SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

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HOW TO GET THROUGH WHAT YOU'RE GOING THROUGH WEEK 4

OPENING & PRAYER:

Joseph's journey from a pit to a palace shows that what God has spoken remains true even when the circumstances look completely wrong. God gave Joseph dreams of his family bowing before him, but the road toward those dreams ran through rejection, false accusation, prison, and years of waiting. None of those places meant that God had left him. Again and again, Genesis says that the Lord was with Joseph.

"Lord, thank You for always being there for us. Please guide us as we study Your word and how it helps us to get through those tough times. We thank You for Your love for us and help. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

SCRIPTURE:

But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more. **Genesis 37:4-5**

Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. **Ephesians 5:17**

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; But happy is he who keeps the law. **Proverbs 29:18**

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **Romans 8:31**

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. **Genesis 39:1-6**

Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance. **Genesis 39:1-6**

Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. **Psalms 37:5-6**

But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper. **Genesis 39:21-23**

Consider it nothing but joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you fall into various trials. Be assured that the testing of your faith [through experience] produces endurance [leading to spiritual maturity, and inner peace]. And let endurance have its perfect result and do a thorough work, so that you may be perfect and completely developed [in your faith], lacking in nothing. **James 1:2-4 (Amplified)**

So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the Spirit of God?"Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you." And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt." **Genesis 41:37-44**

And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. **Galatians 6:9**

and never return evil for evil or insult for insult [avoid scolding, berating, and any kind of abuse], but on the contrary, give a blessing [pray for one another's well-being, contentment, and protection]; for you have been called for this very purpose, that you might inherit a blessing [from God that brings well-being, happiness, and protection]. **1 Peter 3:9 (Amplified)**

But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. **Genesis 50:20-21**

GO DEEPER:

The test of rejection calls believers to get anchored in God's will rather than letting hurt decide their direction. Joseph's brothers stripped away his coat, but they could not strip away what God had put in his heart. That kind of vision is more than a checklist of goals. It is God's word coming alive on the inside and keeping a person on track.

The test of accusation calls for faithfulness when life is not fair. Joseph refused temptation, suffered for something he did not do, and still kept putting his hands to what was in front of him. God's presence looked like something: even an Egyptian household and a prison experienced blessing through his work.

The test of patience developed readiness, not merely the ability to sit still. Joseph kept serving, noticed other people's sadness, and used what God had given him while his own situation remained unresolved. Those responsibilities prepared him to manage Egypt when the door finally opened.

The test of power exposed another choice: retaliation or grace. Joseph chose forgiveness and became better, not bitter. His story calls believers to get filled up with God's Word, anchor themselves down, and refuse to let the outside leak onto the inside. Life does not have to become a soggy cardboard boat patched with duct tape. God can make a way through the water or sustain his people on top of it. Faithfulness keeps his Word and presence at the center without giving up.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Rejection Cannot Cancel What God Spoke. Joseph's brothers rejected his dreams, but their rejection did not settle what God could do with his life. Hurt becomes dangerous when it replaces God's will as the anchor for a person's direction. Scripture coming alive in the heart gives believers something firmer than the changing feelings of abandonment or failure. [13:13]

2. Faithfulness Still Matters When Life Is Unfair. Joseph kept serving in a place he had never planned to be, caring for property that was not his own. His circumstances did not excuse careless work or a heart locked into self-pity. Trusting God meant bringing integrity and excellence to the responsibility in front of him while leaving justice in God's hands. [25:00]

3. Patience Keeps The Heart Ready. Joseph's waiting years were not empty years, even when the butler forgot him. The testing of faith produces endurance, spiritual maturity, and inner peace as patience does its thorough work. Patience is more than waiting for circumstances to change; it keeps a person prepared to move when the opportunity comes. [32:15]

4. Promotion Is Not Permission For Retaliation. Authority gave Joseph the opportunity to get even with people who had hurt him, but he chose grace and forgiveness instead. The skills developed in Potiphar's house and the prison became preparation for serving an entire nation. Becoming better rather than bitter meant using power for the responsibility God had given him, not for settling old scores. [39:05]

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. In Genesis 37, how did Joseph's brothers respond to their father's favoritism and Joseph's dreams? What actions did their hatred lead them to take? **[09:34]**

2. How did Joseph's responsibilities in Potiphar's house and prison prepare him to serve Egypt? What does his story suggest about patience being more than simply waiting for circumstances to change? **[36:59]**

3. Joseph's authority gave him an opportunity to retaliate against those who hurt him. What does his choice of grace reveal about the purpose of power and the condition of a person's heart? **[39:07]**

4. When you are treated unfairly, how do you usually respond? What would help you pursue what is right without letting anger or the desire to get even take over? **[25:38]**

5. Where do you have influence—in your family, workplace, church, or friendships? Is there a relationship where hurt is tempting you to withhold kindness or settle a score? What might a step toward forgiveness look like without pretending the wrong was acceptable? **[39:07]**

CLOSING PRAYER:

"Father, thank you for the opportunities to grow in our faith. We will continue to lean on Your Word as we grow to bring people to know you. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."