

PERSPECTIVES

TOOLS FOR CREATING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW | ROMANS 12:2

Journey into Destiny THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

WEEKS 7-11

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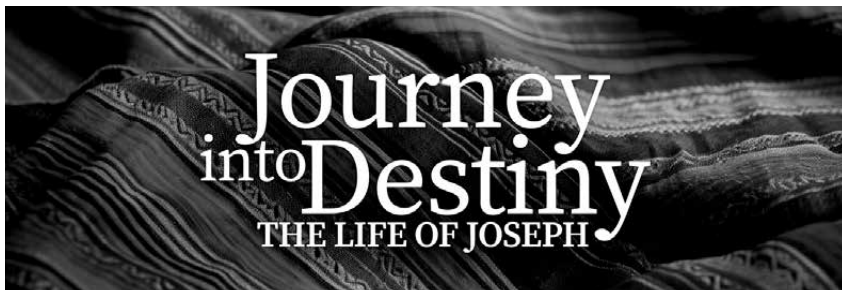
Water
of Life
community church



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 7

Genesis 41

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Joseph waited in prison for two whole years after he correctly interpreted dreams for two of Pharaoh's workers. Even though he asked to be remembered, he wasn't. Then a day, out of the blue, the worker who promised to tell Pharaoh about Joseph remembered Joseph. Was Joseph ready for what came next?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1

Read Genesis 41:1, 8, 12-13.

a. Joseph was waiting to be released from prison and had to wait. Have you ever been at the end of your rope and thought you would be rescued only to find that God just gave you a little more rope? How did you take that?

- b.** Joseph did not know that Pharaoh was dreaming and needed an interpreter until Joseph was summoned from prison. When have you been called upon to serve without notice? Were you ready?
- c.** It took time for Joseph's heart to become as gold. Integrity is worthless until it is tested. When was a time when your integrity was tested? How did you fare?
- d.** We all cheered for Joseph when he was finally released from prison to interpret Pharaoh's dream. But the test was not interpreting the dream. The test was what followed. What happened after Joseph interpreted the dream?

2

Read 1 Samuel 4.

- a.** In the scripture above, how many times did Joseph tell Pharaoh that God was to credit for the dreams and interpretation?
- b.** Joseph did not hesitate to give credit to God for the dreams and interpretation. Do you think Joseph realized that by saying that, he could have been forfeiting his only chance to get out of prison?
- c.** Joseph had learned to interpret dreams when he was a kid. He could have interpreted Pharaoh's dream anytime...but God made Joseph wait. Being able to interpret the dream was God's gift and Joseph gave God credit. In what ways do we often think our gift is our own?
- d.** After Joseph interpreted the dream, things happened very quickly. He was thrust into a position of authority and leadership immediately. He had only one chance at this, and being a foreigner and a slave, there was no room for mistakes. Do you think God's timing for Joseph was best when you realize what was at stake?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Take some time to write down a list of things God has done in your life. List things like answers to prayer, breakthroughs you have gotten, praise reports, healing, things to be thankful for, and fulfillment of dreams. Meditate on these individually for a few minutes quietly. Through the week, thank Him, letting your praise to Him continually be on your lips.

TAKING IT HOME

What is one way this week that you can honor God first when something you have wanted or prayed for happens? Will you find someone this week that you can share with about a time when God met you while you were in a dark place?

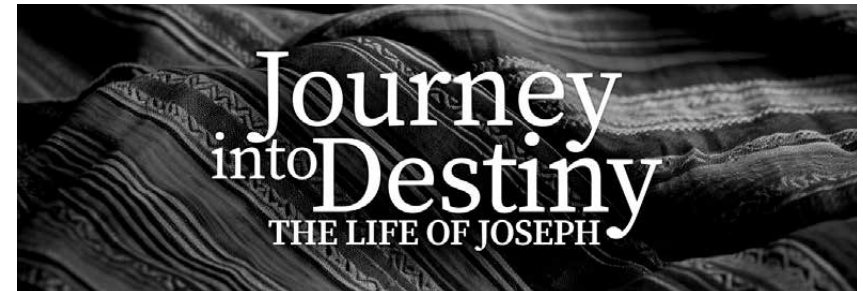
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MEMORY VERSE

John 3:30:

"He must increase but I must decrease."

NOTES

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WEEK 8

Genesis 41

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

The United States is one of the most prosperous nations in the entire world. The real test for a believer is not when they are broke, but when they are prosperous. People tend to lean more into God during times of adversity. However, when they are prosperous, sometimes they tend to develop an attitude of being self-sufficient. They may forget about serving God and refrain from sowing into the things that uplift and expand the Kingdom of God. The biggest test of prosperity is keeping integrity and maintaining faithfulness to God.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1

Read Genesis 41:25-45.

a. When God delayed His promises with Joseph, and when it appears the same for us, does that mean that He forgotten our ultimate destiny and purpose in life?

