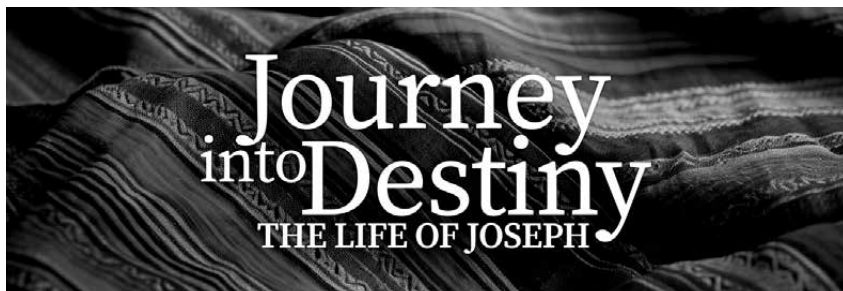
### **Read Psalm 101:3 and Matthew 6:22.**

- a.** The enemy blinds us to the truth, corrupts our minds, and uses our eyes to gain entrance to our hearts. What do you consider are the "worthless things" in this world? What are the "worthless things" currently in your life?
- b.** How can you keep your eyes "healthy" and serve God?
- c.** In 2 Samuel 11, we see how David did not run away when he was tempted—initially, he used Bathsheba to quench his lust (sexual impurity). In 2 Samuel 13 we see that sexual impurity has infiltrated his children. What do you think Joseph did to be prepared daily to fight off Potiphar's wife's invitation to commit adultery? How can you build conviction in yourself?

## **PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME**

- Do you see someone who is in the middle of difficult circumstances? Can you, in faith, pray with them that God will use these circumstances for their good?
- Ask God to show you someone who needs prayer for their circumstances. Can you help them to surrender to God's plan for their life? Can you do the same for yourself?





## WEEK 4

Genesis 39

### ICE BREAKER

### PRAYER

### WORSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

The life of Joseph was a journey from shepherd to king. Starting as a favorite among 11 siblings, he moved to being a slave and sold into service. While God's hand was on him, there seemed to be forces continually getting Joseph in trouble, and for doing the right thing! Let's see what happens next!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**1**

**Read Genesis 39:1-20.**

- a.** Joseph was sold as a slave. What was his attitude to his new owner?
- b.** Talk about a time when you were put into a situation you did not like and had to submit to the circumstances. What was your attitude to your new situation?
- c.** Why do you think Potiphar did not have Joseph executed?

d. How long was Joseph in prison before the Chief Jailer turned over the prison to Joseph?

**2**

**Read Genesis 39:21-23.**

- a. Joseph was in prison for years. Why do you think he continued to walk in integrity?
- b. Do you think God could have released Joseph sooner? Why do you think He did not?
- c. Read Romans 5:3-5. Why do you think Joseph needed to have hope? Do you think his hope saved his family? His family who became a nation?
- d. What is one word can you think of that would describe Joseph's attitude toward God in the midst of all that went wrong in Joseph's life while he was doing the right thing?

## PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Have you ever blamed God for your hard times? Take time now and confess to Him. Surrender to His leading, and let God grow character in you.
- Are you in a difficult situation now? Surrender to Him and let God lead you.

## TAKING IT HOME

This week, keep an eye out for someone around you that may be suffering. Pray for them and ask God to show you what you might be able to do for them, then do it. Blessings!

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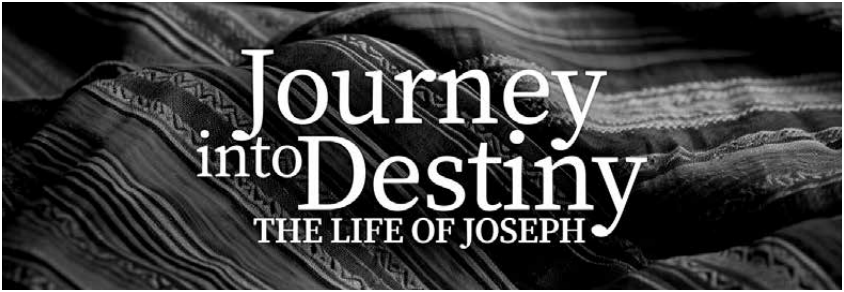
## MEMORY VERSE

**Genesis 39:23:**

*"...the Lord was with him; and the Lord made whatever he did prosper."*

## NOTES

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## WEEK 5

Genesis 40

### ICE BREAKER

### PRAYER

### WORSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

Destiny, from Joseph's struggles to his successes, greatly changed the course of Jacob and his family line. Joseph lived out of the fullness of what God had ordained for his life while perhaps Jacob did not. Yet God still fulfilled His promises (Word). Often, when we think of destiny, we only considerate it as it relates to ourselves or our immediate family.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**1**

**Read Genesis 47:6-7; Genesis 48:14.**

- a.** What was Joseph's impact on his two son's destinies?
- b.** If tradition was for the first born son to receive the Father's blessing, why did God allow Menassah, Jacob, and Isaac all to receive the blessing since they were not the first born?
- c.** What was Joseph's impact on his brothers' lives? (The 12 tribes of Israel.)

d. What might have changed if Joseph had chosen to be angry with God for all the trials and injustices against him in his early life?

