

## Lesson 5: Trusting God When Nothing Makes Sense: The Courageous Faith of Joseph

Lesson Summary: This lesson explores the life of Joseph as a model of courageous faith—trusting God especially when circumstances don't make sense. Greg defines faith as "belief that leads to action" and traces Joseph's journey from being his father's favorite son at age 17 to becoming second-in-command in Egypt at age 30. Throughout 13 years of betrayal, slavery, false accusations, and imprisonment, Joseph consistently gave God glory and refused to compromise his integrity. The sermon emphasizes that following God doesn't make life easy, but God is present in our darkest moments. Greg challenges us to identify promises God has made that haven't yet been fulfilled and to consider what actionable belief they're employing while waiting. The central message is that courageous faith means trusting God's sovereignty even when His work only makes sense in hindsight.

### Key Points:

- Faith is defined as "belief that leads to action" based on Hebrews 11:1
- Joseph's story spans 13 years from age 17 to 30, from pit to palace
- God's presence doesn't guarantee easy circumstances—"the Lord was with Joseph" even in slavery and prison
- Joseph consistently gave God glory in every situation, refusing to take credit for his gift of dream interpretation
- Joseph chose to bless his brothers rather than seek revenge when he had the power to do so
- Following Jesus often makes life harder before it gets better, as we surrender control
- God's work often only makes sense in hindsight, but courageous faith doesn't require understanding
- The key phrase from Joseph's life: "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good"
- Trusting God means staying faithful especially when nothing makes sense

### Scripture Reference:

- Genesis 37-50 (Joseph's entire story)

- Genesis 37:2 (Joseph at age 17)
- Genesis 39:2 ("The Lord was with Joseph")
- Genesis 39:9 ("How could I do this great wickedness and sin against God?")
- Genesis 39:21 ("But the Lord was with Joseph")
- Genesis 40:8 ("Don't interpretations belong to God?")
- Genesis 41:16 ("It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer")
- Genesis 41:46 (Joseph was 30 years old)
- Genesis 50:20 ("You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good")
- Hebrews 11:1 (Definition of faith)

#### Stories:

- Joseph's dream of his family bowing before him and his brothers' violent reaction
- Joseph being thrown into a pit by his brothers who then sat down to eat while he pleaded for help
- Joseph being sold into slavery and taken to Egypt
- Joseph's promotion in Potiphar's house and subsequent false accusation by Potiphar's wife
- Joseph's imprisonment and interpretation of the cupbearer's and baker's dreams
- The cupbearer forgetting Joseph for two full years
- Joseph's interpretation of Pharaoh's dream and his promotion to second-in-command
- Joseph's reunion with his brothers during the famine and his choice to bless rather than curse them
- Greg's personal story of getting saved at age 19 at the University of Alabama after living a destructive lifestyle
- Greg's experience working as a tile layer with his father-in-law for over a year while waiting for ministry opportunities, which felt like an injustice but later proved to be God's preparation and relationship-building time