



*“God sent me before you to preserve a remnant for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. **So now it was not you who sent me here, but God;** and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt. “Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph: ‘God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children’s children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have.”*

Genesis 45:7–10

## I. The Story of Joseph

All of us start off thinking our story will be written a certain way, but it never quite goes how we had planned. We start off with dreams, but at some point reality wakes us up. Joseph takes up a lot of space in the Old Testament. His story is covered from Genesis 37 through the rest of the book. Joseph is the son of Jacob, the grandson of Isaac, and the great grandson of Abraham. What we are going to see in Joseph’s story; **he starts off with a dream but then experiences incredible disappointment, but the plan of God is revealed and the purpose of God is realized.**

*Have you ever had a plan of how you thought things were going to work out only to experience something out of your control happen that changed everything?*

**In the Bible there are two story lines. The upper story is God’s story where God fulfills his purpose and the lower story is the human characters’ story with all the complexities and details of life. God calls us to capture the upper story and its effects on our lives. The story of Joseph is a crystal clear example of the intertwining of the two story lines in the Bible.**

**Core Point:** There is a big picture of what God is doing that we seldom grasp in the middle of all the small details of our lives. Know this; God is at work in ways we will one day know as we see His plan unfold!



## II. The Big Lessons Learned in Joseph’s Story

Joseph had dreamed of greatness, of prominence. But he found himself a slave in Egypt, with his master’s wife trying to seduce him and ultimately falsely accusing him of sexual sin.

Joseph’s story isn’t being written the way he would have imagined, and this isn’t the path he would have chosen, but he is faithful to God. Genesis 39

### A. Disappointment does not justify disobedience.

In Genesis 39:2 when Joseph was a slave we read, **“The LORD was with Joseph.”** Then when Joseph is a prisoner living in a dungeon, verse 23 says, **“The LORD was with Joseph.”**

### B. You can find God in the midst of disappointment.

God helped Joseph interpret dreams, and that God-given ability eventually got him out of prison and into a position of prominence within the Egyptian government—second only to Pharaoh himself. Joseph’s brothers come to Egypt looking for food in the midst of a famine. **They come before Joseph, without knowing it’s him, and bow down** to this powerful Egyptian leader.

### C. Joseph captured the understanding of the upper story, that was why he could forgive.

**We are often in such a hurry for God to act that it is hard to see in the moment, but we can look back and it becomes clear that He was working things together for good.**

### D. We need to see God’s Big Story in our lives.

Two stories are always going on at the same time – upper story and lower story. The difference is the lower story is about all the details of life, the upper story is God’s big plan. **Recognize what God is up to and what that means to your daily life.**

### E. Never give up on God redeeming your story.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28

**Core Statement:** I choose to be faithful and resilient in the process of seeing God’s upper story for my life! I trust God and His plan and will be patient to wait on what God is bringing to pass!

