



## LIFE LESSONS FROM OLD TESTAMENT HEROES WEEK # 3 JOSEPH

Have you ever felt you lost your sunshine, were in the pit of despair, and God had forgotten you? You were not alone then; and you are not alone now! While these experiences are unavoidable, we can learn from Joseph that no matter how deep we may find ourselves in the pit, God's grace is deeper. And no matter how many pits we may encounter, there is still hope.

As we learn about Joseph, may we discover how God takes our oppositions and uses them for opportunities; our set-backs and uses them as set-ups for something beyond our wildest dreams, and how God fulfills His promises despite the series of disasters that may occur.

Faith is the key that unlocks the power of God in our lives, especially when our situations appear to be hopeless. The God who miraculously intervened in lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph; intervenes in our lives as we learn to trust Him, hold on to His promises, and remain to be faithful. God is just as determined to prove His Word is true today, as it was in the Old Testament. He has not changed.

## STARTING OVER, WHEN IT ALL FALLS APART - JOSEPH

*Genesis 37:1-5, 18-24a, 41:41-42, 50:15-20 and Romans 8:28*

Joseph was the fourth person in God's heroic plan to start the nation Israel from Abraham's family. Joseph was born to his father's second and most favorable wife, Rachel, and subsequently was Israel's favorite and given special attention. Joseph had ten older siblings, born to his father through his first wife, Leah.

Over the duration of Joseph's life, he experienced many set-backs.

- He was detested and disowned by his brothers, who sold him as a slave to an Egyptian Official.
- He was falsely accused of seducing the wife of an Egyptian Official and thrown into jail.
- He was forgotten and abandoned by two of his prison mates who promised to advocate for him once they were released.

Despite these set-backs, Joseph remained faithful to God. Yet by the grace of God, Joseph was set-up for something beyond his wildest dreams; he eventually ended up in the Palace with his siblings bowing to him in honor – just as his dream depicted. God had fulfilled His promise.

1. Joseph was detested by his brothers, falsely accused of seducing a woman, and abandoned by friends he thought he could trust. What do these stories have in common? What do they say about his character? Where was God in these set-backs? Why didn't God intercede sooner?
2. If you were Joseph, what would you have done differently? Why?
3. Read Genesis 50:20 and Romans 8:28. How might these passages help you today with oppositions and with starting over? What adjustments do you need to make in your attitude, perspective, and actions; so, to be in alignment with God's plan?