

# TAKEAWAY

## Joseph and the Triumph of Grace: Part 3

Genesis 39

### DESIRED OUTCOMES

- To reflect on how the 'grace story' of God runs through the story of Joseph
- To think about who the 'main character' is in our own lives.

### INTRODUCTION

Joseph's life is one of huge ups and downs; fallouts, faith and forgiveness. In this week's passage, we look at Joseph's response when he is propositioned by his boss's wife!

### SHARE

- How do you tend to respond or react when things go wrong?
- Have you got an example of someone who responds well under pressure or when facing temptation?

### READ

**Genesis 39**

### DISCUSS

On Sunday, we identified three ways of 'reading' this story (and other passages in the Bible) – as a moral example, as a faith example, or as a snapshot of the ongoing grace story of God.

Did this way of explaining it make sense to you?

Why does it matter how we see stories in the Bible?

How does it change or affect what you learn from this story?

### SHARE

Can you think of a time in your life where you have done the right thing in a difficult situation, only to find that your integrity has made things worse for you?

### DISCUSS

This chapter is sandwiched by four references to the Lord being with Joseph, and yet it doesn't always lead to positive outcomes. If doing the right thing doesn't lead to positive results for us, why bother doing it? What would Joseph say?

Joseph's misfortunes seemed to make his faith stronger. How could this be?

In practice, who is the main character in your life? How is that evident in your behaviours? Who would you *like* it to be?



### EXPLAIN

Genesis 38 does not mention Joseph but instead, gives a very unsavoury account of Judah and his sons that seems like an interruption to Joseph's story. However, these two chapters show us how the two brothers respond differently. Judah – a man who gets it wrong in the face of temptation and difficult circumstances and Joseph who acts with integrity.

### RECAP

The three ways of reading the bible from Sunday were:

The Morale Example = Behave like Joseph - following his example.

The Faith Example = Trust like Joseph - having a good heart attitude towards God.

The Grace Example = Loved like Joseph - understanding and living in God's grace.

What do your thoughts (internal monologue) tell you about who you are, what your value is, and what your 'story' is? Is there anything you need God to 're-story' in you? How would that happen?

Joseph's life foreshadows that of Jesus' and follows one of the great biblical themes: a suffering servant who endures abuse, rejection and shame and who is lifted up by God for the salvation of others.

How is Joseph's story like the story of Jesus? See how many parallels you can come up with. *You may wish to list these together as a group.* Why does it matter?

### **PRAY**

Pray together thanking God for His Grace and ask for the Holy Spirit's help with the things that came up in discussion. You may find it helpful to listen to a worship song that helps you reflect and pray on trusting in God:

#### **Devotion – Worship Central**

[youtu.be/xNtmRC1ewyY?si=71\\_uLvWa2I9s-ajj](https://youtu.be/xNtmRC1ewyY?si=71_uLvWa2I9s-ajj)

#### **God I look to You – Bethel**

[youtu.be/3u3ZG8ztGEI?si=9n7Mfg2MOF6bsNYo](https://youtu.be/3u3ZG8ztGEI?si=9n7Mfg2MOF6bsNYo)

### **TRY OUT**

This week, notice situations where you could choose to do the right thing or the wrong thing. Later, reflect: why did you make the choice you made? What narrative about your life was in your mind?