

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

This is Amazing Grace, Can't Stop Singing, Blessed be Your Name, 10,000 Reasons, Way Maker

WELCOME

Share a recent situation in your life where you have seen God's hand at work in a way that you never expected Him to.

WORD

GENESIS 50:20

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

Like the goal of a jigsaw puzzle, we all want to see the complete picture whenever we face problems. But more often than not, when we look at our situation, what we see are missing pieces – questions like “Why is this happening to me? What’s going to happen? How long is this going to take? These are the missing pieces of life’s puzzle that we usually struggle with. As we look at the life of Joseph in the Old Testament, we can learn that amidst these questions – God is sovereign, God is good, so we should trust Him.

There are four places where’s Joseph’s character was tested, sculpted, and built by God.

THE PIT (READ GENESIS 37:2-11, 18-24)

Joseph’s brothers hated him because he was his father’s favorite. Though this was not Joseph’s fault, his brothers regarded him as an enemy (**Genesis 37:2-4**). His brothers hated him all the more when he shared with them his dream about their sheaves bowing down to his (**Genesis 37:5-8**). It was such a serious matter that they plotted to kill Joseph (**Genesis 37:18-20**). Fortunately, one of his brothers, Reuben, talked them out of it. Instead, they stripped Joseph of his tunic and threw him into the pit (**Genesis 37:23-24**). Ancient cisterns or pits were around were around 15 to 20 feet deep, with an opening of only two to three feet wide. Without water, the bottom of the pit would be full of mire - stinking mud. This must have been a very scary time for young Joseph. We do not know what Joseph did while in the pit but we can learn from David in **Psalms 30:8-9**. When we feel that we are in a pit, we should pray to the God who is both sovereign and good.

Realities	Right Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People - even those close to us - may 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek the Lord; pray. • Do not blame others. • Do not blame God.

envy, reject, harm and betray us. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We might, in some cases, have caused part of the problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask the Lord to search our heart, in case we’re partly at fault.
---	--

THE PRIVATE ROOM (READ GENESIS 39:1-12)

Joseph was sold to some traders who eventually brought him to Egypt. He became a successful man under Potiphar, a powerful and wealthy official, because the Lord was with him (**Genesis 39:1-6**). Trust and wait on God and do our best at all times. God is with us even in the darkest moments. He is faithful and He will never leave nor forsake us.

Joseph was handsome (**Genesis 39:6**) and Potiphar’s wife wanted him to lie with her. Joseph refused because ultimately, he knows he was accountable to God. He fled from sexual immorality. He knew he was a recipient of God’s grace and he wanted to honor and glorify Him (**Genesis 39:7-12**).

Realities	Right Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are never beyond temptation. • Satan will try to trap and discredit us. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reject the thought that “no one will know.” • God will always know. • Make honoring God our constant goal. • Flee temptation!

THE PRISON (READ GENESIS 39:16-23)

Joseph was falsely accused and put into prison (**Genesis 39:16-20**). But the Lord was with him and once again, he gained favor in the eyes the chief jailer (**Genesis 39:21-23**). Again, we see the presence of God in the life of Joseph and this is a reminder for us that He is right there in the “prisons” of our lives.

WORD (cont'd)

Realities	Right Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can suffer despite - even because of - doing what is right. Helplessness and waiting are among life's greatest trials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep on doing your best for the Lord. Keep on being a blessing to others. Believe God has a purpose and timeline.

THE PALACE (READ GENESIS 41:39-43; 42:1-3, 6, 8; 45:4-5, 7-8)

In God's perfect time, Joseph goes from prison to the palace. When God makes His move, we will just be so amazed! We have to trust that He is doing something on our behalf. Joseph was now second in command to Pharaoh (**Genesis 41:39-43**). Meanwhile, because of the famine, Joseph's family was looking for grain (**Genesis 42:1-2**) and they met Joseph in Egypt (**Genesis 42:6, 8**). This was literally Joseph's dream come true! But Joseph's perspective has totally changed. As he trusted God throughout his trials, he

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Where are you today – in the pit, the private room, the prison, or the palace? How are you responding?
2. Share how God has brought you through a certain situation wherein He turned something bad for your good.
3. Knowing that God is both sovereign and good, in what areas or situations do you need to trust Him right now?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Trust that God is at work! Continue to reach out to the people in your Pray Care Share list. Pray that God will open their hearts to trust Him. Show care by being with them in their difficult times. Share how you are able to trust God in the different seasons of your life. Share how God sent Jesus to save us right where we are, in the pit, private room, prison or palace.

understood more and more that God is both sovereign and good. God had an amazing plan for Joseph and for the nation of Israel (**Genesis 45:4-5, 7-8**).

Realities	Right Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God will surely vindicate and exalt us at the proper time. Success and blessing are also a test of our brokenness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be humble. Do not take revenge. Do not abuse power. See things from God's perspective. Keep pursuing God's purpose.

After their father Israel died, the brothers were again afraid that Joseph may avenge himself. But Joseph's perspective never changed (**Genesis 50:20**). He knew it was God who sent him to Egypt to preserve the nation of Israel. God is indeed sovereign and He is good. If we believe this, how can we not respond in total trust to Him.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends