**Twists & Turns**

**August 2 & 3, 2025**

**Speaker: Tom Hughes**

**Opening:** [15 mins] We suggest you begin with an opening prayer and then a brief “catch up” or “icebreaker” before moving into the *scripture reflection* and *application questions*.

**Icebreaker:** Share how your summer is going? Did you take a vacation or planning to take a vacation.

**Scripture Reflection:** [20 mins] **Genesis 41:46 - 57**

**Reflection Questions:**

* What verse or verses stood out to you about this passage, and why?
* What does the passage say about God, His character/attributes?
* What is God inviting you to do in this passage?
  + Were there any commands or instructions? Were there any promises or warnings?

**Application Questions:** [40 mins](*These questions will help you and your group dig deeper into the weekend sermon. Feel free to edit or use only those which fit your allotted time.)*

**Lessons from this weekend’s message:**

**Lesson #1 – Success tests our faith as much as suffering does.**

* Do you agree that success can be as dangerous to our soul as suffering? Please expound on your answer.
* Read James 1: 16 – 17. What lesson(s) can you learn from James 1: 16 – 17 on how to handle success so that you never let success rob you of your joy in God?
* How did Joseph handle success or how did he steward success?

**Lesson #2 – Handling success God’s way requires a God-honoring plan.**

* What is your plan to handle success God’s way when it comes your way?
* Why is having a plan to wisely handle the resources that God gave you honoring to him?
* Do you have a savings plan (e.g., 10-10-80, as shared by Tom)? Note: Joseph did not start big

**Lesson #3 – Plan to use success as a God-given chance to serve others.**

* Notice in Joseph’s story that he did not build monuments to himself-he built storehouses to serve others.
  + Are you in a season of plenty? A good job? A growing business? A stable family? Are your investments doing well? If so, thank God for that – because it’s all from Him.
    - How can you steward this for God’s kingdom?
    - How can you use this platform, paycheck, or position to serve—not just yourself—but others?

**Lesson #4 – Love people and use money—don’t love money and use people.**

* + How does having an eternal perspective help you in this area?
  + How does being grounded in the promises of God help you in this area?
  + Start with your family (i.e., parents, wife and children). Invest in stories versus stuff.

**CLOSING COMMENTS:** Joseph didn’t let success change his source of strength: He still listened to God. He still served others. He still stewarded wisely.

Through Joseph, God shows us: Planning is spiritual. Discipline is powerful. Success is a test and opportunity.

**Closing & Prayer**: [15 mins] - Pray for any group prayer requests