

Joseph: The Presence of God

Text: Genesis 39:1–10; Genesis 39:20–23

Supporting Texts: John 14:16–17; Colossians 3:22–24; Isaiah 41:10

Theme: God’s presence is the defining reality of the believer’s life—bringing purpose, power, and purity.

Introduction

Joseph’s life continues like a roller coaster—
from favored son → to slave → to trusted leader → to prisoner.

Yet through every high and low, one truth remains constant:

“The Lord was with Joseph.”

This phrase becomes the key to understanding not just Joseph’s life—
but ours as well.

Key Truth

God’s presence is not dependent on your circumstances—it is the source of your strength within them.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 39:2 (NIV)

“The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered...”

Genesis 39:21 (NIV)

“But while Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him...”

What Does “The Lord Was With Joseph” Mean?

- Not just God’s **omnipresence** (God everywhere)
- But God’s **relational presence**

- A personal experience of:
 - God's favor
 - God's power
 - God's guidance

Important Truth

God's presence is promised to those in relationship with Him through faith.

Gospel Connection

John 14:16–17

- Jesus promises the Holy Spirit
- Not just *with* us—but *in* us

Because of Christ:

- We don't just have God near us
- We have God **within us**

Point 1: God's Presence Produces True Prosperity

Genesis 39:2–5

Joseph prospered—even as a slave.

Supporting Scripture

- Colossians 3:22–24

Study Notes

- Joseph worked with:
 - integrity
 - diligence
 - excellence
- God blessed his efforts
- His influence grew—even in hardship

Key Insight

Biblical prosperity is not about possessions—it's about purpose.

True success is:

- faithfulness to God
- being used for His kingdom
- obedience in every season

Discussion Questions

1. How did Joseph remain faithful in both success and suffering?
2. How does the world define success differently than God?
3. What would it look like for you to “work as unto the Lord”?

Application

Focus less on what you gain and more on how God can use you.

Point 2: God's Presence Gives Power to Endure

Genesis 39:20–23

Joseph goes from leadership → prison

Yet again:

“The Lord was with him.”

Supporting Scripture

- Isaiah 41:10

Study Notes

- God never promised a pain-free life
- But He does promise:
 - strength
 - help
 - sustaining power

Joseph:

- didn't quit
- didn't grow bitter

- didn't abandon God

Key Insight

God's presence doesn't remove hardship—it empowers you through it.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do people struggle when suffering enters their life?
2. How does God's presence change the way we endure hardship?
3. What situation in your life requires God's strength right now?

Application

- Lean into God during difficulty
- Trust His presence even when life doesn't make sense
- Remember: **You are never alone**

Point 3: God's Presence Leads to Purity

Genesis 39:7–10

Joseph faces repeated temptation—but refuses.

Study Notes

Joseph's response shows:

- integrity
- reverence for God
- self-control

His Reasoning

“How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”

A Practical Strategy for Temptation

1. Think

- Consider consequences:
 - personal
 - relational
 - spiritual

2. Avoid

- Stay away from compromising situations

3. Flee

- When temptation comes—run

Key Insight

God's presence transforms your desires and strengthens your choices.

Discussion Questions

1. What stands out about Joseph's response to temptation?
2. Why is it important to "think" before acting?
3. What temptations do you need to avoid or flee from?

Personal Reflection

- Do I truly believe God is with me?
- Am I living like His presence is real in my life?
- Where do I need:
 - faithfulness (prosperity)
 - endurance (power)
 - self-control (purity)

Big Picture Takeaway

If someone wrote your story, would they say:
"The Lord was with them"?

Application

- Pursue a real relationship with God through Christ

- Walk daily in awareness of His presence
- Let His Spirit shape:
 - your work
 - your endurance
 - your choices

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You that You are with us—not just around us, but within us through Your Spirit. Help us to live with that awareness every day. Shape our definition of success, give us strength in hardship, and lead us to purity in every situation. May it be true of our lives that the Lord is with us. In Jesus' name, amen.