

THE FORERUNNERS

LIVING FOR AND POINTING TO JESUS



A Sunday teaching series at King's
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Series Description

Before Jesus turned up 2000 years ago there are countless recorded stories of people who loved God and were trusting Him to provide someone who would save them and make everything right that had gone wrong in the world. In this series we're going to be taking a look at some of the people in those stories as they ran before Jesus.

Forerunner Characters

Job by Goff Hope
Joseph by Toby Skipper
Elijah by Marcus Tutt
and others

Recommended Reading

[Job by Charles Swindoll](#)
[Joseph by Charles Swindoll](#)
[Elijah by Charles Swindoll](#)

Listen to the audio

On the King's Norwich app or at:
kingsnorwich.com/forerunners

Check out the blog

kingsnorwich.com/blog

LIFE Groups: Learning, Integration, Friendship, Everyone a witness

Title: Joseph Pt 1: A turn for the worse?

Speaker: Toby Skipper Bible Reference: Genesis Chapter 37

Overview

Jesus is our Joseph - the one who suffered at the hands of his brothers, faced adversity with integrity and utter faithfulness to God (even through suffering and death) and who saved more than a pagan nation from starvation; He is the bread of life! Joseph went to the depths of prison and pain to emerge (be resurrected) to a position of power to save the lives of many - Jesus did it on a whole other scale!

Main points

37:1-4 JOSEPH CAME FROM A DIS-FUNCTIONAL FAMILY

His dad Jacob was a manipulator and a mother's boy who conned his own brother & lied to his father (Isaac). Joseph was the first child of Rachel (Jacob's 2nd wife); 6 of his brothers were born to Leah; 2 to Rachel's servant (Bilhah) and 2 to Leah's servant (Zilpah). His mum died when he was young (giving birth to his younger brother Benjamin). Joseph's sister Dinah was raped by some men of Shechem & the brothers took revenge, killing men and taking plunder (Gen 34). Reuben (Joseph's older brother) had sex with Bilhah (mother of his 2 half brothers). To top this Jacob was a passive father; he allowed things to fester in his family, things like pride, deception, rivalry & jealousy. His mum was favoured wife & Joseph was favoured son - given robe that wasn't made for manual work! The robe was a visible reminder to the brothers of their father's favouritism & lack of love for them.

- Jesus' family history is full of dysfunctional families - yet God works in & through this mess; through the mess God was going to restore their relationships and bring blessing to others.

37:5-11 JOSEPH SEEMED TO HAVE A FAVOURED FUTURE & THE BROTHERS HATED HIM EVEN MORE AFTER THE DREAMS

What was at the root of this hatred? - v11 *"His brothers were jealous of him"*

- Thomas Aquinas, Envy is *"sorrow at another's good"* Proverbs 8:6 *"Jealousy is more cruel than the grave"*
- James 3:16 *"For where jealousy & selfish ambition exists; there will be disorder & every vile practice."*
- The antidote is Love; *"Love does not envy"* (1 Corinthians 13) To love like this requires humility... points to the One who loves perfectly... Check out Philippians 2:3-5

37:12-35 THINGS TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE - YET THIS WAS GOING TO TURN OUT TO BE FOR THE GOOD OF MANY

Mike Betts "God gave Joseph a vision of great fruitfulness ahead. What he didn't show him was the great big hole he was about to be put in to get there!" - Jesus knew what was coming & still went to the Cross (John 18)

Questions

- Our background doesn't limit what God can do through our lives; how does this make a difference in the way we live, following Jesus.
- In what way do we envy or compare ourselves to others? How can we put this to death in our lives?
- How does the story of Joseph encourage you, particularly when you face difficult situations?