

When Life Disappoints - Genesis 37-40

Wisdom for the Curious Life of Joseph – Part I

Message Discussion Guide

Connect

- What is the most interesting fact about your family tree?

Discover

- Which statement or experience stood out to you from the worship service?
- Read Genesis 37:18-20, 26-28.
 - What was going through Joseph’s mind when he was being sold as a permanent slave to strangers heading to a foreign country? What do you think he was praying?
 - What kind of attitude would this apparently hopeless situation create in a person who did not trust the Lord? How would trusting the Lord change that attitude?
- Read Genesis 39:4, 10-21.
 - What kind of attitude did Joseph embrace when he came to serve Potiphar and his household? How was Joseph able to have that attitude
 - What faithfulness to the Lord did Joseph show in his conduct with Potiphar’s wife? Did God reward Joseph for this obedience?
 - What does verse 21 mean when it says, “the Lord was with Joseph?”
- Read Genesis 40:14-15, 21, 23.
 - Was the Lord still with Joseph during this part of the story?
 - Why did Joseph continue to face such disappointments in life?

Respond

- Can life still go badly if the Lord is with us? Why do people struggle with this issue so often? What is the source of the confusion?
- What does Joseph’s conduct teach us about what our attitude should be and how we can have the right attitude when life disappoints us?

Bonus for Thinkers

- Surely Joseph prayed to be freed from the pit, rescued from slavery, protected from Potiphar’s wife, and freed from wrongful imprisonment. But none of that happened in this part of the story. Does God really answer our prayers?

First Baptist Nacogdoches Bible Reading Plan

Day	Scripture
Monday (4/20)	Genesis 37:1-36
Tuesday (4/21)	Romans 1:1-32
Wednesday (4/22)	Romans 3:1-31
Thursday (4/23)	Romans 5:1-21
Friday (4/24)	Romans 6:1-23

Daily Devotion Questions

Monday (4/20) — Genesis 37:1-36

- Review the “Respond” questions from yesterday’s message discussion guide.

Tuesday (4/21) — Romans 1:1-32

- In your own words, write down the two reasons Paul was not ashamed of the gospel (1:16-17). Are there times you are ashamed of the gospel? What prompts you to lose your boldness?
- What kind of behavior brings the wrath of God according to 1:18? What are three ways people often find themselves guilty of this sin?
- After writing about a number of sins, Paul ends the chapter saying that there is something that is just as bad as committing the sins (1:32). What is that activity that is equal to committing the sins? In what ways are you tempted to be guilty of this?
- Read Romans 1:16-17. The statement, “The righteous shall live by faith,” appears more than thirty times in the Bible in some form. What does that statement really mean?

Wednesday (4/22) — Romans 3:1-31

- Focusing on 3:20, would you say that the law is descriptive (more like a doctor’s thermometer)? Or prescriptive (more like a medicine to a sick patient)? Why?
- Suppose this letter ended with 3:20, how would you feel about yourself? About God? When did you first really sense your sin and need for God?
- What is the connection between the first half of 3:21 and the well-known statement found in 3:23? If 3:23 represents the worst news we could hear, how does 3:21 represent the best news we could hear?
- Read Romans 3:21-26. Why did God show patience/forbearance (3:25b) in the face of our sins for a while? (The answer is in 3:26.)

Thursday (4/23) — Romans 5:1-21

- In 5:3-5, while no one enjoys suffering, it produces many good qualities in our lives. Write down the three things these verses tell us that suffering produces. Talk to God about how some recent hardship in your life has changed you.
- Write down the most amazing thing about Christ’s love for us as described in 5:6-8. Thank the Lord for his special love.
- 5:19 gives us a summary of what we read in 5:15-18. So how has Adam’s sin affected all of us? How can Christ’s obedience on the cross turn that around?
- Read Romans 5:6-11. What is so amazing about Christ’s love?

Friday (4/24) — Romans 6:1-23

- In 6:12 we are told not to allow sin to reign in our lives because of what was described in 6:4-11. In one sentence, write down why sin should not reign in our lives.
- 6:13 is one of the most important instructions for living a godly life. In practical terms, what does it mean to present your body as an instrument for sin? What does it mean to present your body as an instrument for righteousness?
- In 6:21-22 we are asked what was the fruit (or the result) of sinful living and then what was the fruit of righteous living. Think back through your life and answer those questions.
- Read Romans 6:13. What are some practical ways of applying this Scripture verse to everyday life?