

Joseph Study¹

Using Joseph as our example, this week we want to understand that because of God's provision for the believer, honoring God in every area of life is possible today regardless of the situation.

Day 1 *Memory Verse reviewed today? Yes ___ No ___*

1. This week's Scripture memory verse is **Genesis 50:20a**. Write it out in the space below. Be prepared to say the verse from memory.

Read Genesis 37

Note: Jacob and Israel are the same man.

2. From vs. 4 & 8, what kind of emotional abuse did Joseph suffer from his siblings?
3. From vs. 18-28, what other kinds of abuse did Joseph suffer at the hands of his siblings?
4. Due to the brothers' active wickedness towards Joseph, what was his lot in life by the end of the chapter, and what may he have been experiencing physically and emotionally?
5. **Psalm 66:10-12**
 - a. What burden are you carrying?
 - b. Will you choose to believe that just as God orchestrated your suffering in order to refine you, so He will also bring you to a place of abundance according to His sovereignty, wisdom, and love?

Day 2 *Memory Verse reviewed today? Yes ___ No ___*

Read Genesis 39

6. Was it "fair" that Joseph was a purchased man?
7. Did the Lord spare Joseph the enslavement to Potiphar?
8. From vs. 2-3, what did the Lord do for the slave, Joseph?
9. How was Joseph horribly mistreated by his employer's wife?
10. Did the Lord spare Joseph from unjust imprisonment?
11. From verse 21, who was with Joseph in prison?
12. **Read 1 Corinthians 10:13**. What all did God do to enable Joseph to "stand up" in his difficulty?

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13. How has God displayed His attribute of kindness to you in your situation?
14. Joseph faithfully fulfilled specific responsibilities which God had given him.
- Had Joseph not been faithful, what excuses could he have thought of to keep from fulfilling these responsibilities in a God-honoring way?
 - What responsibilities (spiritual or practical) has God given you during your difficulty?
 - Both Potiphar and the jailer could see the fruits of God's presence and strength in Joseph's life even in the worst of circumstances—slavery and imprisonment. As a believer in Christ, we too have the same presence and strength of God within us. How can you make God's work in you obvious to those around you as you fulfill your responsibilities in the midst of your hardship?
 - What excuses have come to your mind that would tempt you to fail in fulfilling your responsibilities in a God-honoring way?
 - Write a prayer asking for strength to fulfill these responsibilities in a God-honoring way.

Day 3 *Memory Verse reviewed today? Yes___ No___*

Read Genesis 40

15. How do we know that Joseph made an effort to be sensitive to the needs of others even though he had been unjustly enslaved and then unjustly imprisoned?
16. Whom has God put into your path that would benefit from your sensitivity even while you endure hardship?
17. How was Joseph treated unjustly yet again by one who could have been instrumental in gaining his freedom?

Read Genesis 41

Note: In the previous 13 years, Joseph had experienced incredible hardships and injustices. He was abused by his brothers. His brothers did not speak a single kind word to him. He was the object of a murder plot, thrown into a cistern and sold by his brothers into slavery. He was taken from his homeland and sold in Egypt to a new master. His master's wife tried to seduce him repeatedly and then unjustly accused him of assaulting her. He was then thrown into prison and later forgotten by the one who could have been instrumental in gaining his freedom.

18. From verses 16, 25, and 28, when it would have been momentarily advantageous to take credit for dream interpretation in front of the Pharaoh, to whom did Joseph give credit?
19. Verses 51-52 give us an amazing look at Joseph's perspective concerning his previous horrible treatment. In your own words, how would you describe this perspective?
20. What do you think Joseph had done to develop this perspective?
21. What will you do to develop this perspective?

Day 4 *Memory Verse reviewed today? Yes ___ No ___*

Genesis 42-44 explain how Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to get grain during the famine and had to appear before Joseph, the second in command. Although they did not recognize their brother, Joseph recognized them, but kept it to himself. Later, through a series of events, the youngest brother finds himself falsely accused of stealing. Still not recognizing Joseph's true identification, the brothers throw themselves down at the mercy of their powerful brother, Joseph.

In future lessons we will deal with appropriate responses for your specific situations. However, answer the following questions for the purpose of understanding how Joseph honored God in his particular circumstances.

Read Genesis 45

22. From vs. 5, what did Joseph communicate to the family members who had sold him into slavery (which ultimately brought him to be forgotten in prison)?
23. From vs. 5-8, how many times does Joseph mention that it was God who had sent Joseph there?
24. What did Joseph understand about God that gave him such a godly response to his brothers?
25. What do vs. 10 & 11 reveal about Joseph's attitude towards those who had treated him so horribly?

26. From verse 15, what was Joseph's physical response towards his brothers who had treated him so horribly?

27. How do Joseph's actions compare to those of one who does NOT seek to honor God by her responses?

Read Genesis 50:18-21 (Note: This is following the death of their father.)

28. How does Genesis 50:20 correlate with Romans 8:28-29?

29. Consider your responses in both attitude and action to those who have hurt you in any way. Which of these are honoring to God?

30. Which are not honoring to God?

31. Write a prayer asking God to give you responses that are pleasing to Him.

32. What will you do this week to change your responses that are not honoring to God?