

September 20/21, 2025

"Joseph"

Pastor Jeff Manion



**Beyond the
Weekend**

SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD AS YOU READ, THINK, PRAY + ACT.

2025 Focus: 50 Key Truths

Each Friday, explore a key truth about our Christian faith and how we can live in light of this truth.

Day 1 [Genesis 37:2-11](#) | Joseph's Family

"Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him." [Genesis 37:3](#)

Joseph's family troubles begin long before his birth. Joseph is Jacob's eleventh son but the firstborn of Jacob's most-loved wife, Rachel. Jacob doesn't hide his favoritism and affection for Joseph. When Joseph receives the ornate coat, his ten older brothers, from three other women, hate him even more. The coat looks managerial, making them wonder if Jacob is putting Joseph in charge of them. Joseph's dreams about his family bowing down to him intensify their hatred. They can't say anything nice to him. It's hard to imagine any good coming from their dysfunction and jealousy.

Family can be a place to experience love and acceptance, as well as betrayal and rejection. Families can be messy and complicated by sin, like a nourishing garden that becomes choked with weeds. Sometimes, the deepest pain happens at the hands of those closest to us. This week, we will see how God can creatively use awful, ugly and tragic things to bring about beautiful and redemptive purposes. This does not mean the situations are good. We may not see God's ultimate good work in our lifetime. Joseph's story reminds us that God's creative work isn't limited to good situations and can span decades or even generations.

TODAY: Spend time journaling about a pain you have experienced from someone close to you. Bring it to God and ask him to provide his healing, help you forgive and deepen your trust in him through it.

Day 2 [Genesis 39](#) | The Detour

"The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master." [Genesis 39:2](#)

Joseph's brothers sell him into slavery for silver coins, assuming they'll never see him again. He lands in Potiphar's household—a situation he didn't ask for, wasn't his fault and didn't create. But the Lord was with Joseph in his detour. God blesses Joseph's work even in this unwanted space. Joseph doesn't check out or numb out. Instead, he stays fully present to the Lord's presence and work. When wrongly accused and thrown in prison, the Lord is still with him. For thirteen years, from age seventeen to thirty, Joseph's life seems to be getting burned out. Yet Joseph is present in his detour, fully bringing himself to each situation.

In the waiting, God is working. We might find ourselves in painful places we never wanted—a devastating relationship loss, caring for a difficult aging parent, caregiving for a child with unique needs or feeling stuck in an under-appreciated job. It's tempting to quit long before we resign, to check out emotionally. We can trust Jesus's promise to always be with us ([Matthew 28:20](#)). Through the Holy Spirit, we have comfort and help in

whatever we face. During our trials, God will give us wisdom when we ask and will finish his good and creative work in us to bring strength and perseverance.

TODAY: Are you in a difficult situation that tempts you to check out? Turn your focus to God and his presence with you in your detour by joining Ada Bible Worship as they sing "[Be Thou My Vision](#)." Ask God to help you see him as "thy presence, my light."

Day 3 [Genesis 50:15-21](#) | The Creativity of God

"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

After twenty-two years and Jacob's death, Joseph's brothers fear his revenge. The memory of how Joseph pleaded and begged to be let go echoes in their minds. However, Joseph sees something they cannot. Through time, healing and perspective, he recognizes God's creative ability to use the awful, ugly and disastrous to bring about good no one could predict. God used unwise favoritism, venomous hatred, treachery and betrayal to position Joseph to save his entire family from famine. The place of his deepest pain becomes the place of great blessing for his family.

God is not restricted to using good materials to achieve a good end. His desire and ability to use painful situations for purposes we cannot imagine at the time is simply his way. God has a wide-angle lens that sees beyond our lifetime into future generations. We don't need to minimize our pain or sugarcoat suffering, but we can trust that God is at work in ways we don't see yet. The same creative God who worked through Joseph's story of unimaginable betrayal to bring about physical survival and spiritual rescue also works in our lives.

TODAY: Offer a prayer of trust in God in your challenging situation. Pray this prayer out loud and with open hands, "God, I didn't ask for _____. I don't like this. I don't understand this. But I trust you in this." Explore Joseph's story and God's creative work further on the [Beyond the Weekend Podcast](#). Find it wherever you listen to podcasts or on [YouTube here](#).

Day 4 [Mark 15:27-37](#) | Jesus the Greater Joseph

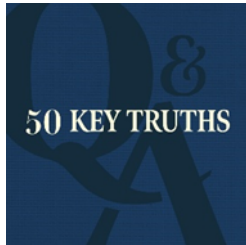
"In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself!'" Mark 15:31

Joseph's story points to the true and better Joseph—Jesus. Both were disowned by their brothers, sold for silver, thrown into a pit and elevated through what seemed like defeat. Joseph's brothers eventually bow before him, and with Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue confess he is Lord ([Philippians 2:10-11](#)). The story of the crucifixion is the story of God using the most awful, horrible and painful experience to bring about rescue. God subjected himself to this process, going through it all to bring salvation to people.

God creatively brought about spiritual rescue through vast wickedness. Jesus endured betrayal, desertion, public humiliation and a dehumanizing death on a Roman cross. God subjected himself to this—he went through that deep pain to bring us wholeness. When we respond with faith in Jesus's death and resurrection, recognizing our desperate need for him, he brings us salvation. We could never rescue ourselves, but God can and does through our faith in Jesus.

TODAY: If you have not placed your faith in Jesus, today can be the day. Tell God you believe he sent Jesus to die for your sins so you could be forgiven and invite him to be the king of your life. If you have already placed your faith in Jesus, one of the best ways to express your gratitude for what Jesus has done for you is to share

your faith with others. Join us for our [Sharing Your Faith Workshop](#) on September 28 to learn simple and natural ways to start a conversation about Jesus. [Learn more and register now.](#)



Day 5 [Ephesians 2:11-22](#) | Question 37: What is the Church?

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Answer: The church is the community of all true believers in Jesus Christ, both universal and local.

"Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household." Ephesians 2:19

The believers in Ephesus need to understand their new identity as part of God's people. They come from a vast array of backgrounds—Jews, Gentiles, slaves, free, men and women from various ethnic and cultural backgrounds. In this letter, Paul explains that all divisions have been set aside through Christ's work on the cross. God unified his people into one body: the church. All believers are now "fellow citizens with God's people" and "members of his household." The Ephesians were now part of a worldwide community of Jesus followers united through faith in Christ.

We are part of this same community of believers spanning the globe. The church is the community of all true believers everywhere—not a denomination, building or concept, but the people of God. Our local churches belong to this worldwide community, too. Through the church, God is doing something vital and powerful—something not contained in a building or program. The church is more alive than any institution and is God's mission in the world, blessing every nation on earth. It is a privilege and joy to belong to the church—the people of God.

TODAY: Thank God for making you part of his worldwide church family. Reflect on how you are connected to believers around the globe through Christ. Commit to actively participating in our local church, playing a part in God's global mission. Learn more about the church in our [We Believe document](#).