



# JOSEPH

## INTO THE WORD

### *LESSON 9*

- WHAT YOU WILL LEARN IN THIS LESSON:
  - God will always honor godly character and integrity
  - God always has a purpose for our lives, even in suffering
- BIBLICAL THEMES:
  - Integrity and Character
  - Power out of suffering (life out of death)
  - Forgiveness
- SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES:
  - 1 Peter 5:6
  - Genesis 50:20
  - Romans 8:28
- FOR FURTHER STUDY:
  - Character Counts, Cindy Miller

# INTO THE WORD

## LESSON 9

### JOSEPH

#### Into the Word:

Of the twelve sons of Jacob, Joseph was the most loved by his father. Joseph was gifted by God and he was part of God's plan to save and preserve his family. Joseph had a divine destiny, but there was a process he had to go through in order to fulfill God's purpose for his life. The story of Joseph is a story of character, of forgiveness, and of divine providence.

#### 1. Joseph and His Family

- Joseph had dreams that suggested his brothers and parents would bow down to him. His brothers envied and hated him, but his Father kept these dreams in mind.
  - Genesis 37:5-11 (NLT)

<sup>5</sup>One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. <sup>6</sup>"Listen to this dream," he said. <sup>7</sup>"We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!" <sup>8</sup>His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them. <sup>9</sup>Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!" <sup>10</sup>This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?"<sup>11</sup> But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.
- One day Jacob sent Joseph out to see how his brothers were doing with the flocks. While he came, his brothers conspired to kill him. Reuben persuaded the brothers to cast him in a pit instead. While he was in the pit, a group of Midianite merchants passed by going to Egypt. Judah talks his brothers into selling Joseph as a slave for 20 pieces of silver.

- Genesis 37:26-28 (NLT)
  - <sup>26</sup> Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain by killing our brother? We’d have to cover up the crime. <sup>27</sup> Instead of hurting him, let’s sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!” And his brothers agreed. <sup>28</sup> So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph’s brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.
- The brothers took Joseph’s coat of many colors and dipped it in blood, telling their father that some beast had killed Joseph. Again, Jacob (the heel grabber) has reaped a similar deception that he sowed in his life. Jacob was distressed.
  - Genesis 37:34-35 (NLT)
    - <sup>34</sup> Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time. <sup>35</sup> His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. “I will go to my grave mourning for my son,” he would say, and then he would weep.
- Like Jesus, Joseph was rejected by his brothers and sold out:
  - John 1:11 (NLT)
    - He came to his own people, and even they rejected him.
  - Isaiah 53:3 (NLT)
    - He was despised and rejected a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.
- His brother’s evil deeds sold him out. For us, it was our sins that caused Jesus to go to the cross. This betrayal was part of God’s plan for Joseph to save his family. Jesus went to the cross to save us.



### Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- Have you ever felt rejected or betrayed, but in the end, discovered it was part of God's plan?

## 2. Joseph's Journey to the Palace

### *Sold into Slavery*

- When in Egypt Joseph was sold to an officer by the name of Potiphar. The Lord was with Joseph and was a prosperous person. Potiphar recognized the hand of God on Joseph’s life and promoted him.

- Genesis 39:1-6 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup>When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup>Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. <sup>4</sup>This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. <sup>5</sup>From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the LORD began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. <sup>6</sup>So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat! Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man,

- Joseph could not be held down. His excellent character and divine destiny carried him through every trial. When you give your life to Jesus, he marks your life with a divine destiny!

### ***Joseph is Tempted***

- Potiphar's wife became infatuated with Joseph and desired his affection. One day when he refused her advances, she took hold of a part of his clothing and accused Joseph of trying to assault her. Potiphar put him in prison.
- Like Jesus, Joseph overcame temptation and kept a pure heart in the sight of God. This opened the door for God to use him to save his people.
  - Hebrew 4:15 (CEV)  
For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.
- It is important to keep our testimony pure in the sight of God and man. When we are tempted, we must submit to God and He will make a way for us to overcome.
  - 1Corinthians 10:13 (CEV)  
No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.
  - 1 Peter 5:8 (NLT)  
<sup>8</sup>Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.



### Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- Why is it important to keep our testimony pure?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- How can we resist temptations?

#### ***Joseph in Prison***

- Even in prison Joseph was not bitter and was entrusted with the keeping of the prisoners.
  - Genesis 39:21-23 (NLT)  
<sup>21</sup>But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. <sup>22</sup>Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. <sup>23</sup>The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything.  
The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.
- While in prison, Joseph was able to interpret dreams for the butler and baker of the pharaoh, which were in the prison. In three days the baker was executed according to Joseph's interpretation and the butler was restored unto Pharaoh's house.
- Joseph asked the butler to remember him when he returns back to Pharaoh. But his "friend" did not remember him.
  - Genesis 40:14-15, 23  
<sup>14</sup>And please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place. <sup>15</sup>For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I'm here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it."  
<sup>23</sup>Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought.



### Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- How was God working in Joseph's life though these disappointments?

### 3. Joseph Becomes Ruler

- Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream that no one could interpret. The butler finally remembered Joseph to the Pharaoh, and Joseph was summoned. Joseph acknowledged the God interprets the dream and gave God all the glory.
  - Genesis 41:16 (NLT)  
<sup>16</sup> "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."
- Joseph interpreted the dream to mean there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. He advised the Pharaoh to appoint a discreet and wise man to oversee Egypt store up a fifth of all the food during plentiful years to ensure there is enough during the famine. Pharaoh appointed Joseph because he recognized that the Spirit of God was with Him.
  - Genesis 41:39-41 (NLT)  
<sup>39</sup> Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. <sup>40</sup> You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."  
<sup>41</sup> Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt."
- It was the gift of God that brought Joseph to Pharaoh and caused him to interpret the dream, but it was the "suffering process" that gave Joseph the experience and wisdom to know what to do with the gift.
  - 1Peter 5:6 (NLT)  
<sup>6</sup> So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor.



#### Scripture Reading Response and Analysis

- How did the experiences in Joseph's life prepare him for this defining moment?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Viewing the difficult circumstances in our life from God's perspective will help us keep the right attitude and character through those times. How can we keep this divine perspective during these trials?

