



IN THE PITS

JOURNAL

This journal belongs to:

Dear Table Church Family,

As we enter the Lenten season, we're starting a new series to help you grow in your faith called *In the Pits*. Together, we will explore the life of Joseph. Joseph was a young man called by God, yet he faced many challenges. His journey included betrayal by his own family, false accusations, and periods of being forgotten. But in every hidden moment, God was shaping Joseph, healing his heart, building his character, and preparing him to save the very ones who wronged him.

Joseph's story reminds us that God does His deepest work in the darkest places. Joseph discovered that even when darkness was at work in his life, God's plan for good ultimately prevailed. The pit was not the end of Joseph's story, and it won't be the end of yours!

Lent invites us to slow down, pay attention, and let God do a transformative work in us. Over the next six weeks, we aim to move toward Jesus together intentionally. Spiritual growth doesn't happen by accident. Growth occurs through small, consistent steps that open our hearts to the grace of God, who is with us in every season.

Here are practical steps you can take to get the most out of the next six weeks:

1. Spend time with God daily.

Set aside time each day, no matter how brief, to read Scripture, work through this journal, pray, and listen for God's voice. Like Joseph, we learn to trust God not only when life makes sense, but especially when it doesn't!

2. Join or start a Table.

Joseph's story repeatedly shows us that God works through people. Don't go through this season alone.

Table Groups are essential for spiritual growth, fostering real conversations, and allowing Scripture to speak into daily life.

3. Celebrate God in worship each Sunday for the next six weeks.

Worship lifts our eyes from our circumstances to the God who rescues, restores, and redeems. Your presence each week encourages you and strengthens our entire Church family.

My prayer is that these next six weeks become a defining season for us. May this be a time when God meets you in the pit, strengthens your faith, and guides you toward the future He is already preparing.

Let's take the journey together!

Pastor Christy

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christy".

HOW TO MEET WITH GOD DAILY

BREAD is an acronym to guide people in reading, praying, and applying Scripture.

Be still. Read. Encounter. Apply. Devote.

This simple acronym helps us to practice listening for God's voice in Scripture. This time-tested method of meeting with God in the pages of the Bible distills the essential components of meeting with God through praying Scripture in our daily life:

Be Still: Put away your devices or any distractions and get into a comfortable but attentive position. Take a moment to let the noise of your mind settle. Become present to God and yourself, inviting the Holy Spirit to guide your time.

Read: When you're ready, read through the Scripture for that day. Read the passage again slowly. As you read, notice what stands out to you in the passage and write it down. It can be a verse, a phrase, or just a word.

Encounter: How is God being revealed to you through this passage? Meditate on what was highlighted to you by journaling through questions like:

- Where does this connect with my current life and circumstances?
- What might God want me to know about Himself, myself, or others?
- Is God revealing a lie or truth He wants me to notice and respond to?
- What else might God be saying to me?

Apply: Write down how God might want you to carry what He's saying into your day. How are you going to live out what you're reading? What truth do you need to hold onto today? What's a simple, achievable action

step you can take? How might God want to change you through this passage? Write down how you are going to apply this truth practically today.

Devote: We can't obey God without the Holy Spirit's help. Finish by writing a prayer that commits yourself to God as you live out His purpose and will.

SAMPLE BREAD: MARK 2:1-8

BE STILL (*Settle and become present to God*)

READ (*Read the passage + What part stands out?*)

"Why are you thinking these things?"

ENCOUNTER (*How is God being revealed to you?*)

Jesus is teaching in a crowded house when four guys bring their paralyzed friend down through the roof since they couldn't get in. When Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven, the religious teachers accused Him of blasphemy. Jesus called them out on what they were thinking and told the man to get up with his mat and go home. The man leaves healed.

The blindness of the teachers of the law stands out to me. They have studied the Scriptures and know about the coming Messiah, but totally miss it when He is right in front of them. The fact that He knows what they are thinking seems to go right over their heads. Jesus prioritized the forgiveness of sins over the physical healing of the paralyzed man. The four friends had blind faith, and the teachers of the law were blind to the Messiah.

APPLY (*How will I apply this?*)

I will check my "vision" often with God and ask Him to open my spiritual eyes in any area where I am blind.

God, I don't want to miss where You are at work because of being stuck in my own perception. Help me to see where I need Your perspective and respond with humility.

