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### Topic: **Overcoming Adversity**

*Joseph is a story for all seasons. It is a story of his brothers betraying him, the gripping tale of attempted seduction by another man's wife, a saga of false accusations, unjust imprisonment, lonely nights spent in prison, and finally his unlikely journey that took him from that prison to the palace. The key was Joseph never took his eyes off of God!*

- Key Verse to this story: *Genesis 50:20, You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.*

#### **Quick Story Overview:**

- Joseph was the favored son of his father, Jacob.
- When he enters the stage of Biblical history, he is 17 years old.
- Because his brothers hated him, he was sold as a slave and taken to Egypt.
- After being falsely accused of rape, he was imprisoned with no hope of getting out.
- Because he correctly interpreted Pharaoh's dream, he became the Prime Minister of Egypt.
- Eventually, he welcomed his family to Egypt, which preserved the line of promise that had started with his great-grandfather, Abraham.

### **3 Keys to Overcoming Adversity**

## **1. Adversity is Inevitable – so be prepared**

- It may be that God is...
  - Trying to get our Attention.
  - *1 Peter 1:7, These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*
  - Calling us to Self-examination.
  - *1 Corinthians 11:31-32, But if we would examine ourselves, we would not be judged by God in this way. Yet when we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned along with the world.*

## **2. Effort is Essential – so don't give up**

- Joseph cooperated with God's plan and turned his suffering into a launching pad for success.
- *Galatians 6:9, And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*
- Maybe you have come here today just so God could say to you DON'T GIVE UP!

## **3. God is Faithful- so we need to be faithful**

- *Isaiah 43:2, When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.*
- One of the great joys and challenges of life is to look expectantly for the hand of God in all of life's circumstances.

*All roads of adversity can lead to Jesus*