

Joseph and the Triumph of Grace: Part 5

Genesis 41v38-57



DESIRED OUTCOMES

- To think about how Joseph's story in this passage is a model for how we might live when 'life is good'.
- To get practical about how we might live thoughtfully when things are going well for us.

INTRODUCTION

Joseph's life is one of huge ups and downs; fallouts, faith and forgiveness. In this week's passage, we see how Joseph rises – very quickly – to a position of prominence and prestige. His story provokes a question – what does it look like to follow Jesus when things are *good*?

SHARE

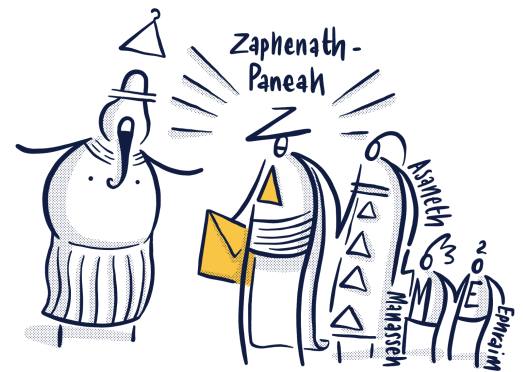
- What would you say are the 3 best days of your life, and why?
- Do you find that you are more likely to make the effort to draw close to God when life is going well, or when you are struggling?

READ

Genesis 41:38-57

EXPLAIN

Joseph goes, overnight, from being forgotten in prison to being made Prime Minister of Egypt. This passage details what happened. It must surely have been the best day of Joseph's life! Joseph responds by very diligently giving leadership to Egypt and its resources. It is therefore a good story to help us consider what following Jesus might look like when things are going well for us.



DISCUSS

In what ways was Joseph's life instantly improved by the events of this passage?

All Joseph had done was interpret Pharaoh's dream! Who do you think Pharaoh treated him so extravagantly well?

On Sunday, we unpacked three thoughts from this passage: God *always* loves you, deal with your *past*, and plan for the *future*. Here are some discussion questions pertaining to each of those:

God Always Loves You

It is very easy to get our sense that God loves us from our circumstances (ie, if we're having a good time we believe He does, and if we're not, we believe He doesn't). Does this happen to you? What might be a good antidote to this?

Deal With Your Past

How much do you think about difficult things from your past?

Many of us have painful things we'd rather not talk about. But what does it mean, with God, to deal with past hurts properly?

Plan for the Future

How do you find things like budgeting and planning money? Do you have any tips on an approach or system that you could share? If it is not a strength, do you find that this leads you to anxiety or stress? What could help you move forward?

It could be said that the way Joseph is treated by Pharaoh is a picture of the way God treats us through Jesus. How do you see this? How does this lead you to worship and praise Him in prayer?

PRAY

TRY OUT

- What's one step you can take towards planning for when things are tough? It could be a spiritual practice, a practical step or spending time dealing with a past hurt... Share this with one person from the group and ask them to check in with you in a few weeks time to see how you're getting on leaving them behind.
- In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul encourages believers to '*rejoice*', and '*In everything, give thanks.*' Expressing gratitude is a daily part of our faith and personal growth. Reflect: what does it look like to make gratitude a habit in your daily life? How does this help point you to God in both good and bad times?