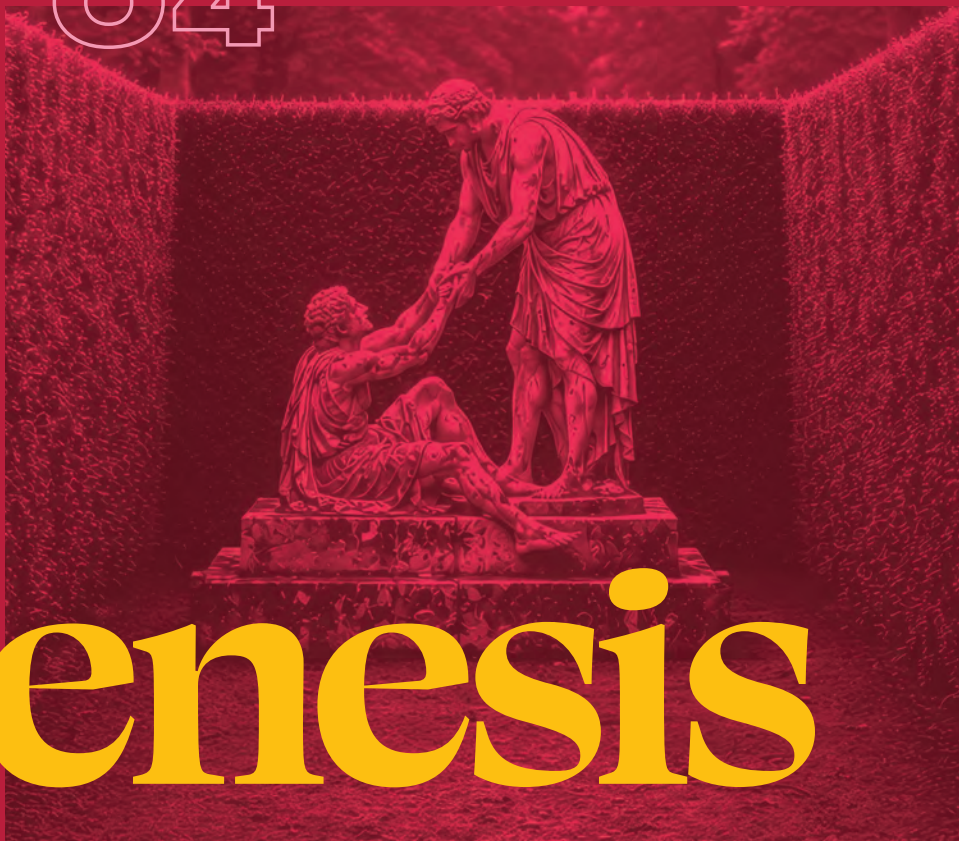


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# Genesis

**MEANT FOR GOOD**

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*When God Redeems Your Story*

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# Meant for Good

*AN INTRODUCTION TO GENESIS 12-50*

## Who Is Joseph?

**J**oseph is one of the most beloved characters in the Bible—the favored son of Jacob who endured betrayal, slavery, false accusation, and imprisonment, yet rose to become second-in-command of Egypt. His story, found in Genesis 37-50, is a powerful testament to God’s sovereignty and faithfulness even in the darkest circumstances.

## Why This Story Matters

Joseph’s life asks the question we all face when life doesn’t go as planned: *Is God really in control when everything seems to be falling apart?* Through years of suffering and injustice, Joseph discovered that God was orchestrating events for a purpose far greater than he could see. His story reminds us that our present pain can be part of God’s future plan.





## The Story We'll Follow

### *The Dreamer and His Brothers (Genesis 37)*

Joseph's story begins with dysfunction. As Jacob's favorite son, Joseph receives a special coat that broadcasts his father's preferential treatment. When Joseph shares dreams suggesting he'll rule over his brothers, their jealousy turns to hatred. In a moment of rage, they sell him into slavery and convince their father he's dead. Joseph's dreams seem shattered, and his future looks hopeless.

### *From Slave to Prisoner (Genesis 39)*

Sold into Egypt, Joseph becomes a slave in Potiphar's house. Yet even there, God

is with him, and Joseph rises to a position of trust and authority. But when Potiphar's wife falsely accuses Joseph of assault after he refuses her advances, Joseph is thrown into prison. The injustice is staggering—he does the right thing and ends up in chains. Yet, the pattern continues: wherever Joseph goes, God prospers him.

### *The Rise to Power (Genesis 41)*

After years of forgotten imprisonment, Joseph gets an unexpected opportunity. Pharaoh has troubling dreams that no one can interpret. Joseph is summoned from prison and, giving God the credit, interprets Pharaoh's dreams: seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. Impressed

by Joseph's wisdom, Pharaoh elevates him to second-in-command of Egypt to prepare the nation for the coming crisis. In one day, Joseph goes from prisoner to prime minister.

### *Reunion and Forgiveness (Genesis 42-45)*

The predicted famine drives Joseph's brothers to Egypt seeking food, bringing them face-to-face with the brother they betrayed—though they don't recognize him. Joseph tests them to see if they've changed. When they show genuine remorse and protection for their youngest brother, Benjamin, Joseph reveals his identity in an emotional scene. Rather than seeking revenge, Joseph forgives them and explains God's redemptive purpose: "...you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive..." (Genesis 50:20).

## Key Themes in This Series

### *God's Sovereignty in Suffering*

Joseph's story doesn't minimize pain or injustice, but it shows us that God is working even when we can't see it. What others meant for evil, God was weaving into His good purposes.

### *Character Through Crisis*

Every hardship Joseph faced became an opportunity to display integrity, faithfulness, and trust in God. Trials reveal and refine our character.

### *The Power of Forgiveness*

Joseph's ability to forgive his brothers wasn't about pretending the hurt didn't matter—it was about recognizing God's bigger story and choosing grace over revenge.

“

*EVERY HARDSHIP JOSEPH FACED  
BECAME AN OPPORTUNITY  
TO DISPLAY INTEGRITY,  
FAITHFULNESS, AND TRUST  
IN GOD. TRIALS REVEAL AND  
REFINE OUR CHARACTER.*

### *Providence and Purpose*

God positioned Joseph exactly where He needed him to save not just Egypt, but Joseph's own family—the very people through whom God would bring His promised blessing to all nations.

## Why This Series Matters Today

We all face times when life takes an unexpected turn for the worse. Betrayal. Injustice. Broken dreams. Unanswered prayers. In those moments, it's easy to wonder if God has forgotten us or if He's even in control.

Joseph's story assures us that God sees, God knows, and God is working—even when we can't perceive it. The same God who was with Joseph in the pit, in Potiphar's house, and in prison is with us in our darkest valleys. And the same God who elevated Joseph and used his suffering for good purposes can redeem our pain and write it into a story of grace.

As we journey through *Meant for Good*, we'll discover that our lives are more than a random series of events. We serve a God who can take what was meant to harm us and transform it into something beautiful for His glory and our good.



ELIZABETHTOWN CAMPUS

# Abby's Story

*I've always had a difficult time choosing just one career path. Over the years, I've wanted to be a police officer, an actress, a teacher, and an engineer, among other things. But I will always remember the day I fully said yes to my calling to step into full-time ministry.*



**THE FIRST TIME** I truly talked to someone about ministry—specifically missions work—was with my now-small group leader, Aleah. She was part of a missionary training school and was preparing to serve in Thailand for eight weeks. After our conversation, I remember thinking, “Wow! That’s so cool. I wish I could do something like that.” Still, I wasn’t really considering it as a career option. However, the more I reflected on it and watched videos of others serving in ministry, I began to feel a strong conviction that this was exactly what I was meant to do.

Later, during my first *High School Camp*, there was a moment when anyone who felt called into ministry was invited to stand up, be prayed over, and connect with the other campers who had also stood. With nervous excitement, I stood up—and it’s a moment I’ll never forget.

“

**THROUGHOUT THE TRIP, I JUST KEPT THINKING THAT THIS WAS WHERE I WAS MEANT TO BE, AND IT SOLIDIFIED THE CALLING I FELT TOWARD MISSIONS.**

Feeling grounded in my faith, I signed up for a youth mission trip to Poland during my sophomore year. The trip truly transformed and renewed me spiritually. I learned so many things about myself and the Lord. Throughout the trip, I just kept thinking that this was where I was meant to be, and it solidified the calling I felt toward missions.

Stepping into my calling has been a journey that I am so incredibly grateful for, and I can’t wait to see what God has for me next!



*You make known to me  
the path of life; in your  
presence there is fullness  
of joy; at your right hand  
are pleasures forevermore.*

**PSALM 16:11**



# Frankie's Story

*Growing up, I saw faith in action through my grandma who shared the love of Jesus by how she treated others.*

even though my life wasn't where I wanted it to be, I knew God was with me. Three months after entering treatment, I began helping host the weekly services and teach the classes.

Although I was in treatment, I was still facing the possibility of over a decade more in jail. Exactly six months after arriving at the facility, I went to court for my sentencing hearing. Both my spiritual life coach at the treatment center and I spoke to the judge. He said he could see a change in my life and showed me grace. In the end, I served just 30 months.

“

*GOD IS CONTINUING TO TEACH ME TO TRUST HIM EACH DAY. WHEN I SHARE THE GOSPEL WITH OTHERS, THEY MAY THINK THAT I'M HELPING THEM, BUT REALLY, THEY'RE HELPING ME.*

**I ALSO WITNESSED** that same love through a man who faithfully picked us kids up on the church bus each week. Years later, I encountered him again when he ministered at the jail where I was incarcerated.

In 2020, I moved from just knowing about Jesus to having a relationship with Him and truly seeing Him as my friend. While in jail and participating in a Bible study, I began thinking about baptism. I had always believed that if I was baptized, I would have to live a perfect life, but as I read the book of Acts, I learned that baptism is an outward expression of an inward change. In that moment, I realized I was growing in my walk with Jesus.

After struggling with addiction for years, I decided to seek help. The treatment center I entered partnered with Southeast, who hosted Sunday worship services and offered Spiritual Pathway classes. I began attending both, and

Both Ronnie and Bill from *SE Recovery* continued visiting me while I was incarcerated. Their encouragement meant a lot, constantly telling me how proud they were of my progress.

When I first began serving my sentence, I had wanted to continue teaching the Spiritual Pathways classes, but that wasn't possible. Later, after completing the Substance Abuse Program and being entrusted to serve as a trustee, I asked again. After waiting a year and a half, I was given the opportunity to help other men in the program.

Now out of jail, I am continuing to volunteer there through *SE Recovery*, teaching and soon hosting Sunday worship services. I will also soon be teaching at other treatment centers.

God is continuing to teach me to trust Him each day. When I share the Gospel with others, they may think that I'm helping them, but really, they're helping me.

*But to all who did  
receive him, who  
believed in his  
name, he gave the  
right to become  
children of God...*

**JOHN 1:12**





FRANKLIN CAMPUS

# Jonah's Story

*I was joyfully content. The previous week was Fall Break, and I had traveled with my youth group to the Appalachian Mountains of Eastern Kentucky. It was a gloriously exhausting trip. I delighted in the opportunity to help when it arose, and I appreciate the strength the Lord has given me physically to perform difficult labor. I also loved being able to grow closer to my friends and my brother during the mission trip.*



“

*I HAD TRUSTED GOD WHOLEHEARTEDLY, AND HE WAS FAITHFUL. THAT TRUST WILL FOREVER REMAIN IN ME.*

However, his state only intensified, and we quickly sprang up, realizing something was wrong. My mom checked his blood pressure, and it didn't look right. My dad said the pain felt as though an elephant was sitting on his chest. My mom grabbed her keys and drove him to the hospital.

I gathered my brother and told him that our dad may have just suffered a heart attack.

