

Genesis 37:1-28; 39:1-20



FROM THE START

A GENESIS SERIES

Big Idea:

When we encounter the troubles and tribulations of life, we must understand that who we are becoming is more important than what we are seeking to accomplish, must trust God's heart and character when we do perceive his activity in our lives, and must realize that walking by faith is a journey.

Thought Exercise:

- If you could go back and tell your 18 year old self anything, what would it be?
- Why did you choose these pieces of information to share?
- What role do trials play in growth and transformation?

Items for discussion:

Transformed by Trials

- Joseph was loved by Jacob but had a tenuous relationship with his brothers.
- Joseph faced trials in Egypt as well in Potiphar's house and in prison.
- Even though Joseph was not perfect, his trials came from evil from the hands of others.

A Life of Purpose

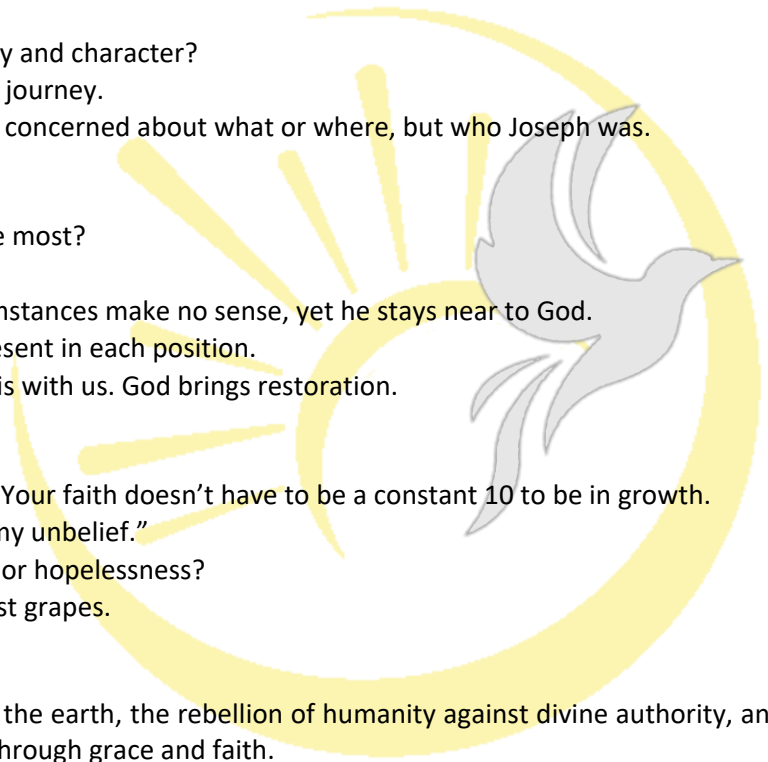
- How do difficulties in life affect your personality and character?
- It's not about the achievements, but about the journey.
- Even though Joseph had a calling, God was not concerned about what or where, but who Joseph was.

Character of God

- Who is the one person in your life you trust the most?
- What is it that makes a person trustworthy?
- Joseph is in deep emotional pain and his circumstances make no sense, yet he stays near to God.
- Pit → Palace → Prison → Prince – God was present in each position.
- God is faithful. God is good. God is for us. God is with us. God brings restoration.

A Journey of Faith

- Real faith comes when we wrestle with doubt. Your faith doesn't have to be a constant 10 to be in growth.
- Mark 9:24 – "I do believe. Help me overcome my unbelief."
- How do you cope with feelings of helplessness or hopelessness?
- Vines that struggle to get to water yield the best grapes.



God has created and brought to order and function to the earth, the rebellion of humanity against divine authority, and God's plan to restore mankind to his original purpose through grace and faith.