- b.** When the Lord opens a door for a promotion on a job with a pay increase or blesses your business financially, how should you respond?
- c.** Why do we seek wisdom from the Holy Spirit rather than from self-help books or principles of the law of attraction (a philosophy suggesting positive thoughts bring positive results into people's lives)?
- d.** What principles did we see in budgeting and saving with Joseph and Pharaoh?

 Read Genesis 41:53-57.

2

- 2. a.** Once Joseph came into power and prosperity, how did he use his position to bless others?
- b.** What are some of the key godly characteristics that Joseph exhibits in this "prosperity test?"

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

Pastor spoke of how Joseph had his house in order and lived within his means, not above them. Is God showing you ways where you might have room to adjust the "order of your house?" Take time to pray that each person would aim to live by the Spirit and keep in step with the Spirit. Pray for one another that each group member would do the things now that will result in being positioned to bless others when the time is right.

TAKING IT HOME

Read Philippians 4:10-14. Sudden elevation can possibly lead to pride and a fall. The most exciting test of all is to survive the prosperity test. Reflect back on a time when you were prosperous and a time when you were also in need. How did you handle these situations? What has God shown you about your ability to be content in need and in plenty?

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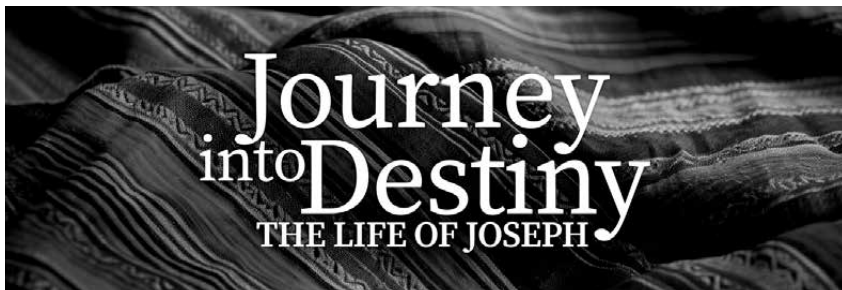
MEMORY VERSE

Colossians 1:7:

"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness."

NOTES

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WEEK 9

Genesis 42-45

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

In this week's sermon we see Joseph's journey where many years have passed since his brothers sold him into slavery. He was given an opportunity to deal with his feelings of anger and pain against his brothers and at the same time an opportunity to forgive, to bless them and be gracious to them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1

Read Genesis 42:1-2, 6, Genesis 42:18-28, and Psalm 32:3-4.

- How did God ensure Joseph was in a position to bless his family?
- Why was it important for Joseph to test his brothers'? What was he trying to learn about them?
- As they endured Joseph's testing, what were the brothers being compelled to deal with?
- Why did Joseph want his brothers to confront their past wrongs?

2

Read James 5:16, Ephesians 5:11, 13, Psalm 32:3-4, Genesis 42:25-30, 35-36, and 43:1-10.

- What are the consequences of hidden sin that has not been dealt with or confessed?
- According to the scripture, what happens when we confess our sins?
- What happens when we are genuinely repentant?
- How did Judah demonstrate that his heart had changed, and he was repentant? Who was he concerned about?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Have you ever done something that brought you shame? Regardless of how long it has been, it is never too late to change your heart, confess your sin, and if you have not done so, ask Jesus to come into your heart as your personal Savior. Go to God because He wants a close, loving intimate relationship with you.
- Recall, if you can, a time when you had an assignment or opportunity to help someone who had wronged you. Pray and ask God to give you a heart of love and compassion for others.

TAKING IT HOME

Like Joseph saved his people from famine and death, Jesus saves us from sin and gives us eternal life. God looks at the condition of our hearts. Therefore, we must repent or have a change of heart, go to Him, and confess our sins. Like, Joseph united Israel with its destiny, Jesus our Lord and Savior unites us with our destiny, which is abundant life on Earth and eternal life with the Father.

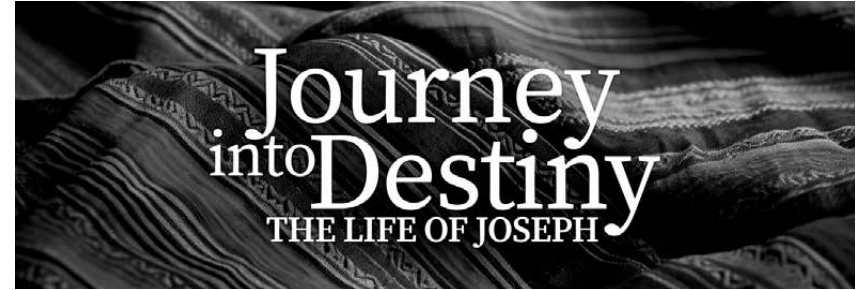
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MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 50:20:

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."

