

# The Story of Joseph

## “When Life Takes a Sudden Turn”

South Sub Church | June 14, 2026 | Devotionals from Genesis 37:12-36

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### Day 1 Faithful in Ordinary Obedience

**Read: Genesis 37:12–17**

Joseph’s father asked him to check on his brothers who were tending sheep far from home. Joseph could have complained. His brothers already disliked him, and the journey was long. But instead, Joseph simply answered, “Here I am,” and went.

This moment may seem small, but it reveals something important about Joseph’s character: he was willing to obey in ordinary moments.

Most of life is not lived in dramatic spiritual experiences. It is lived in everyday obedience—showing up, serving others, doing what is right when nobody notices.

This passage shows that faithfulness often begins in simple actions. God frequently works through ordinary moments that seem unimportant at the time.

It is a reminder that spiritual maturity is often revealed in consistency, not visibility. Many people want God to use them greatly, but overlook the quiet daily obedience that shapes character.

Joseph had no idea this trip would completely change his life.

Often, we do not realize the significance of our obedience until much later.

God can use a simple “yes” to begin something much bigger than we imagined.

#### Reflection Questions:

- Where is God asking me to be faithful in ordinary things?
- Do I overlook small acts of obedience because they seem insignificant?
- How can I say “Here I am” to God today?

**Prayer:** Lord, help me be faithful in everyday obedience. Teach me to trust that even small acts of faithfulness matter to You. Give me a willing heart that says yes to Your leading. Amen.

### Day 2 When Others Betray You

**Read: Genesis 37:18–28**

Joseph’s brothers saw him coming and decided to get rid of him. They threw him into a pit and eventually sold him into slavery.

It is difficult to imagine the pain Joseph must have felt. The people who should have protected him became the people who betrayed him.

Many people know the ache of betrayal. Sometimes the deepest wounds come from family members, friends, coworkers, or even fellow believers. Betrayal creates confusion because it breaks trust where trust should have existed.

This passage is surprisingly honest. The Bible does not ignore painful human experiences. It speaks directly into heartbreak, rejection, and injustice.

It also reminds us that suffering does not mean God has abandoned us. Joseph’s life appeared to be falling apart, but God was still working behind the scenes.

That truth matters because difficult seasons can make us question God’s presence.

Joseph could not see it yet, but the pit was not the end of the story.

Neither is your pain.

God is able to redeem even the moments that others meant for harm.

That does not erase the hurt, but it does mean suffering never has the final word.

#### **Reflection Questions:**

- Have I experienced betrayal that still affects me?
- Where am I tempted to believe God has abandoned me?
- What would it look like to trust God with my wounds?

**Prayer:** Father, You know the pain I carry. Help me trust You even when people disappoint or hurt me. Remind me that You are present in every season and able to redeem what feels broken. Amen.

### **Day 3 God Is Still Working in the Pit**

#### **Read: Genesis 37:23–24**

Joseph was stripped of his robe and thrown into an empty pit.

One moment he was walking in obedience. The next moment he was isolated, rejected, and powerless.

Life can feel that way sometimes.

There are seasons where everything changes suddenly—a diagnosis, a betrayal, a job loss, a broken relationship, a disappointment we never expected.

The pit is the place where we ask difficult questions:

“God, where are You?”

“Why is this happening?”

“Did I do something wrong?”

This story reveals an important truth: following God does not guarantee an easy life. Faith is not the absence of hardship. Sometimes faithful people still walk through painful seasons.

The pit also represents those hidden seasons where God seems silent. Yet throughout Scripture, God often does His deepest work in hidden places.

The pit became part of Joseph’s preparation.

What felt like abandonment was actually preparation for future purpose.

That does not mean the pain was easy. But it does mean God was not absent.

Sometimes God develops strength, humility, dependence, and trust in places we would never choose for ourselves.

Your current season may feel confusing, but God still works in pits.

#### **Reflection Questions:**

- What “pit” season am I currently walking through?
- How has hardship shaped my faith?
- Can I trust that God is still working even when I cannot see it?

**Prayer:** God, meet me in the hard places of life. When I feel discouraged or confused, remind me that You are still near. Give me strength to trust You in the waiting. Amen.

### **Day 4 The Cost of Silence**

#### **Read: Genesis 37:25–28**

While Joseph sat in the pit, his brothers calmly sat down to eat. Then Judah suggested selling Joseph instead of killing him.

One of the most disturbing parts of this story is how ordinary evil can look. The brothers justified their actions. Some

stayed silent. Others participated. Together, they allowed sin to grow.

This passage reminds us that silence can become participation.

There are moments when God calls us to speak up, defend others, and choose courage instead of comfort.

This story exposes something true about humanity: people often drift toward selfishness when they stop listening to their conscience.

It is also deeply convicting. It is possible to recognize something wrong and still stay passive. We may avoid conflict, stay quiet to protect ourselves, or assume someone else will act.

But following Jesus calls us toward courage and compassion.

The brothers cared more about protecting themselves than protecting Joseph.

Jesus modeled the opposite. He moved toward the hurting, defended the vulnerable, and confronted sin with truth and love.

God invites us to become people who act with integrity even when it is uncomfortable.

### **Reflection Questions:**

- Where am I tempted to stay silent instead of doing what is right?
- Is there someone I need to defend, encourage, or support?
- What would courage look like in my life right now?

**Prayer:** Lord, help me live with courage and integrity. Teach me to stand for what is right even when it is difficult. Give me compassion for others and strength to act with love. Amen.

## **Day 5 God's Story Is Bigger Than This Moment**

### **Read: Genesis 37:29–36**

By the end of Genesis 37, everything looks tragic. Joseph is gone. Jacob believes his son is dead. Grief fills the family.

If the story ended here, it would feel hopeless.

But God was still writing the story.

That truth is one of the great themes of Scripture: God's work is often hidden in the middle of the story.

We usually judge our lives by present circumstances. When things fall apart, we assume the future is ruined. But God sees the entire picture while we only see one chapter.

This passage offers hope. Even when life feels chaotic or painful, God is still active. Difficult seasons are not necessarily the end of the story.

It also reminds us to trust God's larger purposes. Joseph's suffering would eventually position him to save many lives during a famine. But nobody in Genesis 37 could see that yet.

Faith means trusting God before we understand everything He is doing.

Some of God's greatest work happens invisibly and slowly.

Maybe today your story feels unfinished, painful, or uncertain.

Take heart: God is not finished writing.

### **Reflection Questions:**

- Where am I tempted to lose hope?
- How does remembering God's bigger story change my perspective?
- What would it look like to trust God with my unfinished story?

**Prayer:** Father, thank You that my life is in Your hands. When circumstances feel discouraging, help me trust that You are still working. Teach me to hope in Your faithfulness even when I cannot yet see the outcome. Amen.