

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.



Living The Dream

Genesis 37-45

“Welcome back to the **Those Who Dream Podcast**. I’m your host **Caleb of Canaan**, and my dream, is to help you, live your God dream. This week I was delighted to be joined by **Joseph, son of Jacob**. Whether from the book of Genesis or the Broadway Musical, I’m guessing many of you will be familiar with this man.

In our conversation we take you inside the mind of Joseph and reflect on his journey from dreamer, to slave, to prisoner, and then to second in charge of Egypt. We talk about family heartbreak, emotional reunions, and the lessons he learned on the way from dream to reality.

It really is a remarkable story so without further ado – my conversation with Joseph.”

Podcast conversation between Caleb and Joseph

Caleb: “Joseph, before we dive into your life story, I want listeners to understand who you are today. How is the Joseph who sits in front of me today, different to your younger self?”

Joseph: “Okay wow where to start! I am a changed man. Today I am humbled, God has stripped a lot of ego out of me. I am patient, I’ve learned to wait well. When you’ve been through what I have, you learn God can bring anything out of anything.

I can truly say I trust him.

I also have to say I’m a lot more emotional. I’m known to weep a lot these days.”

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.

*Caleb: “That’s why we have these *tissues*, so where does the story really begin for you? What was it like growing up in Canaan as Jacob’s favoured son, in a family full of tension?”*

Joseph: “My family was, well, complicated. My dad had a number of wives and my mum was his favourite. For a long time she was unable to conceive so although my dad had children with his other wives, he longed for one from Rachel. When I finally arrived, as his 11th son, I was the apple of his eye and naturally my 10 older brothers were jealous. Looking back I probably didn’t help things.”

Caleb: “How so?”

Joseph: “Well I loved the special relationship I had with Dad so I used to tell on them. They didn’t like that. But the biggest thing was my dreams. When I was 17, I had these two intense dreams about my brothers, and even my parents bowing down to me.

I have to admit, I loved these dreams, maybe they went to my head a bit and I just couldn’t keep them to myself so I shared them with the whole family. My brothers really didn’t like me after that. They took to calling me the “dreamer” but not in a nice way - in a deeply resentful way. And as people know this all led to them selling me into slavery.”

Caleb: “Families can be complicated right? Take us to that day in the field - In the pit, before you were sold, what happened to your sense of destiny? Did the dream feel like a lie?”

Joseph: “Caleb that was the lowest moment of my life. I knew they didn’t like me but I always thought they would come round, that was part of why I loved the dreams. In that pit, as they discussed what to do with me, I lost all hope. Dreams died. Sold for 20 shekels of silver – that was the price they put on me. And what I tried not to think about was how my dad would cope. I still try not to think about that too much.

Caleb: “You ended up a slave in Potiphar’s house. No position, no power, no promise—yet you thrived. How did you stop bitterness from shaping your identity?”

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.

Joseph: “Look this is really hard to explain. In that place, in a new way, I just knew that the Lord was with me. From early on at Potiphar’s everything I touched seemed blessed. He promoted me quickly and began to trust me completely.

Despite the situation I was in. A slave in a foreign land – I knew God was with me.

Being so isolated forced me to rely on God. I was away from the scorn of my brothers, the preferential treatment of my father, and I started to find my value for the first time in Yahweh. And He started to **form me through the waiting.**”

Caleb: “Things seemed to be coming together for you but then in another shocking turn of events, you end up in prison for a crime you didn’t commit. Prison can break people – but it didn’t break you. How did you overcome what would have broken most people?”

Joseph: “Again, this is hard to explain but it will make sense to those who have experienced it. I just knew, experientially, that the Lord was with me. If you looked at my situation, it was a peace that didn’t make sense. A deep and true peace. The peace and assurance of his presence, his goodness, and his faithfulness. Peace that is circumstantial is always vulnerable to change. The peace of God is secure.

And again, even in prison, God gave me success. I should say however, that I also worked hard. Sometimes people hear about my story and get the impression I kind of sat back and let it all happen.