DEVOTE (*Finish in prayer*)

God, I don't want to miss where You are at work because of being stuck in my own perception. Help me to see where I need Your perspective and respond with humility.

ABOUT THE BIBLE READING PLAN

An important part of making the most of this series is connecting with God daily through Scripture and prayer.

Our goal in this guide is to provide resources and training so that you can hear from God through this essential part of our story as those who belong to Jesus.

What happens if I miss some days?

What happens if you miss a meal? Catch the next one! Remember, the point of reading isn't completing a plan - it's building a regular rhythm of meeting with God through Scripture and prayer.

What version of the Bible should I read?

One that you can understand. We use the New International Version (NIV) and New Living Translation (NLT) at Sunday worship, but there are many good versions. Note: Some versions are “translations” (like NIV, ESV, NASB) and some are “paraphrases” (like The Message [MSG], The Passion [TPT]). Basically, translations are “word for word” from the original languages. They are particularly good to use for study. Paraphrases are “idea for idea.” They are particularly good for devotional reading.

What if I'm not good at reading or dislike it?

Listen to the audio versions of the Bible on the YouVersion Bible app.

WEEKLY TABLE GROUPS

Following Jesus was never meant to be done alone! When we participate in groups, we can seek His guidance, direction and power together.

If you're not yet in a Table Group, we encourage you to participate for this series! Get connected to a Table Group at table.org/tables

Table Discussion Guidelines

1. Everyone shares in sentences, not paragraphs.
2. Focus only on what this passage is saying, not on other passages.
3. Share from your perspective – we won't argue or give advice.
4. Give everyone time to respond. Silence is OK.
5. The facilitator will facilitate discussion, not teach.

Table Facilitator Tips

1. Ask questions, don't teach (let Scriptures teach, not you).
2. Complete all sections, not necessarily all questions. Leave enough time for the "Go" section.
3. Pass off leadership (don't let it be dependent on you).
4. Respond to questions by asking, "What in the passage helps us answer that?" or invite everyone to weigh in.
5. Respond to distracting comments by asking, "Where is that found in this passage?" or "Let's talk about that later."

IN THE PITS

PREPARING FOR YOUR JOURNEY

ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION

The journey of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, as we confront the truth that “from dust we came, and to dust we will return.” It is a chance to repent and turn to Jesus away from our sin and brokenness.

As the curtain opens in Genesis 37:1-11, we find a family mired in interpersonal turmoil. Joseph’s dad (Jacob, who God renamed Israel) has a tendency for playing favorites. Before Joseph was even born, this dysfunction takes place with Jacob’s wives as he favored Rachel over Leah. It now continues with his children, favoring Joseph over his brothers. This sets the stage for the whirlwind of struggles that Joseph would journey through. But the person he becomes through those struggles is what makes it possible for Joseph’s dreams to become reality.

Many of the challenges we face in our lives are nothing new- the conditions are created at an early age in our family of origin. Even as we become new creatures in Christ, we find our old nature doesn’t just go away. As Pete Scazerro says, “Jesus may live in your heart, but grandpa lives in your bones.”

In Genesis 37:1-11, we learn that the conditions that create our “pit” often take shape long before we realize. We often live unaware of how these realities shape our self-perception, our interaction with others, and our everyday struggles. Lent is a time where we leave space to explore what is hidden in plain sight.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Lent is a time of reflection and repentance. For centuries, Christians have committed to making this season one of intentional space for God to work through things like prayer, fasting, reading Scripture, and meeting together with God's people. Consider what would help you "stretch" to a new level of trust in God. Our church will be walking through the journey of Joseph as we prepare our hearts for the fullness of Christ's resurrection on Easter.

1. How have I grown spiritually over the past year? What are the challenges I've overcome?

2. What are the current areas in my life where I want to see God work or seek His help?

3. Write down any ways you sense Him prompting you to intentionally engage over these 6 weeks. Share them with your Table or a friend to help you be accountable.

ASH WEDNESDAY MESSAGE NOTES

WEEK 1
THROWN IN THE PIT
GENESIS 37:12-36

Big Idea: The dreams God plants in us will last longer than our struggles.

“So much has been given to me I have not time to ponder over that which has been denied.” -Helen Keller

Life with God does not remove us from struggle- it transforms how we see it. These Scriptures help us to navigate the challenges you may be facing now or in the future.

