

Weekly Devotional

*Material taken from "The Story" curriculum by Randy Frazee with Kevin and Sherry Harney.

Session 3 – Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Genesis 50:20

Each one of our life stories is unique full of ups and downs. As we age, we are faced with the challenge of an aging body and mind. Some struggle with this and try to power through, even though we should ask for help. Some run into struggles and just deal with whatever they can do. Still others make bold decisions and trade their dreams for new dreams.

Joseph's life was a rollercoaster. One minute a slave. The next in charge of an Egyptian official's house. The next in prison. The next in charge of the prison. The next deputy Pharaoh. And because of God's personal involvement in his life, he was able to save his family.

You can do the same. If your life's dream has stalled, look to God. If your dream now realized is not all you thought it would be, look to God. He can give you another dream. A better one, not according to the world's standard but God's criterion. Just like Joseph's. Then you'll have a story to tell.

Read Ch. 3 in The Story book or in your Bible:

Genesis 37:12-36, 39:1-23, 41:1a, 8, 14-16, 37,39-44, 42:1-4, 6-24, 43:1-3, 11, 13-15, 26-31, 33-34

Genesis 44:1-18, 27-34, 45:1-15, 25-28, 46:1-5, 28-30, 47:11, 28-31, 48:21, and 50:15-26.

Think on these questions:

1. How do you see God working in Joseph and showing blessing, even in the pain of these moments of his life?
2. Joseph waited two years in prison for someone to remember him and send help. Recall a time you waited on an answer from the Lord. How did you make it through this long season of waiting?
3. Look up Romans 8:28. What is one situation in your life where you need to embrace and experience this truth? Ask someone to pray for you.

Closing Prayer:

As you take time to pray, here are some ideas to get you started:

- Pray for the families of our church, Porter UMC, to be strong
- Thank God for the hard times that have shaped your character and driven you closer to him.
- Pray for others that are traveling through a difficult season. Ask for God's comfort, but also for his work to be accomplished in their lives.

Personal Action:

Forgiveness is one of life's hardest actions. Pray for the courage and strength you need to forgive those who have wronged you. Meditate on Romans 5:8 and ask God to help you understand the depth of his grace so that you can extend that grace to others.