



# JOSEPH

S T E A D F A S T

Life Group Book



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# THE PROMISE TO THE PIT

Joseph had some big dreams in his heart – God given dreams that spoke to his future. Yet no one else was on board with his dreams and he found himself instead thrown into a pit and sold into slavery. Many years later, hindsight proved that the dream only found its fulfillment through the journey that God had Joseph on – one filled with disappointment and discouragement.

Many of us have had some big God given dreams that have ended up in pieces. Yet sometimes the journey to the destination is different from the path we imagined for ourselves. Will we remain faithful despite the circumstances and disappointment of life and trust God's perspective and timing. God is always faithful to his promises.

## **The Story of Joseph - Genesis 37**

The story of Joseph is a grand narrative spread over 14 Chapters in Genesis. This week we are focusing in on Chapter 37.

Read through the chapter. In your own words, summarise the story and write it in the space provided below and then re-tell the story in your Life Group.

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## Connect

**Share:** Have you ever felt God give you a specific dream or a picture for your life? Share if you feel comfortable.

## Going Deeper

**Ask:** When reading this chapter, what verse/verses stand out to you and why?

**Ask:** Jacob responds in verses 10-11. Is Jacob's response reasonable? How would you have responded to Joseph?

## The Story of Jesus

Jesus own life showed to us that sometimes the path to greatness is a descending one. The one who was crucified was also the one who resurrected, now sits in glory.

**Compare:** Do you see the life of Jesus mirrored in this chapter of Joseph's life? What is similar and what is different?

## Application

**Ask:** Joseph was naïve in how he shared his dreams. What can you learn from Joseph about how to live your own life?

**Ask:** Both Joseph and Jesus suffered for their God given promises. What does this tell us about God and how should we respond in suffering?

## Prayer

**Pray:** For the big dreams for each other's lives and for humility and faithfulness in them no matter what comes your way.

# FAVOURITE TO FAILURE

Joseph was the golden child, spoiled and loved by his father. He also lacked some wisdom – sharing dreams with his older siblings that predicted one day he would be the greatest of them all. And so begins a really messy family story. The brothers don't cope with the younger brother and in a planned moment fuelled of jealousy and bitterness, sell him into slavery and tell a story to their father about his unfortunate demise.

Maybe some of us, like Joseph, have been subject to the actions of others jealousy. Maybe some of us have allowed jealousy, bitterness and envy to rule our lives, affect our relationships, and distract us from discovering the story God has uniquely written for us.

Jesus own family was a messy one (Matthew 1), yet as with the story of Joseph, God can bring redemption into any story, and healing into any messy family.

## **The Story of Joseph – Genesis 37**

The story of Joseph is a grand narrative spread over 14 Chapters in Genesis. This week we are again focusing in on Chapter 37.

Re-read through the chapter. Without looking back at what you wrote last week, summarise the story and write it in the space provided below and then re-tell the story in your Life Group.

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## Connect

**Share:** Sibling/family rivalry can be strong and can often go too far. Do you have a funny story of when this happened in your family?

## Going Deeper

**Ask:** When reading this chapter, what different verse/verses stand out to you from last week and why?

**Ask:** How do the brothers respond to Joseph's dreams? Are they all of one mind or do you see any differences between the brothers intended actions?

## The Story of Jesus

Jesus had a messy family. His family line was full of disappointment, failure, and tragedy. Yet, neither the past nor our family of origin has to define our future, because any story can find hope in Jesus.

**Ask:** How have you seen Jesus redeem whole families through the salvation and transformation of just one person?

## Application

**Ask:** Looking at the messiness of Joseph's family, what behaviours do you see that are red flags? What could the family have done differently?

**Read James 3:14-16:** What does this wisdom from James look like in your own family context? How can you put this into practise?

## Prayer

**Pray:** For each other's families and households. Pray for fruitful legacy, both in family lines and also in personal faithfulness.