God blessed me and gave me strength - but it still took resolve. It took daily choices to seek him. To focus on what I could control and not what I couldn’t. To focus on the **how question, not the why question.**

Caleb: “Explain that.”

Joseph: “A why person asks: “why is this happening to me God?” “Why me?” “Why this?” “Why now?”

A how person asks: “how can I serve you in this God?”

Most of us start as why people - I definitely started there, but in the waiting I was formed into a how person. Also in my experience, God prefers to answer the how questions.”

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.

Caleb: “That’s gold. I bet our listeners are wondering if they’re a why or a how person right now! But let’s come back to dreams. You had a dream given by God... yet in prison you interpreted other people’s dreams while yours continued to seem forgotten. That just seems cruel – how did you deal with that?”

Joseph: “Yeah two fellow prisoners had dreams and God gave me the interpretations. Their dreams came to pass in 3 days, while I continued to languish in prison. I won’t lie it was a challenge, but God had formed me by then to a point where I could deal with the waiting. My younger self would not have managed because it was all about me. I wanted the attention, the praise, the power. And I wanted it yesterday.

I hate to think what kind of ruler of Egypt I would have been if I’d have gone straight from spoilt son to second in command...

But through my trials God was stripping me of my ego, my selfish ambition, my impatience. You can actually see I was growing in humility in this part of the Genesis account, I am constantly reminding people that *God* is interpreting their dreams, not me. I’m quite proud of that now.”

Caleb: “2 years after interpreting their dreams, you interpret – sorry God interprets through you – Pharaoh’s dream. This is really what catapults you into the big time. The son whose technicolour dream coat was once torn from him – is now clothed in Egypt’s finest robes and rings - and becomes arguably the second most powerful person in the world at the time. It sounds like a dream come true. Was it?”

Joseph: “Yes and no. Honestly, I don’t know if dreams ever come true in this life.”

Caleb: “That’s a big call! remember this podcast is called those who dream! What do you mean?”

Joseph: “What I mean is the reality of a dream – in my experience, is very different to the original dream. When I dreamed as a teenager it didn’t include betrayal and separation from my family, slavery, false imprisonment, and decades of waiting. I just dreamed of the final picture with a strong dose of romanticism.

The reality feels different.

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.

And anyway, I had still not reached the moment I had dreamed of. I was second in charge of Egypt and it was exciting, I had a strong sense of purpose, and I was able to use the gifts God had given me and the character he had developed in me... but what I most deeply desired was reconciliation with my family.”

Caleb: “Yes and that did finally happen. I feel like waiting has been a theme of this conversation - could you clarify how long you waited before your dream became reality?”

Joseph: “Well I was 17 when I had the dream and my brothers sold me into slavery. I spent my late teens and all my twenties either as a slave or in jail. I was 30 when Pharaoh hired me. So there’s 13 years. And then I was second in command of Egypt for 9 years, 7 of plenty, 2 of famine – by the time my brothers appeared in Egypt.

So, all up, **22 years between dream and reality.**

Caleb: “Wow! And at that point your brothers, who sold you into slavery, who you haven’t seen for 22 years, show up in Egypt... they don’t recognise you – but you recognise them. In the process they bow down to you, fulfilling the dream, and eventually you reveal yourself to them, and embrace them and everyone sheds a few tears – It’s such a powerful reunion. Walk us into that moment. What was happening inside you?”

Joseph: “I had to work really hard to control my emotions. And honestly, I’m doing the same thing now... It’s just... I had waited for this moment for so long...

You know when you imagine a scenario over and over again, everyday rehearsing what you would say if you ever met them again, how it would feel, what it would be like, I’d spent decades dreaming of this.. then the moment actually comes, it was too much...

I dragged it out a bit, sending them back and forth to my Dad, buying myself some time to process. Plus I desperately wanted to see Benjamin, my only full-brother, so I had them bring him back.

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.

