

PEOPLE LIKE US

July 19
Joseph
"From Pit to Palace: The Providence of God"

Scripture

Genesis 37:1-28 | 39:1-23 | 45:1-15 | 50:15-21

- Have you ever had a plan that turned out very differently than you imagined?
 - Was it a learning experience?
- What is harder for you: waiting when nothing seems to be happening, or trusting when everything seems to be going wrong? Why?

Diving IN

- Joseph's story begins with God, but what direction does it seem to quickly swing?
 - What tension do you see between God's promise and Joseph's circumstances?
 - How might Joseph have interpreted what was happening?
- *Genesis 39* repeatedly says, "The Lord was with Joseph." What evidence of God do you see, even though Joseph still suffers?
 - What does this teach us about the difference between God's presence and an easy life?
- When Potiphar's wife tempts Joseph, he describes the act as sinful. What does Joseph's response reveal about the source of his integrity?
 - Would it have been different if he only cared about earthly consequences?
- Joseph correctly interprets the cupbearer's dream, but the cupbearer forgets him for... how long?
 - What might God have been forming in Joseph during this time?
 - How does waiting expose what we believe about God?
- How does Joseph act when his brothers come to Egypt for help? What were the options before him?
 - What evidence is there for and against his brothers to indicate their heart?
 - Does this teach us anything about forgiveness, repentance, and restored trust?

- What does Joseph's statement, "you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" teach us? What does it not?
- In what ways does Joseph's story point forward to Jesus?
- What stands out to you personally in Joseph's story?
(*Could be a phrase, decision, emotion, or repeated theme*)
- Why does it catch your attention *now*?

Living It OUT

- Can you articulate a spiritual difference between "easy" and "simple"?
- Where in your life are you tempted to interpret difficulty or disappointment as evidence that God is absent?
 - What truth from Joseph's story speaks into that situation?
- Joseph could not control what others did to him, but he remained responsible for the person he became. Where are you tempted to use someone else's actions as justification for your own sin?
- What would faithfulness look like in your current season, even if it does not immediately improve your circumstances?
- Joseph's position in Egypt was not only a reward. Why? What was God's greater purpose in it?
 - What influence, experience, resource, or opportunity has God entrusted to you?
 - How could what you're in the middle of be used for someone else's good?
- Is there a past wound that is still shaping your present reactions, relationships, or decisions?
- *Ephesians 4:32* tells us to forgive "as God in Christ forgave you." How does receiving Christ's forgiveness change both our motivation and our ability to forgive others?
- What is one faithful step God may be asking you to take this week?

Lifting it UP

- Praise God for remaining faithful when life is hard and ask God to help you Trust.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to reveal unholy thoughts which need to be surrendered.
- Thank Jesus for the forgiveness you have received through His Him.
- Pray for the grace to forgive and become a source of life and restoration to others.