



We first met Joseph as a seventeen-year-old living in his father's house (Genesis 37). His brothers wanted to kill him but end up selling him into slavery. From there he was accused of actions he didn't commit and thrown into jail (Genesis 39). During this entire time, Joseph was under the watchful eye of the Lord. Through his life we learn that God is always working in our darkest moments. As we study these chapters of Joseph's life, we have to be intentional to not rush ahead and see what happens. Joseph teaches us to look for the hand of God in our dark moments and to be patient and allow God to shape our hearts for His glory.

1. Thinking about the first three chapters of Joseph's life that we've studied thus far, what stands out to you the most? What part of Joseph's life can you relate to and what part is extremely difficult for you to understand?
2. **Read Genesis 49:1-4a.** Joseph has learned to care for others in this waiting period. **Read John 13:34-35, Romans 12:10, 2 Corinthians 13:11, and Ephesians 4:2.** What does Scripture teach us about caring for others?
3. Some people think that God abandoned Joseph, but we read that God was close to Joseph during this time. **Read Genesis 39:2, 23.** Also **read Matthew 28:19-20** and discuss how we can know Jesus is always with us.
4. **Read Genesis 40:4a-8.** Instead of falling into the practices of a pagan culture, Joseph spoke the truth of God in prison. **Read Matthew 5:13-16.** Where is God asking you to be the light of the world to those around you? What does that require?
5. Thinking about the interpretations that Joseph gave to the men, we read that he told the truth in a difficult situation. The Bible calls us to be truth-tellers. **Read and discuss these passages: Exodus 20:16, Proverbs 12:22, and 1 John 1:6-7.**
6. The time Joseph spent in prison was a time of character building. **Briefly look at Acts 9,** focusing on **Acts 9:26-31.** Paul's life was changed, but he eventually moved home to grow his character. Where is God shaping your character?
7. When you look at the entirety of what happened in Joseph's life, does any of his mistreatment, abandonment, and disappointment remind you of situations in your own life? How did you respond? Where are you still growing?
8. Close your time in prayer. Pray for strength grow your character in the dark moments.