# TRUTH TO TEMPTATION

It was his word vs hers. The evidence didn't stack up for Joseph in the public eye, even though the accusations were false. In this moment it would have been easy for Joseph to give up, yet he never let his integrity be compromised. He wore the consequences of someone else's false testimony. Joseph never stopped living his life with integrity. Even in prison, Joseph finds himself elevated into leadership and a seat of influence.

What does it look like to live a life of integrity in a world full of temptation, and how do act even when no-one is looking?

## **The Story of Joseph - Genesis 39**

The story of Joseph is a grand narrative spread over 14 Chapters in Genesis. This week we are focusing in on Chapter 39.

Read through the chapter. In your own words, summarise the story and write it in the space provided below and then re-tell the story in your Life Group.

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## Connect

**Share:** Has there been a time in your life where you've had to display personal integrity despite the temptation for gain?

## Going Deeper

**Ask:** When reading this chapter, what verse/verses stand out to you and why?

**Ask:** Why do you think the prison guard showed favour to Joseph? Why was this be a continuing pattern in his life?

## The Story of Jesus

Jesus is led into the desert (where no one is watching), to be tempted and remains faithful. Despite out unfaithfulness at times, our Saviour proved faithful and gave us a model for how we too can overcome the temptations in life.

**Compare:** Do you see the life of Jesus mirrored in this chapter of Joseph's life? What is similar and what is different?

## Application

**Ask:** What common factor is mentioned in both Genesis 39 and Luke 4 that helped Joseph and Jesus remain steadfast in temptation?

**Ask:** There are times in life when the truth doesn't always win out. What can we learn from the story of Joseph when this happens to us? What does this story tell us about God?

**Ask:** How can you practise personal integrity in your day to day life?

## Prayer

**Pray:** Ephesians 3:16 over one another.

# VICTIM TO VICTOR

Joseph's dreams got him in trouble with his brothers. However, now his ability to interpret dreams is building his reputation amongst some key individuals in Egypt. Despite Joseph continuing to faithfully serve, we are told that "he was forgotten".

Joseph's story is almost comical in the way a faithful, gifted young man continues to find himself on the bad end of life circumstances and others sin. Yet Joseph remains steadfast in every opportunity that comes before him.

Some of us allow disappointment to turn us into victims, forever lamenting what could have been. Joseph gives us a new model of choosing to walk faithfully in every circumstance, not knowing how God will use it for his glory and in our future. Joseph had so many chances to give up, yet he continued to remain faithful and ultimately God used it in greater ways than he could have imagined.

## The Story of Joseph - Genesis 40

The story of Joseph is a grand narrative spread over 14 Chapters in Genesis. This week we are focusing in on Chapter 40.

Read through the chapter. In your own words, summarise the story and write it in the space provided below and then re-tell the story in your Life Group.

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## Connect

**Share:** Has there been an example in your life when you've snatched victory from the jaws of defeat?

## Going Deeper

**Ask:** When reading this chapter, what verse/verses stand out to you and why?

**Ask:** What has shifted in how Joseph interprets dreams from chapter 37 to chapter 40?

## The Story of Jesus

Rejected, abandoned, ridiculed, beaten, crucified. Jesus was the victim of others' sin, yet in his greatest moment of need chooses to walk in the Father's will and as he hangs on the cross, he declares the victory of God over sin and death.

**Compare:** Do you see the life of Jesus mirrored in this chapter of Joseph's life? What is similar and what is different?

## Application

**Read Ephesians 4:2-14:** Where do you see the qualities in verses 1-3 in the life of Joseph and Jesus? Share examples.

**Ask:** What stands out to you in the Ephesians reading? What does it tell us about God? What does it tell us about people?

**Ask:** Like the chief cup bearer in Genesis 40, is there someone in your life that you can 'remember' so that they may be blessed? Why not reach out to them this week?

## Prayer

**Pray:** For those who might feel forgotten. Pray that we would be an answer to prayer for them through our care and deeds.

