

Joseph...The Series

-Our goal in the Kids Department is to...
Grow Up...in our relationship with God.
Grow Down...rooted in the Truth of God's Word.
Grow Out...sharing Jesus with others around us.

-Kids City Update-

-PRAY-

-READ **Genesis 37:3-11**...

-Earlier this year, I was able to go with Pastor Tony and the young adults to the Passion Conference in Texas. This year, we got to hear from Christine Caine. She gave an overview of the life of Joseph, and she likened it to watching a tv series. I am going to use what she shared as inspiration for this next part.

-How many of you have ever binge watched a tv series?

-You know what would be pointless to do? Let's say that you are watching a 5 season tv series. It would be pointless to watch Seasons 1 and 2...skip seasons 3 and 4...and then watch season 5 to see how the tv show ends just to save some time or to finish faster.

-You might really like how the character turned out, but you won't have any idea as to why they ended up the way they did.

-Now the same is true in the story of Joseph. He ends up in a palace, second in charge only to the Pharaoh! But what if we stopped reading where we did in Genesis 37 and skipped ahead to Genesis 41?

-The story of Joseph would be so underwhelming. And what would it teach us?

-So let's take a dive into the seasons of the life of Joseph and see what he went through to get to where he ended up.

-SEASON 1...REJECTED

-We have already read that in the series of Joseph, Joseph is not in good standing with his brothers.

-Genesis 37:12-36, we see that **The Lord is with Joseph**. The family does not like these dreams very well, and we see that Joseph's brothers plot to kill Joseph. That's when inspiration hit...they wouldn't leave Joseph to die...no! I mean, what would that profit the brothers. They would sell Joseph as property and make it look like he died so they could fool their father...and guess what...it worked.

-Season 1 ends with Jacob weeping over the believed death of Joseph. And those who bought Joseph crossed over into Egypt from Canaan and sold Joseph to a man named Potiphar.

-SEASON 2...FALSLY ACCUSED

-This season, Genesis 39, starts out with Potiphar. Potiphar was an Egyptian who served the Pharaoh as his captain of the guard. Joseph is Potiphar's property and is forced to serve in Potiphar's house.

-But the Lord is once again with Joseph and Joseph quickly is trusted and is put in charge of Potiphar's house and all that Potiphar owns. Things seem to be looking up for this handsome, well-built man until we meet Potiphar's wife.

-Potiphar's wife, unnamed in the Bible, notices this well-built and handsome man and wants Joseph to go to bed with her. Potiphar's wife grabs Joseph by the cloak in desperation to get what she wanted. But Joseph shakes off the cloak and leaves the house as to not disobey God or betray Potiphar. But Potiphar's wife now has Joseph's cloak. She keeps the cloak near her bed and she lies about what happened between her and Joseph.

-Season 2 ends with Joseph getting arrested and thrown into prison on a false accusation.

-If we skipped ahead now and went to season 5, we would find out that Joseph is somehow now in the palace of the Pharaoh of Egypt and second in command only to Pharaoh himself. But what happened? How did Joseph survive prison? How did he find himself in a palace?

-You see, many times we look at someone's life and think...They are where I want to be. They have it all together!! And I think that's what we would think of Joseph if we didn't have the whole story.

-It's easy to say that we want to be where someone else is when we have no idea the process, the struggles, the pain, the character development that took place in order for them to get there.

(Tea Cup Illustration)

-SEASON 3...WRONGLY IMPRISONED

-Season 3 starts out with Joseph in prison. And in Genesis 39:21, we find out that even in prison, **the Lord is with Joseph!**

-Soon, Joseph is once again in charge of all that goes on in the prison and the warden doesn't even give it a second thought when Joseph is on the job.

-And even though Joseph is in prison...things are going well for him. This may seem like a short season, but an important one not to skip over.

-SEASON 4...FORGOTTEN AND ABANDONED

-Right at the beginning of season 4, in Genesis 40, enter two new characters... the chief cupbearer and the chief baker. They were thrown in prison because they made the Pharaoh mad. These two guys were dreamers, and they had dreams that made them sad.

