

## THREE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

### 1. Remember that God is \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Problems.

**GENESIS 39:2-4:** *“The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup> When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, <sup>4</sup> Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant.”*

**GENESIS 39:20-23:** *“But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup> the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. <sup>22</sup> So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. <sup>23</sup> The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.”*

#### ADJUSTING OUR EXPECTATIONS

*Did God promise our rescue out of our trials, troubles & tragedies?*

**ISAIAH 43:1-2:** *“But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. <sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.”*

### 2. Remember that God wants to \_\_\_\_\_ in Your Prison.

**EXAMPLE #1:** The \_\_\_\_\_ &  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 40:1-8).

**EXAMPLE #2:** The \_\_\_\_\_ of Egypt  
(Genesis 41:1-38).

## PAUL’S PRISON PERSPECTIVE

**PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14:** *“I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. <sup>13</sup> As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. <sup>14</sup> Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.”*

### 3. Remember that God is \_\_\_\_\_ Over Your Predicament

**GENESIS 45:3-8:** *“Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.”*

**GENESIS 50:19-20:** *“But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”*

## FINAL THOUGHTS

To survive life’s trials, troubles and tragedies it’s essential to have a firm grasp on the truth that God is with us and is sovereign in his plan for our lives.

## SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

### PRAYER:

*As we wrap up this series in Genesis take time to share a few of the insights you've gleaned.*

1. Why do you think Joseph's brothers hated him so much? (Read Genesis 29:14-30:24; 37:1-4).
2. Jacob was not as loved by his father (Isaac) as Esau was (See Genesis 25:27-28) and now Jacob loves Joseph more than all his other children. How might Jacob's relationship with his father have impacted his relationship with his kids? Why would he do to Joseph's brothers the same thing that his father did to him?
3. Take some time to think through the entire story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50) and reflect on how Joseph handled the tough stuff of life. Take time to identify some of the ways Joseph displays incredible integrity and character? How do you behave when 'the pressure is on' or 'when no one is looking' or when you are going through trials, troubles or tragedy?
4. The story of Joseph has a strong emphasis upon God's sovereignty in getting Joseph and his brothers (the 12 tribes of Israel) to Egypt in order to begin the fulfillment of Genesis 15:13. At the end of the story, Joseph and his brothers are in Egypt and then the book of Exodus begins (400 years later in fulfillment of Genesis 15:13). Joseph recognized God's sovereign hand in bringing him to Egypt (Genesis 45:4-8; 50:19-21). What other events take place in the story of Genesis 37-50 that show how God is sovereignly using people to accomplish his plan?
5. Does Joseph forgive his brothers for all they have done to him, or does he hold grudge against them (See Genesis 45:4-8; 50:19-21)? Why does he say, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?" (Consider Romans 12:17-21).

### Prayer:

## HEROES OF THE FAITH: *Lessons From the Lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Joseph* **Today's Message: "How to Survive Life's Trials, Troubles and Tragedies"**

Genesis 37-50

03.08.09 / SMC / Pastor Cory Anderson

### INTRODUCTION:

#### **JOSEPH: *His Trials, Troubles and Tragedies***

- His mother (Rachel) dies before, or during his teen years (Genesis 30:21-24; 37:2).
- He's 17 when his tragedies really begin.
- He's hated by his brothers for being Dad's (Jacob's) favorite son (Genesis 37).
- His brothers want to kill him (Genesis 37).
- His brothers throw him into a cistern and then sell him to the Ishmaelites (Genesis 37:12- 29).
- His brothers pretend Joseph was eaten by a wild animal (37:31-35) and deceive their father into thinking Joseph is dead.
- He's taken by the Ishmaelites to Egypt and sold as a slave to Potiphar; one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard (37:36; 39:1).
- He was repeatedly approached by Potiphar's (his masters) wife to have sex with her (39:7-10), but he refused.
- He's falsely accused of the attempted rape of Potiphar's wife (39:11-18).
- He's thrown into prison for 2 years (39:19-41:1).
- He's released to serve the Pharaoh of Egypt (41:41-50:26) at the age of 30 (41:46).
- He's 39 years old when he is finally reunited with his brothers (41:46-54; 45:6). Joseph has been away from his family for 22 years!

***How did Joseph view his trials, troubles & tragedies?***