

God's Purpose in the life of Joseph

Key Scriptures

Romans 8:28²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

Genesis 37-50

Gen. 45:3-5³ "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.⁴ . . . "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt."⁵ And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

Gen. 50:20-21²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Key Point:

"Everything is needful that He sends, and nothing can be needful that He withholds." (John Newton)

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- If you went back to school, what would you want to study? Is there a different occupation you would be interested in?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- Kyle mentioned that Romans 8:28 is one of the greatest statements in scripture, especially related to anxiety and worry. How do you think Paul's statement relates to anxiety and worry?
- What are some of the things that God worked into Joseph's life during his years of struggle?
- Can you think of some of the "coincidental" things that happened to Joseph that lead Him to the powerful position in Egypt?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Looking at the life of Joseph, what do you think was the most difficult thing he faced? Why?
- John Newton, 18th century pastor commented about Romans 8:28, saying, *"Everything is needful that He sends, and nothing can be needful that He withholds."* What do you think of this statement? Do you agree? Do you see this in the life of Joseph?
- After all the struggle, Joseph said to his brothers, "What you meant for evil, God meant for good." Have you ever had a difficult experience where, looking back, you can see God bringing good out of a sinful choice or an evil act?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- This next week read through Genesis 37-50. Pay attention to how God orchestrates even the individual decisions and circumstances to bring about His purpose

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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