

2024



OPEN AND CLOSE

IT HAD TO HAPPEN THIS WAY SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Today, we look at Joseph. Joseph was one of Jacob's 12 sons. He was favored and the most beloved by Jacob. He was honored with a coloured cloak. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and sold him into slavery. He was taken to Egypt and became steward to Potiphar, who was one of Pharaoh's officials. Potiphar's wife tried to seduce him and as a result of her false accusations Joseph was imprisoned. Joseph later interpreted Pharaoh's dream and was made governor of Egypt. Joseph's story is an example of how everything will work for the good of those who love God and were called according to His purpose.

Matthew 26:54 NIV - But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?"

- You have to go through so you can bounce back
- Joseph dreamt twice that he would sit in a seat of authority
- Certain things have to happen
- It won't be easy

What has God allowed you to bounce back from?

DOOR #1: THE FAMILY HOUSE - [REJECTION]

HIS BROTHERS

*Genesis 37:4 NIV [4] When **his brothers** saw that their father loved him more than any of them, **they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.***

- God will make you leave
- God will make you uncomfortable in your environment

Recall a time in your life when you were rejected by your family, what made you feel rejected and how did you overcome it?

*Genesis 37:23a-24a [23a] So when Joseph came to **his brothers**, they **stripped him of his robe** [24a] and **they took him and threw him** into the cistern.*

- They will only go after what they can physically attack
- They cannot take away your dream or promise

What have you been stripped of by your family?

*Genesis 37:28a NIV [28] So when the Midianite merchants came by, **his brothers pulled Joseph up out** of the cistern and **sold him** for twenty shekels of silver*

- Your family will make you feel less than
- What you've been through behind closed doors has been covered by God

- Unless you tell it, others will not know what you have had to endure

What seeds of doubt have been planted in your mind by those closest to you?

- Door #1 is very uncomfortable
- You will have to be out out in order to leave
- This is not a birthing room, it's an abortion clinic

HIS BROTHERS WHO REJECTED HIM:

*Luke 12:52 NIV [52] **From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three.***

- Hated him
- Could not speak a kind word to him
- Stripped him of his robe
- Took him and threw him in the pit
- Sold him to the Ishmaelites

What has happened in your family that has caused division? What will it take for the division to cease?

DOOR #2: POTIPHAR'S HOUSE - [TEMPTATION]

THE BLESSING

*Genesis 39:5 NIV [5] From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, **the Lord blessed the household** of the Egyptian **because of Joseph**. **The blessing of the Lord was on everything** Potiphar had, **both in the house and in the field**.*

- You can't hide your favor
- There are drops of oil all over you
- Success is attractive and favor looks good on you
- Everything you have came from God

What blessing has God bestowed upon others because of you? In what area of your life do you feel most favored?

THE TEMPTATION

*Genesis 39:7, 10, 14-15 NIV [7] and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"; [10] And though **she spoke to Joseph day after day**, he **refused to go to bed with her** or **even be with her**. [14] she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, **this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed.** [15] When he heard me scream for help, he*

left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house."

- This is not your final destination
- Everything that appears to be good is not for you
- The enemy is trying to interrupt your process
- You are a target to the enemy
- The enemy knows if it's good to you, you'll keep coming back

What trap of the flesh has satan set for you? Did you overcome or fall prey to it? Why?

1 Corinthians 10:13 NIV [13] *No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, **he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.***

- You have to keep your dignity in tact
- God will rescue you from the hands of the enemy

What are you currently stuck in, but are too afraid to ask for help getting out?

DOOR #3: THE JAIL HOUSE - [FORGOTTEN]

THE BLESSING

Genesis 39:20-23b NIV [20] *Joseph's master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined. But while Joseph was there in the prison, [21] **the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor** in the eyes of the prison warden. [22] 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.** [23b] *the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.**

- God will give you success in whatever you put your hands to
- God will sit you down to work on you
- God hides you to perfect you
- In secret, God gives you revelation

What has God spoken to you in your private time?

FORGOTTEN

Genesis 40:23 NIV [23] *The chief cupbearer, **however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.***

- They may forget you, but God will never forget you
- They will forget what they accused you of

Who has forgotten you? How does it make you feel?

Genesis 41:14 NIV [14] So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh.

- Timing is everything
- You can't look or smell like what you've been through
- Present yourself as your destiny

Genesis 41:41 NIV [41] So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."

- Your name will come up
- God will place your name in a place you haven't entered yet
- You will sit in seats that you never thought were possible
- You will be called out
- Don't despise the previous doors

What door are you believing God to open for you?

IT HAD TO HAPPEN THIS WAY!!!

Genesis 50:20 NIV [20] You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

- God has called you for a time such as this
- What happened is bigger than you
- You have impact

Based on this sermon and Jeremiah 29:11, what have you realized about your personal journey?

Romans 8:28 NIV [28] And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

- You have been called out
- You must praise God
- Remove all anger from your heart
- Free people up, let go of the grudges

Who haven't you forgiven? Why?

DECLARATION

I WAS CREATED FOR THIS, I HAVE THE OIL OF GOD AND FAVOR OVER MY LIFE. I AM WALKING INTO MY DESTINY..

PRAYER

Father God, I thank You for being such a gracious God. You are loving and caring to me at all times. You never allow me to get so caught up in the snares of the enemy. You always give me a way of escape from every temptation. Your promises have never failed and though I do not always understand the process. I trust You. Because of You, I can free my heart of all anger, bitterness, and hurt. I release those who have wronged me. I release myself of the guilt I have carried. I open my heart to fully receive Your love, grace and will for my life in Jesus' name, Amen!