# FREEDOM IN FORGIVENESS

Years had passed and Joseph finally stands in a position of power over his family. They sold him into slavery and his very decision has the opportunity to now visit untold pain and misery on those who sold him out.

The human heart warms to the concept of revenge – the moment when we can finally inflict some pain back on those who have hurt us. Yet there is another way, and it is the way of forgiveness – surrendering our right to get even.

Forgiveness is not only good for the forgiven – it is freeing for the forgiver as it ends the cycle of retribution and beings a new trajectory in ours and others’ stories. Will you discover the power of forgiveness in your story.

## The Story of Joseph – Genesis 45

The story of Joseph is a grand narrative spread over 14 Chapters in Genesis. This week we are focusing in on Chapter 45. We’ve skipped a few chapters, but skim through the previous 4 chapters to find out why Joseph’s brothers are all in Egypt.

Read through the chapter. In your own words, summarise the story and write it in the space provided below and then re-tell the story in your Life Group.

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## Connect

**Share:** Have you ever experienced undeserved and unexpected forgiveness? Share as you feel comfortable.

## Going Deeper

**Ask:** When reading this chapter, what verse/verses stand out to you and why?

**Ask:** Why do you think Joseph is hiding his identity from his brothers? What wisdom might there be in this strategy?

**Ask:** What perspective does verse 7 bring to the whole Joseph narrative so far?

## The Story of Jesus

If anyone had the right to get even – it was God with us. Yet in his grace and mercy, God chooses to offer his incredible forgiveness to us “while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”.

**Compare:** Do you see the life of Jesus mirrored in this chapter of Joseph’s life? What is similar and what is different?

## Application

**Read Ephesians 4:31-32:** Do you think there is a correlation between a Christian’s willingness to forgive and their understanding of Christ’s forgiveness for them?

**Ask:** How can you practise forgiveness to those in your own life today? Think about one person whom you need to ask forgiveness from, or offer forgiveness to. Share as you feel able.

## Prayer

**Pray:** For each other as you commit to find freedom in forgiveness. Pray for transformation in each others lives.

# REDEEMED PAST TO RESTORED FUTURE

Joseph's past was both painful and messy, yet God used his story and the experiences to do greater things than Joseph himself could have ever imagined.

Through Joseph's pain, God's goodness and glory shines. Many of us allow our past to become the reason we lose hope for the future, but God can redeem any past and use it for his kingdom glory.

## The Story of Joseph - Genesis 50

The story of Joseph is a grand narrative spread over 14 Chapters in Genesis. This week we are focusing in on Chapter 50. We've skipped a few chapters, but skim through the previous 4 chapters to read how Jacob made it to Egypt and was reunited with his family.

Read through the chapter. In your own words, summarise the story and write it in the space provided below and then re-tell the story in your Life Group.

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## Connect

**Share:** If you were to die today, what would be your last request? What kind of legacy would you want to leave?

## Going Deeper

**Ask:** When reading this chapter, what verse/verses stand out to you and why?

**Ask:** Discuss the kind of influence Joseph must have acquired for so many people to join him in burying his father?

## The Story of Jesus

Jesus' life, death and resurrection gives us the chance to be born again – to write a brand new and glorious chapter in our own stories despite the pain and brokenness of our past.

**Compare:** Do you see the life of Jesus mirrored in this chapter of Joseph's life? What is similar and what is different?

## Application

**Read Romans 8:28-30:** How do you see this verse outworked in Joseph's story? How do you see it playing out in your own life?

**Ask:** Joseph's brothers struggled to forgive themselves for what they did to their brother. Why do you think people always struggle accepting the grace of forgiveness?

**Ask:** Joseph's story shows us that God is at work when life doesn't turn out as planned. How have you seen this truth at work in your own life?

## Prayer

**Pray:** That God would take difficult circumstances you are facing and turn them for good.





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