

The God Who Is in Charge

Chapter 10

Audio Lesson: Old Testament Survey lesson 10



Objective: To learn how God uses the circumstances of our lives to prepare us for the role He has for us.



"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives."

—Genesis 50:20

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purposes."

—Romans 8:28

The story of Joseph is a wonderful story that teaches us about the providence of God. Though Joseph went through very difficult circumstances, he never lost his faith in God. Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers, falsely accused of a crime, thrown into prison, forgotten by those who promised to help him, and then years later raised to a position of high authority. God was in charge the whole time, and He used Joseph's hardships to carry out His plan. The story of Joseph shows us that there is no situation so bad that God cannot redeem it and bring good from it.



Choose one best answer unless instructed otherwise.

1. True or false? Joseph's situation was too difficult for God to handle.
2. True or false? Joseph deserved all the trouble he had.
3. True or false? God blessed Joseph for remaining faithful to Him.
4. How did Joseph's brothers react to his dream?

- a. It did not bother them.
- b. They understood God's plan.
- c. They were angry at Joseph.
- d. They honored Joseph.

5. How did God react to Joseph's dream?

- a. God honored him. God was the one who gave him the dream.
- b. God was angry, but forgave Joseph.
- c. God was angry and told the brothers to kill Joseph.
- d. God changed His plan to fit Joseph's dream.

6. What does the story of Joseph illustrate? (circle all that apply)

- a. We do not need to manipulate circumstances to get God's grace.
- b. Sometimes God loses control of our lives.
- c. God uses hard circumstances to put us in place to do His will.
- d. God is sovereign over all circumstances, even evil.

7. How would you feel if you were betrayed by your family and spent years in slavery and in prison? (circle all that apply)

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| a. angry | f. bitter |
| b. sad | g. cheerful |
| c. forgiving | h. content |
| d. resentful | i. vengeful |
| e. faithful | |

8. How would you describe Joseph's relationships with his family?

- a. ideal
- b. easy
- c. full of conflict
- d. very loving

9. Which of Joseph's relationships hindered God's plan for him?

- a. his father
- b. his brothers
- c. his master's wife in Egypt
- d. his fellow prisoners
- e. none of them



How do you respond to the adversity in your life? Explain how God might be working in it to prepare you for His purposes? _____



Thank God for the example of Joseph and pray and ask God to teach you to be grateful even the difficulties in your life. Ask God to show you what He wants you to learn from hard time and His plan for your life. Like Joseph, God wants to use you to save your family and friends from spiritual starvation. Ask God to give you grace and mercy to forgive, and the courage to share the Good News.



Going Deeper

1. What great idea did God wrap in the life of Joseph? _____

2. If we believe in the Providence of God, should we use words like fortunately or coincidentally? _____

3. If Joseph did not deserve all the things that had happened to him, what was his own perspective on why all these things had happened, after he was reunited with his brothers? (See Gen 45:5; 50:20) _____

4. How does the story of Joseph illustrate Romans 8:28, which tells us that if we love God and are called according to His plan, He will take all the things that happen to us and fit them into a pattern for good? _____

5. How does this verse and the story of Joseph teach that everything happens to us for our good if we love God and are called according to His plan? _____

6. Since we cannot hug a Spirit, what does it mean to love God in the way Paul taught, and the way Joseph loved God? _____

7. Millions of people today have been born into dysfunctional families, and millions more have experienced traumatic happenings in their lives. Perhaps you are one of them. Be encouraged to read this story of a man whose circumstances were as bad as or possibly even worse than yours. Describe the way God gave him the grace to respond to the circumstances of his life. _____
