



# HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

May 17, 2020

**Main Point:** God uses Joseph's circumstances and sufferings to accomplish His plans and purposes.

## 1. Listen to this Spotify playlist

[https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2PFq9EG6qySS7pasjKKAxB?\\_php=1](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2PFq9EG6qySS7pasjKKAxB?_php=1)

## 2. Read this passage two times - Genesis 39:1-6, 19-23; 41:14-16

## 3. Process

Remember that Joseph was only 17 when his life took a tragic turn: His brothers betrayed him and sold him into slavery. His owners took him to Egypt, far away from his beloved father and his father's people. Joseph's story would continue, and God would use Joseph's adversity. We cannot forget that Joseph was still a kid, torn from his family and taken to a foreign land. Maybe for the first time in his life, he was alone; a lonely Israelite slave in the house of a powerful Egyptian.

**39:2-6.** Joseph was away from his people, but he was not away from the God of his people. Undoubtedly Joseph knew and believed the promises God made to his great grandfather, Abraham. He also surely knew Isaac (his grandfather) and Jacob (his father) were sons of that promise. He also knew the promise would continue through one of his father's twelve sons. He knew God was at work, and he knew (from stories Jacob likely told) God often works in unusual ways. God gave children to the childless. God chose the older to serve the younger. God had remained faithful to His covenant promises and blessed Joseph's family even when they doubted and disobeyed.

**39:19-23.** Adversity and injustice were not the only themes in Joseph's life; God's presence and kindness were as well. In yet another dark hour of Joseph's life, God was with Joseph and blessed him. Echoing Potiphar's decision to place Joseph over his house, the warden placed Joseph over everything in the prison, and God made everything Joseph did successful.

Joseph's hope in God did not waver. Even as his circumstances declined, his hope in God did not. Joseph knew the situation he was facing was not good, but his God always is. So, he continued serving God and accepting God's kindness to him and extending it to others.

**41:14-16.** We learn something else about Joseph from his reply to Pharaoh. Joseph was not about to take credit for what God was doing. He was not going to rob God's glory and seek acclaim for himself—even if that glory and acclaim could lead to his freedom from prison. Ultimately, this moment was not about Joseph; it was about God. So, Joseph trusted God and sought His glory. In response, God gave Joseph what He had given him all along—favor.



Joseph found favor with God and always gave God the glory. Likewise believers must stand firm on the Word of God and always seek His glory. We have an advantage Joseph lacked: We have received Jesus Christ as Savior and know the end of the story. "We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose" (Rom. 8:28). Consequently, we are to submit to God's plan, even when we cannot understand or see it. We are to believe in the God of the promise even when it is difficult to believe in the promise of God.

#### 4. Think About It

- What have you prayed for that God didn't answer the way you hoped?
- Looking back, how do you think God was working in that situation to accomplish His purpose?
- God never abandons His people. How does this bring you specific encouragement this week?
- Why is it easier to go through trials by focusing our attention on God rather than our circumstances?
- What can we learn from Joseph's story when it comes to focusing on others instead of ourselves during moments of personal difficulty?

**Join Lauren & Nathan in a Zoom Call!**

**Sunday, May 17 at 7:00 pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/4144653655?pwd=SkYyNVVkaS9OdGQxSTJaeUFpSU5yUT09>

**Meeting ID: 414 465 3655**

**Password: 853104**



**We are here for you!**

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