



Following Jesus Together

Sermon Discussion Guide for Groups

"Joseph" | The Story of Us series

**Preached by Pastor Brady Boyd
16 February 2025**

"Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so Pharaoh made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace."

A C T S 7 : 9 - 1 0 , N I V

Summary

Pastor Brady delivered a sermon about Joseph, focusing on how God can take messy beginnings and create miraculous endings. The message explored Joseph's journey from an immature 17-year-old who mishandled God's promises to a wise leader who saved nations.

Through Joseph's story, three key issues are addressed: how to handle God's promises, how to deal with temptation, and how to manage influence whenever God provides it.

Opening Prayer

"Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss your Word and the story of Joseph, we ask that you would open our hearts and minds to receive what you have for us today.

"Help us to see how your transformative power can work in our lives, just as it did in Joseph's. Guide our discussion and reveal the truths you want us to learn. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Getting Going

What's the most embarrassing mistake you made as a teenager that you can laugh about now?

Discussion Questions

Answer as many of the following questions as time and interest permit.

1. How do you typically handle the promises God has given you? Do you tend to keep them to yourself or share them with others?
2. What are some practical ways we can guard ourselves against temptation in today's digital age?
3. How has God used a past mistake or difficulty of yours to prepare you for a future opportunity?
4. What's the difference between *having influence* and *using influence wisely*?
5. How can we use our positions of influence to advance God's kingdom?

Making It Personal

This week, identify one area of influence God has given you (at work, home, or in your community) and intentionally use that influence to benefit someone else or advance God's kingdom in some way—be it consequential or fleeting.

Key Takeaways

Which of these points resonates most with you today, and why?

- God can transform our messy beginnings into miraculous endings.
- Character and integrity must be developed before God can trust us with greater responsibility.
- When facing temptation, the biblical response is to flee immediately.
- Influence should be used for the benefit of others, not personal gain.

Closing Prayer

“Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us through Joseph's life that you can use our mistakes and challenges to shape us for your purposes. Help us to be faithful in small things, to flee from temptation, and to use whatever influence you give us for your glory and the benefit of others. Give us patience as you prepare us for your purposes, and help us to maintain integrity in all we do. In Jesus' name, Amen.”

Key Passage | Genesis 41:46-49

“Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh’s presence and traveled throughout Egypt. During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully.

“Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it.

“Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure.” (NIV)

Passages for Further Study

- Genesis 37:3-4
- Genesis 39:8-10
- John 17:15-16

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