

MADE FOR MORE



MORE THAN OUR SITUATIONS.

Let's recap Joseph's life:

1. Things are GREAT. Favorite son, gets a cool coat, life is good. In fact, God gives him prophetic dreams of a very successful future where his brothers all bow down to him!
2. His brothers get real mad about that particular dream, throw him in a pit, and sell him into slavery.
3. Things are good again! Joseph's a slave, sure - but to a pretty nice guy! And he gets promoted pretty quickly!
4. Okay things get bad again. Joseph gets thrown into prison by no fault of his own.
5. He almost has a chance to get out of prison because he interpreted some dreams!
6. But he doesn't.
7. Okay he FINALLY gets out of prison, becomes second in charge of Egypt, saves the country from starvation during famine, and eventually has the chance to forgive his brothers face to face (after they bow down to him, of course. Perk!)

Joseph had to walk through *years* of betrayal, slavery, disappointment, and imprisonment as he waited for God to come through on His promises. But even in the worst times, God never left Joseph. He was using every situation for His greater plan and glory.

IN THE BIBLE.

Genesis 39:1-2

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.

The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.

Genesis 39:20-23

But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 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. 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.

Genesis 50:18-20

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Hebrews 13:5-6

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said,

"Never will I leave you;
never will I forsake you."

So we say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.
What can mere mortals do to me?"

QUESTIONS.

1. Have you ever walked through a difficult season? How did God show Himself even through that season?
2. What can we learn from Joseph's life about how to walk through periods of waiting?
3. Pastor Adam gave a challenge to The Point on Sunday: Write down one thing you're thankful for at each meal of the day. Let's do that now. What is one thing you're thankful for?

Whenever you read the Bible, ask yourself these three questions:

1. What does this tell you about God?
2. What does this tell you about yourself and the world?
3. How is this going to change who you are and how you live?