



For the past eight weeks we've studied various scenes in the life of Joseph. We first met him in Genesis 37 living in his father's home. Then in Genesis 39 we saw a snapshot of his life in Potiphar's home. Next, we found Joseph in a jail cell. The last part of his life was spent living in Egypt as second in command of the entire nation. As we look to the final chapters of Genesis, we see that the famine is over in Egypt, and Joseph remains in a position of power. His father Jacob passes away, and Joseph honors Jacob's request to be buried in the tomb of his father. After Jacob is gone, Joseph's brothers fear the worst and plead with their brother for their lives.

1. The subtitle of our Joseph series is, "when life doesn't go your way." All of us have experienced life not going our way. It could be a job loss, a flat tire, failing a test, or the loss of a loved one. When has life not gone your way?
2. **Read Genesis 50:1, 10, 17.** Joseph could be the poster child for life not going his way. But in all his pain, abandonment, and harassment he maintained a compassionate heart. What does Joseph teach us about remaining tender for the Lord?
3. **Read Genesis 50:4-14.** Joseph and his brothers fulfill the dying wishes of their father. A great number of people join them. Talk about what kind of influence Joseph must have had in Egypt for that many people to join him in burying his father.
4. Joseph's brothers had a tough time forgiving themselves for what they did to Joseph. **Read Genesis 50:15-21.** They are keenly aware of their past sin but struggling to find forgiveness. Do you have a past sin that continues to haunt you?
5. Joseph teaches us about living a life that is filled with grace upon grace. For some reason we are prone to struggling with accepting the grace of God in our lives. **Read these passages: Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:8, and 2 Timothy 1:9,** and discuss what it looks like to live a life filled with the grace of God.
6. **Read Genesis 50:22-26.** Joseph passes away but speaks about the coming exodus of Israel from Egypt (**see Hebrews 11:22**). Joseph's life teaches us that when life doesn't go your way, God is still at work. How have you seen this truth in your life?
7. Neal summed up Joseph's life as being in relationship with God. He also shared the following four ways we relate to God: Magic Theory, Causal Theory, Willpower Theory, or Relationship Theory. What way do you most relate to God and why?
8. Close your time in prayer.