-Joseph, a dreamer in his own right, asks them what is wrong. The cupbearer and the baker had dreams, but they didn't have anyone to interpret them. Joseph, who walked with the Lord, knew that the Lord alone could help explain these dreams. And **Joseph heard from God because the Lord was with him!**

-So Joseph hears from God, interprets the dreams, and each dream came true the way Joseph said it would.

-Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him when the cupbearer had his old job back, but the cupbearer did not. In fact, season 4 ends with these words from **Genesis 40:23; 41:1**, "The chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him. When 2 full years had passed, Pharaoh had a dream..."

-SEASON 5...THE PALACE

-Season 5, Genesis 41 explains that Pharaoh had 2 dreams that troubled him. Pharaoh sent for some wise men to see if they could interpret the dreams, but none could.

-We know from season 4 that God alone can explain and interpret dreams... AND Joseph just happens to be on speaking terms with God...because, as we have seen already in Seasons 1-4...**The Lord is with Joseph.**

-And now, the cupbearer who forgot all about Joseph for YEARS, now remembers Joseph and let's Pharaoh know that Joseph has been able to interpret dreams before and might be able to now.

-And Joseph hears from God and lets Pharaoh know the dreams. Now in Season 5, Joseph has developed trust in the Lord, can hear God's voice, and has the skill and experience to step up to the plate, because we see...

-Season 5 ends with Pharaoh making Joseph second in command over all of Egypt and Pharaoh says in **Genesis 41:38**, "Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the Spirit of God?"

-Now, I am not asking you to raise your hands today, but I want you to think about the true story we just talked about...How many of you have ever felt alone? Rejected? Falsely accused? In a prison of sorts? Abandoned?

-I have a feeling that so many of us this morning related to one or all of the things we just heard. Either you are going through it now, or you have gone through it in the past.

-And what hope do we have? Well, I have good news for you this morning!!!

1. The Lord was with Joseph.
2. The Lord is with YOU, too!!

-Deuteronomy 31:6-8 says, “Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or terrified of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” Then Moses called for Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you will go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their fathers to give them, and you shall give it to them as an inheritance. The LORD Himself goes before you; He will be with you. He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid or discouraged.”

-So the Lord is with us like He was with Joseph. And if we listen and obey just like Joseph did, then God will lead us out of the valleys and into where He intended to bring us the whole time anyway.

-And Jesus knows just how to help us. You know why??-

-SEASON 1...REJECTED - Jesus was rejected by those closest to Him, too.

-SEASON 2...FALSELY ACCUSED - Jesus was falsely accused by religious leaders, the Romans, you name it.

-SEASON 3...WRONGLY IMPRISONED - Then, Jesus was wrongfully imprisoned. They even let out a murderer so that Jesus could be imprisoned. Jesus was stripped of His dignity and treated horribly and beaten on top of that.

-SEASON 4...FORGOTTEN AND ABANDONED - Jesus was abandoned by most of His closest friends and family.

-But here is something that didn't happen to Joseph and won't happen to you or me. In Deuteronomy, God promises us that He will never leave us or forsake us. On the cross, God forsakes His Son Jesus. The worst thing that could ever happen, happened to Jesus so it wouldn't have to happen to us if we walk with Him like Joseph did.

-But you don't have to take my word for it.-

Isaiah 53:4-5 says, Surely He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows; yet we considered Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

-SEASON 5...THE PALACE - Jesus conquered death, and He now holds the keys to death, hell, and the grave. And while Joseph was placed second to the king. Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords...and He wants to commune with you TODAY!!!

-EPILOGUE...THE REDEMPTION - Not only did God lead Joseph to a place of authority. Joseph then used that authority to redeem and help and save the family that once rejected and abandoned him. Read it in Genesis 42 and 43.

-And the same is true with Jesus. Jesus raised from the grave victorious!! And Jesus is here today to redeem and help and save a people that once rejected and abandoned Him.

Ezekiel 36:26 says, "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Isaiah 61:2-3 says, "to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of our God's vengeance, to comfort all who mourn, to console the mourners in Zion— to give them a crown of beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and a garment of praise for a spirit of despair. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

-We all have seasons in life. All are survivable and thrive-able because we can choose to walk with Jesus through our whole life's series.

-PRAY-