

**MAIN IDEA** - Judaism and Catholicism share great similarities with biblical Christianity, but have some significant differences that matter eternally.

### Building Block #1 - Where Judaism Came From

JOSHUA 1:7-8

Judaism shares its origins with Christianity, stemming from the teachings of the Old Testament.

## HEAD

How did God promise his people that they would prosper? What ended up happening?

God told Joshua and the people of Israel to be careful to do all that he commanded and to carefully follow the law that they were given. Over the years the people of Israel failed to do this, as all of us would. Jesus came to solve that problem. Jesus fulfilled the law so that God's people could prosper eternally despite their shortcomings.

### Building Block #2 - What Judaism Is Now

ROMANS 3:20-24

After rejecting Jesus as the Messiah, Judaism became one of the smallest, but most significant major world religions.

## HANDS

Can practicing Judaism save someone since they believe in the Old Testament? Why or why not?

Many Jews accepted Jesus in the early years of the church. Others rejected him as the Messiah and continued to put their hope in the old covenant Law. The Bible teaches us that Law does not save. It only reveals our need for a Savior. Like anyone else, those who practice Judaism can only be saved by putting their hope in the One who fulfilled their Law: Jesus Christ.

### Building Block #3 - Where Catholicism Came From

JOHN 17:21

Catholicism started as biblical Christianity.

## HEAD

What is Jesus' desire for his church?

Catholicism started as the church's attempt to be unified. Jesus did not want his church to be divided over tons of issues. Ultimately, Christians will be unified in heaven worshipping God together. Our lives on earth should reflect that. But over time, disagreements and corruption happened in the catholic church that caused people to leave and start their own styles of church, hoping to be more faithful to the truth. Now, the Catholic church has many beliefs that do not line up with biblical Christianity.

**MAIN IDEA** - Judaism and Catholicism share great similarities with biblical Christianity, but have some significant differences that matter eternally.

### Building Block #4 - What Catholicism Is Now

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

Over the years, Catholicism began to embrace unbiblical teachings to create a very similar but different form of Christianity.

## HEART

Read Ephesians 2:8-9. How does the Bible teach us we are saved?

We are saved by grace through faith, not by our own works. Many Catholics believe that they contribute to their own salvation by following the rules and living good lives. This is not the gospel that the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches us that we had no hope without Jesus and that we can only be saved by his grace, not by our own effort.

### Pray

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

#### Adoration

Lord, you have shown us such amazing grace and kindness beyond what we deserve.

#### Confession

We confess that without you we have no hope for salvation because we are sinners who should be condemned by our sin.

#### Thanksgiving

Thank you for showing grace and making a way for us to come to you through faith.

#### Supplication

Please use us now to show this grace to others so that many more would be saved by your grace through faith.

### Memorize

EPHESIANS 2:8-9

## SUMMARY

This week we are continuing the Joseph narrative in Genesis and learning that we have to humble ourselves under both God's plan and God's pace. Not only do we need to trust that God has a plan that is better than our plan, but we have to trust that His timing is better as well. Joseph finds himself waiting for years in this prison to which he has been unjustly confined. But all the while God is orchestrating a plan for Joseph to not only get out of prison, but be exalted to power in the land of Egypt for the glory of God. From Joseph we learn humility in the midst of the plan and pace of God.

## TEXT

Genesis 40-41

## OUTLINE

The key to waiting well for God's plan at God's pace is humility.

### Discussion Questions

- What circumstances make it hard for you to trust in God's plan right now?
- What opportunity is God giving you to serve Him *right now*?
- What examples in your life show that God's plan turned out to be better than your plan?

### **1. 2 Dreams and a Pit (Genesis 37)**

- Remember in Genesis 37 that Joseph has two dreams that his brothers are going to bow down to him. When Joseph shares this with his brothers they hate him. Later they throw him into a pit, then sell him into slavery.

### **2. 2 Dreams in a Prison (Genesis 40)**

- In God's plan He puts Joseph
  1. With the right people - Court officials who would be in Pharaoh's inner circle
  2. In the right situation - Interpreting dreams would end up being Joseph's way out.
- *Humble yourself to be God's servant wherever He puts you.*
  - When Joseph had no idea what was next, he served God where he was.
- *Humble yourself to be God's servant as long as He leaves you there.*
  - When the years dragged on, Joseph continued to serve God where he was.

### **3. 2 Dreams in a Palace (Genesis 41)**

- *Humble yourself to know that God's plan is better than your plan.*
  - Joseph's long imprisonment led him to the highest position below Pharaoh.
- *Humble yourself so that God gets all the glory for what He does through you.*
  - Joseph consistently defers the credit to God who reveals and acts.

### **God's plan at God's pace**

- *God is at work in both blessing and disaster. (Genesis 41:25-32)*
- *God shows us grace by showing us Himself. (Genesis 41:25-32)*
- *God's plan unfolds at just the right time. (Genesis 41:40-45)*