

# Foundations Devotional

• FOR THE WEEK OF AUG 30 - SEPT 5 •

## MONDAY // GENESIS 39-40

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Joseph's brothers sold him as a slave to the Midianites, who took Joseph to Egypt where he was sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. Potiphar soon came to respect Joseph, and over time Joseph's authority in Potiphar's house increased. Unfortunately, Joseph's loyalty to Potiphar resulted in an attempted seduction by his master's wife. The short-term result was Joseph's undeserved imprisonment. Yet, in spite of this and other setbacks, Joseph knew God was with him, and the opportunity to put his God-given gift of dream interpretation to work further supported God's active presence in Joseph's life.

## TUESDAY // GENESIS 41

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In Genesis 41, God's sovereignty is on display through Joseph's story in several key ways. God prepared Joseph to interpret Pharaoh's dream and positioned him at the appropriate time to do so. God put plans in place that enabled the Egyptians and others to survive the famine. God orchestrated Joseph's rise in power. Despite the actions of people like Joseph's brothers and Potiphar's wife, God put Joseph in a position where he would be able to protect and provide for God's covenant people.

## WEDNESDAY // GENESIS 42-43

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The famine Joseph predicted from Pharaoh's dreams came to be, and its impact reached beyond Egypt even to Canaan, Joseph's homeland. In another demonstration of God's providence, Joseph's rise in power, combined with the horrific effects of the famine in Canaan, brought Joseph and his brothers together: Joseph controlled the distribution of grain for the region, and Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to buy some of that grain. Joseph's brothers did not recognize him, so he put an intricate plan for reunion in place. At the heart of Joseph's plan was a desire to see his father again and be reconciled to his brothers.

## THURSDAY // GENESIS 44-45

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Joseph's reunion with his brothers brought to light the maturity and compassion that had developed in them since their last meeting. When Joseph was sold into slavery, Judah orchestrated the events (Gen. 37). But when Benjamin was threatened with slavery, Judah offered his own life as a sacrifice in Benjamin's place because he knew the pain that losing Benjamin would cause his father (Gen. 44). With this, Joseph knew his brothers had changed, and he could hide his identity no longer. The forgiveness and compassion Joseph showed his brothers is a picture of the forgiveness and compassion God has shown us in Christ. Even though we have sinned against God, He loves us and made the ultimate sacrifice to draw us back to Himself.

## FRIDAY // GENESIS 46-47

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The same famine that brought Joseph to power also brought his family to Egypt (47:4). By moving the family to Egypt, Jacob (whom God renamed Israel) was reunited with his long lost son. Through Joseph's faithfulness to God and loyalty to Pharaoh, he was able to make a way for his family to settle in the land and escape the worst effects of the famine. Beyond that, Joseph also managed to keep Pharaoh prosperous and keep people fed during a tragic time in Egypt's history. Yet again, God used an international disaster and the faithfulness of one person to advance His purposes for His covenant people.

## WEEKEND

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Finish up any you haven't done from above!