NOTES



WEEK 10

Genesis 46-47

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Joseph faced adversity in his life and had many opportunities to abandon his faith and principles because of it. He was abandoned by his brothers, then falsely accused and imprisoned in Egypt. He could have justified breaking away from Godly principles and sought revenge, turned on those who had turned on him or stretched the truth. But he did not live with a heart of self or in the world around him, but in trust with the Living God, whom he depended on as he lived uprightly.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1

Read Genesis 46:29-34; 47:1-2, 7, 11; and Ephesians 4:31-32.

a. We experience many days in our lives that present an opportunity to be bitter over an offense, a word spoken or an offensive action against us. Using Joseph's story as an example, how does our life in Jesus impact our response, both internally and externally?

- b.** Contrast the messages of self, including bitterness and revenge that the world presents with the heart of Jesus and the text of Ephesians 4:31-32.
- c.** In light of the Genesis and Ephesians texts, what can we see about the condition of Joseph's spirit and heart?
- d.** Are you encouraged when you follow Christ and see the results of being patient and loving? Explain.

 Read Matthew 8:8-10, 13.

2

- a.** What was it about the centurion's response that caused Jesus to be so impressed, so pleased by his faith?
- b.** Pastor spoke about "staying on your number". God prepares your destiny, specifically for you. How does faith, humility and integrity play a role in reaching our God appointed destiny?
- c.** Read Genesis 47:1-2, 7, 11. Did Joseph take a risk by introducing his father and his brothers to Pharaoh? Explain.
- d.** How was years of Joseph's integrity ultimately rewarded?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

What may have been the outcome of Joseph's story had he not lived with integrity toward God? The temptation to be self-serving comes in many forms. How can we build our awareness of attractions that can lead to breaking our integrity with God?

TAKING IT HOME

Do you have a home dedicated to honoring God with all He provides? The story of Joseph illustrates the power of integrity in overcoming sin and finding our destiny in Jesus; this story serves as quite a powerful example of godly living in the face of adversity.

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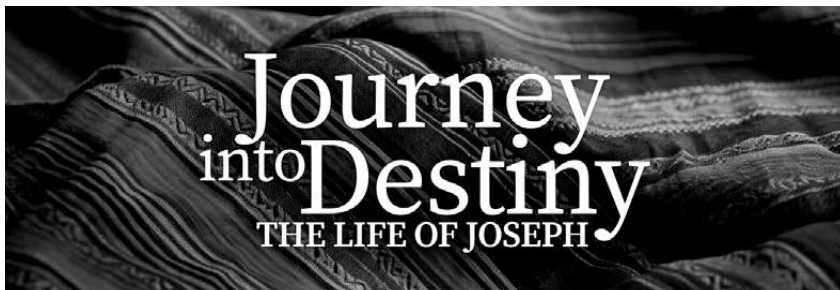
MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 47:11-12:

"Now Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them property in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had ordered. Joseph also provided his father and his brothers and all his father's household with food, according to the number of their little ones."

NOTES

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WEEK 11

Genesis 50

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Joseph's brothers did a lot of damage to him. They sold him into slavery but Joseph had become ruler over Egypt. The story is a magnificent depiction of grace and forgiveness. His story brings hope to our brokenness.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

1

Read Matthew 6:15.

- a.** We have all had people in our lives who have hurt us. Give an example of receiving God's grace to forgive someone. How impactful was that situation? How has that helped you move forward?
- b.** It can be challenging to extend forgiveness. What has been the biggest challenge for you in extending forgiveness?
- c.** If the Holy Spirit revealed a memory of unforgiveness in your heart, what is the obstacle holding you back to release that forgiveness?

d. Describe how it makes you feel knowing that in this scripture God the Father tells us to forgive in order for us to receive His forgiveness? What has changed your perspective?

2

Read Genesis 45:3-8.

- a.** What have you learned about yourself during a time of processing through pain? Describe how that has helped you move forward.
- b.** When we process, it allows us the time to see from a new perspective. After a time of processing, what part of the hurt was your responsibility? Describe how you took responsibility and the outcome.
- c.** Describe a powerful lesson have you learned about forgiving yourself.
- d.** When you forgive yourself, what changes?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

- Refusing to forgive is like drinking poison. It can eat away at your heart and soul. Think about anyone in your life who you may need to forgive for hurting you or someone from whom you may need to ask forgiveness.
- Lay your heart down before God so that He can give you the strength to forgive. If you allow Him to do some deep soul surgery, you will be completely amazed at the healing power of God. Minister to others in need.

TAKING IT HOME

As we have read through the life of Joseph, we've seen how he learned to give and receive forgiveness. Forgiveness is central to our belief system as Christians. God has forgiven us. He wants us to receive that forgiveness and give it away to others. How well do you do it?

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MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 6:14-15:

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."

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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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