

The Story of Joseph

“When Integrity Costs You”

South Sub Church | June 21, 2026 | Devotionals from Genesis 39

Day 1

God Is With You in Unfamiliar Places

Read: Genesis 39:1–6

Joseph’s life had completely changed. He had been betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, and taken far from home into Egypt. Yet in the middle of all that loss, Genesis 39 repeatedly says something powerful: “The Lord was with Joseph.”

Joseph’s circumstances were painful, but God’s presence had not left him.

That truth matters because many people assume God is closest during comfortable seasons. But often we become most aware of God in unfamiliar, difficult places.

Joseph did not choose Egypt. He did not choose slavery. Yet even there, God was still working.

Many of us know what it feels like to enter seasons we never planned—a difficult transition, a disappointing diagnosis, a broken relationship, a job change, or uncertainty about the future.

Genesis 39 reminds us that God’s presence is not limited by our circumstances.

Notice that Joseph did not become bitter or passive. Even in hardship, he worked faithfully. He served with integrity where God had placed him.

Faithfulness in difficult seasons often becomes a testimony to others. Potiphar noticed something different about Joseph’s life because God’s presence shaped the way Joseph lived.

Sometimes we spend so much energy trying to escape difficult seasons that we miss how God wants to meet us within them.

You may not be where you hoped to be in life right now, but God is still with you there.

Reflection Questions:

- Where in my life do I feel disappointed or displaced?
- How have I experienced God’s presence during difficult seasons?
- What would faithfulness look like in my current situation?

Prayer: Lord, thank You that Your presence is not limited by my circumstances. Help me trust that You are with me even in difficult seasons. Teach me to live faithfully wherever You have placed me. Amen.

Day 2

Integrity When Nobody Is Watching

Read: Genesis 39:6–12

Joseph found himself in a difficult situation when Potiphar’s wife repeatedly tempted him. Joseph could have justified giving in. He was far from home, alone, mistreated, and likely discouraged. Yet Joseph refused.

His response reveals deep integrity.

Integrity is who we are when nobody else sees.

In a culture that often normalizes compromise, Joseph chose faithfulness instead. He recognized that sin is never merely private—it affects our relationship with God and others.

Joseph’s words are striking: “How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?”

He understood that honoring God mattered more than immediate pleasure or personal comfort.

Temptation often becomes strongest in seasons of loneliness, frustration, exhaustion, or disappointment. That is why spiritual integrity is not built in one dramatic moment. It is formed through daily dependence on God.

Joseph also teaches us something important: sometimes obedience costs us something.

Running from temptation did not immediately improve Joseph's circumstances. In fact, it led to false accusations and prison. But temporary consequences are never greater than long-term faithfulness.

God cares deeply about the condition of our hearts.

Integrity may not always be rewarded immediately by people, but it always matters to God.

Reflection Questions:

- Where am I most tempted to compromise?
- What habits help strengthen my integrity?
- Am I more concerned with pleasing people or honoring God?

Prayer: Father, strengthen my heart to choose integrity. Help me resist temptation and honor You in both public and private moments. Teach me to value faithfulness more than comfort or approval. Amen.

Day 3

Faithful Even When Life Feels Unfair

Read: Genesis 39:13–20

After doing the right thing, Joseph was falsely accused and thrown into prison.

That reality can feel frustrating because we expect obedience to lead to easier outcomes. Yet Joseph's story reminds us that doing what is right does not always protect us from hardship.

Sometimes life feels unfair.

We may try to honor God and still experience disappointment, rejection, misunderstanding, or pain. Those moments can tempt us toward discouragement or cynicism.

Joseph had every reason to become bitter. He had already been betrayed by his brothers, and now he was punished for his integrity.

Yet nowhere in this chapter do we see Joseph turning away from God.

One of the deepest tests of faith is continuing to trust God when obedience seems costly.

It is easy to trust God when life is going well. It is much harder to trust Him when circumstances seem undeserved.

But God's faithfulness is not measured by our comfort.

Even in prison, God had not abandoned Joseph.

Many times, we cannot see what God is doing in painful seasons until much later. What feels like a setback may actually become part of God's preparation.

God is still present even when life feels unfair.

Reflection Questions:

- Have I become discouraged because life feels unfair?
- How do I respond when obedience becomes difficult?
- What would it look like to trust God even without immediate answers?

Prayer: God, help me trust You when life feels unfair. Strengthen my faith during difficult seasons and remind me that You are still working even when I cannot understand the situation. Amen.

Day 4

God's Presence in the Prison

Read: Genesis 39:20–23

Joseph's story takes another painful turn as he enters prison. Yet once again, Scripture repeats the same comforting truth: "The Lord was with him."

The prison was not where Joseph expected his life to go. Yet God's presence remained constant.

Some seasons of life feel emotionally or spiritually like prison. We feel stuck, limited, disappointed, or forgotten. We pray for change, but nothing seems to move.

Joseph's story reminds us that God is not absent in confined seasons.

In fact, some of the deepest spiritual growth happens in places where we feel hidden from everyone else.

Prison seasons can expose what we truly trust. When distractions disappear and control fades, we are invited to depend more deeply on God.

Joseph continued to serve faithfully even there. He did not allow disappointment to define his identity.

That is difficult for many of us because we often connect our worth to our success, freedom, productivity, or recognition. But Joseph's value did not disappear in prison because God's presence was still with him.

Your difficult season does not define your identity.

God is still near. He still sees you. He is still at work in ways you may not yet understand.

Reflection Questions:

- Where do I feel stuck or discouraged right now?
- How might God be shaping my character in this season?
- Am I allowing circumstances to define my identity?

Prayer: Lord, thank You that You stay with me even in difficult seasons. Help me trust Your presence when I feel stuck, forgotten, or discouraged. Teach me to find my identity in You alone. Amen.

Day 5

Faithfulness Before Fulfillment

Read: Genesis 39

Genesis 39 is filled with ups and downs. Joseph succeeds in Potiphar's house, then loses everything. He honors God, then lands in prison. Yet through every moment, Joseph continues walking faithfully.

One of the most important lessons in Joseph's life is this: God often develops character before fulfillment.

Joseph had dreams from God in Genesis 37, but Genesis 39 shows the long process between promise and fulfillment.

We often want God's promises without God's process.

But God uses waiting seasons to shape humility, endurance, wisdom, and dependence.

Joseph's story challenges the idea that success means comfort or immediate results. From the outside, Joseph's life looked unsuccessful for a long time. Yet spiritually, God was preparing him for something far greater.

Faithfulness is often formed long before purpose becomes visible.

This chapter also reminds us that success in God's eyes looks different from success in the world. Joseph was faithful whether he was serving in a house or sitting in a prison.

His circumstances changed, but his character remained steady.

That kind of consistency grows from trusting God deeply.

You may feel like your life is moving slower than expected or that God's promises are taking too long. But waiting

seasons are never wasted when God is involved.

God is still shaping you in the process.

Reflection Questions:

- Am I focused more on fulfillment or faithfulness?
- What might God be developing in me during this season?
- How can I remain steady even when life feels uncertain?

Prayer: Father, help me remain faithful in every season. Teach me to trust Your timing and Your process. Shape my character so that my life reflects You wherever I am. Amen.