## 2

### Read Genesis 47:8-11.

- a. Based on how Jacob received his inheritance and blessing from Isaac, what is he saying about his life's journey at this point?
- b. Why does Jacob draw a comparison to his "fathers" life span who lived 180 and 175 years?
- c. Joseph's life was touched by the Word of God. God tested him until the prophetic word came to pass. What test are you enduring right now? Do you see it leading to a prophetic word for you?
- d. Pastor says "You have to have character to support destiny." How does God's word build your character? How does it lead to your destiny?

## PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- How much of our lives do we live out in fear vs. faith in God's promises?
- Will my life pass down blessings or curses to my children and grandchildren?

## TAKING IT HOME

What has God spoken over you that you have yet to experience? Ask God today to remind you of the destiny He has for you. Then, surrender to Him and let Him work it out for you.

Philippians 3:12 speaks of "laying hold" of what God has for you. How can you do that today?

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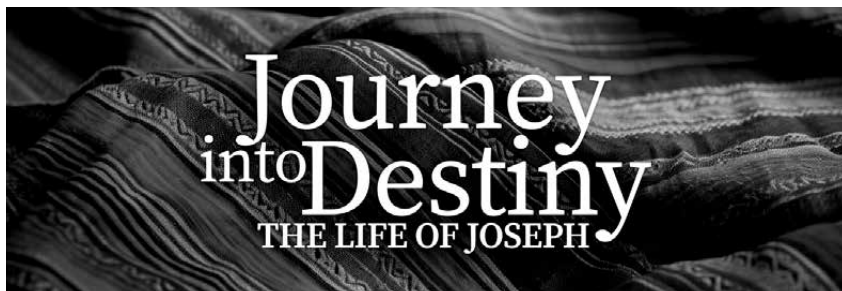
## MEMORY VERSE

**Philippians 3:12:**

*"I press on that I may lay hold of what Christ has laid hold of me."*

## NOTES

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## WEEK 6

Genesis 40

### ICE BREAKER

### PRAYER

### WORSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

A Servant Leader, according to Ken Blanchard, the co-author of The Servant Leader, is someone "who is invested in the growth of others." Joseph is a great example of servitude and leadership. Who we serve and who we trust affects our decision-making. In Pursuing the Heart of God, Pastor Dan writes, "Destiny is determined by decisions, many of them small."

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

**1**

**Read Genesis 40:1-8.**

**a.** Why do you think the captain of the guard appointed Joseph over the cupbearer and the baker? What traits are needed to be a servant leader? How do you handle a position of power; such as parent, influencer, employer or in a relationship?

- b.** Abraham Lincoln said, "If you want to test a man's character, give him power." How does this statement relate to Joseph? Why? Explain the differences between the world's leaders and God's leaders.
- c.** Why were the cup-bearer and the baker hopeless? Didn't Joseph find himself in similar circumstances?
- d.** What can help a person to focus on the supernatural and not be distracted by the natural?

**2**

**Read Genesis 40:14, 23 and Jeremiah 17:5, 7.**

- a.** What happened to Joseph when he asked the cupbearer for help? Has that happened to you? How?
- b.** What does Jeremiah say about trusting in man and God? What does trusting in the Lord look like in comparison to trusting in mankind? Give some examples of trusting in God regarding your finances, relationships or destiny. What small decision has affected your destiny? How?

## **PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME**

- Have you identified areas of your spiritual life that you depend on your own strength to accomplish? Begin now to ask God for His supernatural power to strengthen you and help you with your journey.
- Have you found yourself asking the "why" question? See what happens if you change the "why" to "who" and put your trust in God.

## **TAKING IT HOME**

What is one thing you can do this week to set aside any bitterness you may have held on to from your past experiences? Surrender it now and receive the Lord's power to journey in faith.

What is one area of your spiritual journey that you feel weak in? Ask now for power from God to move forward in that area.

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## MEMORY VERSE

**Psalm 62:7-8:**

*"My salvation and my glory rest on God; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your hearts before Him; God is a refuge for us."*

## NOTES

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## Prayer Requests

Note your prayer requests and fellow small group members' prayer requests here and pray for one another throughout the week.

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