When they brought him back and I met them at my place it was really building up. A couple of times I snuck off to a private room to breakdown. I knew I couldn't hold the emotion much longer.

Eventually I couldn't take it anymore. I shouted: "Leave us alone!"

...and once it was just the 12 of us, I said... "It's me... it's Joseph."

And I forgave them.

We wept so loudly the Egyptians wondered what on earth was happening – I got a few weird looks that evening!

When I said about the reality being different to the dream – it's not just different, it's better. Nothing could have prepared me for the healing of this moment of forgiveness. In my dream my brothers bowed down to me. All I saw was the power I had over them.

When the dream came to pass, what mattered was the relationship, and how the power enabled me to serve them, God, and the world.

When my brothers went home and told Dad I was still alive. His long lost son. 22 years he thought I was dead. It's written that his spirit was revived. I love that phrase, his spirit was revived. That's the power of a God dream."

Caleb: "Wow. It's been such a joy to talk with you Joseph. I'm taking away so much from our time together:

- *about how **dreams can take a long, long time to come to pass,***
- *about being **how people not why people,***
- *and that **in the process of waiting God does some of his most important work in us, perhaps the work that is needed, before he can work through us in the way he has planned.***

I'd love to give you the final word. Is there anything else you'd like to add?"

Joseph: "Yes. Now I can see the full picture, I realise I wasn't the only son who was betrayed by his own people, falsely accused, and sold for pieces of silver.

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.

Although what I experienced was unfair, I was far from perfect. One of my descendants, Jesus, however, was perfect.

What I experienced ultimately enabled God to save many lives by positioning me in Egypt during the famine. What was intended for evil in my life, God turned for good.

If you think my story is great – how much more the story of Jesus! What was intended to kill him, the greatest evil and injustice, God used for the greatest act of good the world has ever seen, and through it saved eternal lives.

I was given dreams, Jesus fulfils them.

When he comes again, all our dreams will come true at once.

Then we will finally live the dream.”

Caleb: “I can’t think of a better way to finish. Joseph thanks again for your time today.”

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.



Reflecting on Sunday 7th December 2025: Last week Holly talked about staying awake and aware of God in our daily lives. As you reflect on the week that was, when were you most present to God? When were you most absent to God?

These questions help you think more about this message. We hope they might be a conduit for conversation and reflection, encouraging us to wrestle with how this message might practically work itself out in our lives.

1. What stood out to you most about Joseph's story?
2. **Dreams:** What was one dream you had as a young person? Might there be something of God in it for you still?
3. **Waiting Well:** What's one thing you are waiting for currently? What are you learning in this season of waiting?
4. **Formation:** Joseph changed a lot as person from who he was at 17. When you think back on your teenage self, in what ways have you grown since then?

If you'd like to chat with someone about your spiritual journey or anything else going on in your life, please contact us at care@windsorpark.org.nz; we're better together and no perfect people are allowed.

Text of a first-person narrative sermon delivered by Aidan Wivell and Caleb Finlayson for Windsor Park Baptist Church on Sunday 14th December 2025. The written text may vary from the spoken/video version due to time and flexibility reasons.



Below are some further resources that may take the message further and deeper and enable you to explore other viewpoints on the same theme. We also encourage you to engage with the preacher if there are further questions you have or if you'd like clarification on anything. Email info@windsorpark.org.nz and we'll direct your query to the appropriate person.

1. Read Joseph's full story from **Genesis chapter 37-45**.
2. Author John Mark Comer has written a **short e-book** on Joseph and dreams, which informed much of this narrative.
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58431a7603596e3099e87531/t/60b83109724a9d3ed790ccee/1622683961986/Different%2C+Harder%2C+Longer%2C+Better+-+Waiting+well+for+your+dreams+to+come+to+pass>
3. Does God still speak to us through dreams? Have a read of this short article if you're interested and you could even try journaling your dreams this week!
<https://thirst.sg/does-god-still-speak-to-us-through-dreams/>