I then hopelessly called my youth minister, who dropped his lunch plans without hesitation and drove to our house. I was anxious, nervous, and deeply worried about what might happen to my family. The second my youth minister began praying over my brother and me, all of my anxiety turned into hope and trust. From that point on, I knew that no matter what happened, God would be faithful and that I could have trust in His future.

After a long 30 minutes, I received a call from my mom. The situation was entirely different from what I had feared—my dad had experienced a gallbladder attack, a non-fatal condition that can closely mimic the symptoms of a heart attack.

I had trusted God wholeheartedly, and He was faithful. That trust will forever remain in me.

**SEEING THE FRUIT** of our labor so quickly within the community we were serving was deeply rewarding, and I was deeply moved by the Lord. October 10 was my 18th birthday, and it was special being able to celebrate it on the trip.

Upon arriving home, I was swept up in a quiet feeling of contentment. It felt as though the Spirit had silenced the noise clouding my mind. That Sunday morning, I was excited for church and ready to praise God for the mild revelation I had received.

After church, my family enjoyed lunch before heading home. As we settled into the living room, my parents and I sat together on the couch. Suddenly, my father said he felt a heavy pain in his chest. My mom and I watched as he clumsily flailed about. Initially, we didn't think much of it, as my dad is known to overreact.

*For as often as you eat this bread  
and drink the cup, you proclaim  
the Lord's death until he comes.*

**1 CORINTHIANS 11:26**







# Next Steps



## Let's Connect

We're all about showing up for people one at a time. So, wherever you are in life or whatever you're walking through, you matter to us—and we'd love to get to know you.



## Find Your Crew

Groups are a great way to do life together, caring for one another as we build relationships and grow in faith. Everybody needs a crew...and yours is waiting for you! Check out our on-campus, home, and online group options.



## Celebrating Baptisms

Baptism serves as a beautiful symbol of the burial of the old self and the resurrection of new life in Christ. If you are interested in learning more about baptism, we invite you to visit the Baptism page on our website.



## Church News

From local church events to connection opportunities, there's something for everyone here at Southeast! Stay up to date weekly with Church News.

CONNECT WITH US!



IT ALL STARTS  
IN A GROUP!



LEARN MORE



LEARN MORE



## Give

In His goodness, God allows us to partner with Him by giving back a portion of what He has blessed us with, using our financial gifts to change lives for eternity. We give because Jesus gave everything.

GIVE



## Serve With Us

God has uniquely gifted each of us. While our talents may look different, each is essential in making Southeast a place known for sharing the love of Jesus. No matter our passion, there is a place for each of us to serve—including you!

I'M READY!



## Resources

Check out past sermons, dive deeper with podcasts, explore Bible plans, and more on the Resources page of our website.

EXPLORE



## MOVE

God is on the move at Southeast! See the latest updates on how we are partnering with Him in Kingdom-building work as we move **together** as one church, **forward** in our mission, and **closer** to those who need Jesus.

LET'S MOVE!



## Follow Us

Stay connected to how God is moving in and through Southeast!



@SE.CHURCH

# Events

## Pray4Camp

Real life-change happens at camp, and we'd love for you to be part of what God is doing this Summer. Join us in praying for each *Southeast Camp* by texting **Pray4Camp** to **733733** to receive specific prayer prompts and ways you can ask God to move powerfully in the lives of every camper.

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## Basic Needs Drive: School Supplies

*Collection Dates: July 13-26*

Please help local schools provide students with needed supplies as they head back to the classroom. Text **BASIC NEEDS** to **733733** for a list of needed items.

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## At the Movies

*Begins July 23/26 • 4 Weeks*

Get ready for an unforgettable sermon series where the big screen meets real life. Each week, we'll explore powerful movie moments to help us see how God is moving in our own lives. Bring a friend and join us for *At the Movies!*

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## Looking for More?

There's even more happening around Southeast!



*STAY UP TO DATE  
WITH SOUTHEAST!*

**SOUTHEAST**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**SE.CHURCH**