

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

Simple read the scripture and description and reflect on the story

Love: How do these devotions teach about the love of God and the love for one another?

Learn: What have you learned about where Jesus walked that helps you with where you walk?

Share: What key insights have you learned this week on how to share your faith with others?

Monday September 26th – *Read Genesis 37:18-35* Joseph was the 11th son of Jacob (Israel) and the great-grandson of Abraham. At 17 he was a shepherd that would tattle-tale on his brothers. His behavior along with his father's overt favoritism towards Joseph, causes his brothers to resent and then hate their brother. Joseph begins relating his prophetic dreams, even sharing he saw himself ruling over the family. His brothers then plot to kill him. Reuben, the oldest, objects to outright murder and they sell him into slavery instead.

Tuesday, September 27th – *Read Genesis 39* Joseph is sold to a high-ranking Egyptian named Potiphar and becomes the supervisor of his household, where he excelled in his duties. Potiphar's wife attempts to seduce Joseph and when Joseph refuses, she brings false charges against him. Joseph is arrested and thrown into jail, where he keeps interpreting dreams. One of the prisoners is restored to the position of king's cupbearer and remembers Joseph when the king is tormented by dreams. Joseph interprets the dreams warning of famine and the king makes Joseph one of the rulers of Egypt.

Wednesday, September 28th – *Read Genesis 50:24-25, Exodus 13:19* When famine strikes, even Canaan is affected and Jacob sends his sons to Egypt to buy grain. They meet Joseph (not recognizing him) and they bow down before the Egyptian official, fulfilling the prophecy of Joseph's dreams from years

prior. Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers and forgives their wrongdoing. Jacob and his family move to Egypt to be with Joseph. Jacob's descendants stay in Egypt for 400 years, until the time of Moses. When Moses leads the Hebrews out of Egypt, he takes the remains of Joseph with him, as Joseph had requested.

Thursday, September 29th – *Read Genesis 41:37-40, 39:3-5, 21-23* Why did Pharaoh give Joseph so much power? The scripture for today tells the stories of three main examples of Joseph's power: Potiphar saw that God was with Joseph and set him in charge of his household, Joseph was set in charge of those in prison, and Joseph interpreted the dream of Pharaoh. In ancient Egypt, those with special abilities or powers from the spirit world were themselves considered sacred. Joseph was demonstrating the power of his God and Pharaoh wanted that power at his side. Joseph's resume was simply that others could see God working in his life.

Friday, September 30th - Contrast the favor Joseph was shown in Egypt with how he was treated by his family. Joseph's older brother despised him on three occasions and then sold him into slavery. First, they resented the coat (Gen. 37:4), second, they hated the dream (Gen. 37:8), and third, they heard a second dream and were jealous (Gen. 37:11). They then threw him into a pit, sold him, and lied to their father about his death.

Saturday, October 1st - What elements of Joseph's story were new to you this week? Did you find any interesting parts that spoke to you? Why is Joseph's story important to a Christian today? In what way is love and grace, peace and forgiveness featured in this story?

Serve: Look at the prayer list. Who can you pray for? Who needs a little extra help in an area where you can make a difference?

Healing Strength: Charlie Walters, Chris & Katie Hamon, Rex Townsend, Stan Ensch, Chris Osborn (Ken and Sandy Grubb's daughter), Janet Coons (Donna McCullough's daughter)

Homebound Members: Mary Hicks, Mary Schmidt, Joann Young, Jeanne Carman

Military Personnel: Adam Walters, Joseph Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Adam Clark