

Message-based Study

Connection

When have you helped someone out of a bad situation?

**Content - The life of Joseph shows us that bad things are going to happen,
but God has overcome them.**

**When things are going badly, God is up to something good.
And when things are going well, God is up to something better.**

Wait On The Lord

1. Genesis 41:1 starts with the words, "Two full years later." Think about innocent Joseph, falsely accused, sitting in prison all that time. He was waiting on God. God is all good and all wise, and sometimes in His goodness and wisdom He does require us to wait.

What have you been waiting for God to do in your life?

God Is Working Behind The Scenes

2. Read Genesis 41-7. After all that time, God gave Pharaoh two strange dreams that jogged him awake. Those dreams set events in motion that changed everything for Joseph, all of Egypt, and the rest of history. We probably don't know what God is up to in our lives. But He is at work with people and events we couldn't possibly be aware of.

Why is it hard to trust God to work out details we have no control over?

The World's Wisdom Won't Work Where God's Wisdom Is Required

3. Read Genesis 41:8. Pharaoh called on the collective wisdom of his experts to interpret his dreams. It couldn't be done. People haven't changed in thousands of years. In bad and impossible situations, they look for answers everywhere but from God and the wisdom he makes available in the Bible. His Word has the answer to every question, ancient and new.

What practical steps could you take to make God your number-one source of wisdom, instead of the second – or the last?

God's Timing Is The Best Timing

4. "Finally," says Genesis 41:9, Joseph's waiting is about to end and the purpose of his waiting is about to be revealed. We wait for reasons that only God may know, and we need to be reminded that God's timing is perfect. He is always on time.

When has God done something in your life at the perfect time?

Even In The Middle Of The Crisis, Give God The Credit

5. Read Genesis 41:16. Joseph tells Pharaoh that God, not Joseph, will interpret the dreams. He wants Pharaoh to know it. Joseph insists on giving God the credit.

Have you ever taken credit for something that you realized was all God's doing? How hard is it to give credit to God?

Be Confident That God Prepared For You For This Moment

6. In Genesis 41:25-36, Joseph's confidence is astounding. He doesn't just tell the meaning of the dreams. Fresh from a dungeon, he boldly tells Pharaoh what must be done to survive the coming famine and reminds him that God provided the advance warning. As with Joseph, God has prepared you for the moment you are in right now.

What skill, what knowledge has God gifted you with? What new way could you use your gifts to serve in the church, in your family, or in our wider community?

God Has More For You

7. Look at Genesis 41:37-40. Pharaoh is bowled over. He acknowledges not just that God revealed the dreams' meaning, but that Joseph himself is filled with God's spirit. And Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge. God had that and much more in store for Joseph. At the end of your own waiting, however long it may be, God has much more in store for you as well.

What words would you speak if you needed to pray aloud with someone right now about a long and painful struggle in his or her life?

God Will Restore What Was Lost

8. Read Genesis 42:1-7. With the severe famine in full force, and Joseph in charge, all the brothers who conspired to sell him into slavery and believed him dead come to Egypt for food. Joseph and his hungry lost family are headed for a reunion beyond imagining. They will see first-hand that God is in the business of restoring his lost children. Sin is no barrier. He is our hope and redeemer.

Is there a fractured or lost relationship in your life? Describe how Joseph's story may give you or someone you know hope for renewing that relationship?

God Is Always Working To Change People

9. Genesis goes on to describe the elaborate and shocking game Joseph plays to uncover the characters of his brothers. In the end, that game exposed their repentance, their changed lives, and their concern and honor for their father and their youngest brother. In the long wait, God was at work, changing and molding them. He is always at work in our lives. That's the story of the Bible.

Read John 12:32. To redeem you and draw you to himself, Jesus was crucified and rose from the dead. Do you acknowledge him as your Savior and your source of hope?

When You Do Life With God, Expect Miracles And Surprises

10. Read Genesis 45:1-3. Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers in a volcano of emotion. They were stunned and speechless. God is the Lord of surprises. He performs miracles in our lives. We ought to live expecting the unexpected, these miracles and surprises.

What "God surprise" in your life could you tell a friend about?



Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

This week, **Listen with Care** for a person in your life who needs to hear and feel Jesus' love. Begin today with this tool of how to B.L.E.S.S. them.

Would you like to give any updates to the group on someone you have shared about in the past?