

Thursday

Read Genesis 45:5–7, 50:20 & Romans 8:28. Recall a time when you let circumstances control your life and attitude. What were the results of that?

Now recall a time when you chose to believe that God was in control in spite of life's circumstances? What were the results of that?

What situation are you currently facing where you're tempted to let circumstances define your life?

How can you apply what you learned last weekend to help you?

Thank God today that He is ultimately in control of your life. Thank Him for His plan for you. Ask Him for the faith to trust Him over circumstances in everything you face today.

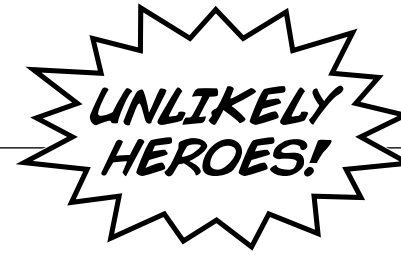
Friday

Reread Genesis 45:5–7 & Jeremiah 29:11. Spend an extended time in prayer today and think about the things in your life that you find it difficult to believe that God can use for good. What prevents you from letting God and not circumstances define your life? Are there things that you need to surrender to God?

Take time today to talk to God about your daily faith in Him. Hopefully you've already placed your faith in Him for salvation. Today commit to live by faith daily and trust God to define your life. Ask God to help you live the life of a confident Christian.

Saturday

Catch up on any devotions you missed and be sure you know this week's verse. Please read Psalm 22. What connections do you see between this Psalm and Joseph and Jesus' life? Ask God to give you the courage to invite your friends who need to bear the Good News of God's transforming grace.



WEEK 8

Joseph

July 31 & August 1, 2010 • Dave Hicks

Jesus teaches He is at the heart of the Old Testament Scriptures:

"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that **testify about me...**" *John 5:39 (NIV)*

"How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with **Moses** and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in **all the Scriptures** concerning **himself**. *Luke 24:25–27*

"Do not think I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have ... come to... **fulfill** them." *Matthew 5:17*

Three facts from Joseph's story I can rely on:

- 1. You can** _____
The Lord was with Joseph... *Genesis 39:3 & 23*
- 2. You can trust God** _____
Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you." *Genesis 45:4–5*
- 3. You can trust God to forgive** _____
"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." *Genesis 50:20*

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. *John 3:17*

The bottom line:

His _____ **provided** _____
He himself bore our sins... by his wounds you have been healed. *1 Peter 2:24*

Seven Parallels between Joseph and Jesus

1. Sent from the Father

JOSEPH “Come, I’m going to send you to them” *Genesis 37:13*

JESUS “Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” *John 17:3*

2. Plotted to kill him

JOSEPH So Joseph went to his brothers... before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. *Genesis 37:18*

JESUS They plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him. *Matthew 26:4*

So from that day on they plotted to take his life.” *John 11:53*

3. Betrayed for some silver coins

JOSEPH “His brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.” *Genesis 37:28*

JESUS When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests. *Matthew 27:3*

4. Tempted yet obeyed God

JOSEPH “My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” *Genesis 39:9*

JESUS We have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. *Hebrews 4:15*

5. Falsely accused

JOSEPH “I was forcibly carried off from the land of the Hebrews, and even here I have done nothing to deserve being put in a dungeon.” *Genesis 40:15*

JESUS Many testified falsely against him” *Mark 14:56*

6. Interpreted the bread & wine

JOSEPH Then Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams.” *Genesis 40:8*

JESUS He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.”

Luke 22:19–20

7. Forgave his enemies

JOSEPH “But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.” *Genesis 45:5–8*

“Don’t be afraid... You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” *Genesis 50:20*

JESUS Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” *Luke 23:34*

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. *John 3:17*

Daily Meditations

Spend some time each day this week meditating on the topic

Monday

Read Genesis 37. What impresses you most about this part of Joseph’s life?

What one lesson from his life can you apply to your life this week?

How can you live like an overcomer today?

Thank God today that He works in all situations. Thank Him for His hand in your life. Ask Him to help you apply what you learn as you study His word.

Tuesday

Read Genesis 37:2–4, Jeremiah 31:3 & John 15:12. Write down three people in your life who supported you with their love. List how knowing they loved you impacted your life:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What do you learn about the power of love from the story of Joseph?

What two things about how God loves you mean the most to you? How can you reflect that love into the lives around you?

Spend some time in prayer asking God to show someone in your “world” who needs to know they are loved. How will you let them know that?

Thank God today for His amazing love for you. Ask Him to help you love the people around you in a way that reflects His perfect love.

Wednesday

Read Genesis 37:5–11, Psalm 139:1–18 & Ephesians 2:10. What three truths from Psalm 139:1–18 stand out to you the most? Why?

Which number below most accurately describes how you feel about yourself?

I’M NOT SPECIAL AT ALL	I HAVE MY GOOD POINTS	I BELIEVE GOD HAS A GREAT PLAN FOR ME							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

How does this belief impact how you’re living right now? How would you like to see that change?

Spend some time in prayer asking God to show someone in your “world” who needs to know they are special. How will you let them know that?

Thank God today that He made you special. Ask Him to continue to show you the plans He has for you. Pray that you’ll have opportunities today to encourage those around you with the truth that God made them special.



Memory Verse

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” *Genesis 50:20 (NIV)*