

Underdog: Under God - Joseph

Has there ever been a time in your life when life felt out of control, or that God forgot about you or you were falsely accused? What happened?

Joseph: the underdog when life is truly unfair...

- **Unfairly betrayed** – “Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons... 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.” (**Gen. 37:3-4**)

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt. (**Gen. 37:28**) –
What would you think about God if you were betrayed by your own family?

🕯 **Rising above: seek hope in what you have, not what you lost** – “The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” (**Gen. 39:2**) – According to this verse, what did Joseph have despite the betrayal?

- **Unjustly accused** – “Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master’s wife took notice of Joseph and said, ‘Come to bed with me!’... When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, ‘This is how your slave treated me,’ he burned with anger. Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined.” (**Gen. 39:6b-7, 19-20a**) – When someone is accused, do you ever ask, “why did God allow that to happen?” According to the rest of this story, why might he have allowed this to happen in Joseph’s life? Could God still do that in modern situations?

🕯 **Rising above: seek hope in who you’re with, not what you’re facing** – “But while Joseph was there in the prison, the LORD was with him; He showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.” (**Gen. 39:20b-21**) – According to this verse, what did Joseph have despite being unjustly accused?

- **Unfortunately forgotten** – “Then Joseph said to them, ‘Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.’ So the chief cupbearer told Joseph his dream... The chief cupbearer, however, did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.” (**Gen. 40:8b-9a, 23**) – Based on the rest of the story, what did Joseph have despite being unfortunately forgotten, in other words, does God ever forget about Joseph?

When the underdog is under God, there is redemption...

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. You shall be in charge of my palace...” (**Gen. 41:39-40a**)

- **Redemption in personal relationships** – “His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. ‘We are your slaves,’ they said.” (**Gen. 50:18**) – if you have a difficult personal relationship, do you believe that God can redeem it? Might you be open to him redeeming it despite the unfairness of life? Have you seen steps in the redemption process?
- **Redemption in personal ministry** – “But Joseph said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide

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for you and your children.’’ (Gen. 50:19-21a) – Despite the unfairness of life, would you be willing to allow God to work out his purpose through you? Joseph never once in the story blamed his past, what would it take for you to do the same?

But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. “Do not fear what they fear; do not be frightened.” But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. (1 Pet. 3:14-15a)

Take a few minutes alone or with the group to pray through whatever needs a bit of perspective shift in your life.