Daily BREAD Readings

Monday - Joel 2:18-32

Tuesday - Acts 2:17-21

Wednesday - Genesis 15

Thursday - Acts 16:16-40

Friday - Philippians 4

Saturday - Psalm 37:34-40

WEEK 1 – THROWN IN THE PIT
GENESIS 37:12–36
MESSAGE NOTES

WEEK 1 – THROWN IN THE PIT
GENESIS 37:12–36
TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Table purpose statement (Can be shared at the start or before the Discovery section): This group exists for the purpose of discipleship. A disciple is someone who loves and obeys Jesus. (John 14:15) That means our focus is hearing from God and taking steps of faith. Our goal is to multiply another healthy Table. That means one day, some of you will lead a group like this!

Table Talk (1/3 of meeting)

- If you could invent something to help with a daily/weekly task, what would it be?
- **High, Low, Buffalo.** Briefly share something from your week that was good, bad, and/or weird!
- How do you hope to grow over this series?
- Prayer can feel intimidating, but we can take the pressure off by keeping it simple and honest. Open with a time of prayer, taking turns as you are led completing the sentence “Thank You, God, for _____. ” Then have someone close by asking God to open our hearts as we read the Bible.

Share Discussion Guidelines (Page 7)

Scripture Context: The opening portion of Genesis 37 shows how Joseph’s father plays favorites with Joseph, creating a dysfunctional dynamic. When Joseph shares about a dream he has where the family is all bowing down to him, his brothers don’t just get competitive, they get vindictive.

Discover what God is saying to you. (1/3 of meeting)

Big idea: The dreams God plants in us will last longer than our struggles.

Read Genesis 37:12-36

- What is the Holy Spirit highlighting to you in this story?
- With all the brokenness in this story, how do you see God at work in surprising ways?
- Share a time when God fulfilled a dream of yours, but not in the way you expected.
- What are some ways we can discern between God's dream and ours?
- Share a dream (literal or figurative) that God has planted in your heart.
 - How does this reflect God's good will for you?
 - What barriers have prevented this dream from becoming reality?

Go do it. (1/3 of meeting)

- What step can you take this week to trust God with the dreams, plans, and purposes of your life?
(Ex: Turning back to a dream that you have put off. Talking to a trusted, faithful friend to discern God's will. Forgiving someone in your past who discouraged you from this dream.)
- Break into twos or threes and pray for each other:
 - Thank God for His plan and purpose for your life.
 - Ask God to empower you to fully accept and embrace His plan for you.

WEEK 1 – THROWN IN THE PIT
GENESIS 37:12–36
GOING FURTHER DEVOTIONAL

I remember years ago when a new shopping center was being built in our area. The roadways and bridges leading to it weren't finished yet. We tried again and again to get there, but every time we thought we were close, we ended up on another hill, separated by a road or a valley we couldn't cross. We could see the destination from multiple angles, but we couldn't figure out how to get there.

That's often how it feels when we're pursuing God-given dreams. We can see them in our hearts and imagine them in our minds, but there doesn't seem to be a clear path forward.

This is exactly where Joseph finds himself in Genesis 37:12–36. God gives him a dream, and Joseph shares it with his family. Instead of celebrating or helping him move toward it, his brothers turn on him and betray him. It's difficult to read as they plot to kill him out of anger and jealousy. While a few brothers wanted to spare his life, they weren't willing to stand up to the others or put themselves on the line.

Joseph's situation couldn't be more discouraging. He has these incredible dreams about how God will use his life, yet he finds himself as far from them as possible. He's not even on a nearby hillside where he can still see the destination, he's thrown into a pit, a place of complete betrayal and darkness. As if that weren't enough, his brothers do the unthinkable and sell him into slavery.

If the story ended there, it would seem like Joseph's dreams would never come to pass.

But the story doesn't end there.

As we continue reading, we discover that God had other plans. When we're pursuing a dream or purpose God has placed inside us, we can feel just like Joseph. Our circumstances, situations, and even the people around us can seem like obstacles standing in the way of what God has promised.

Yet the same thing that was true for Joseph is true for us: God is still writing the story.

The dreams God places inside us will always outlast the struggles we face. When everything feels lost and the situation seems insurmountable, we fix our eyes on the Author of our story. Never put a period where God has placed a comma. It may feel hopeless now, but God is still writing your story.

-Pastor Brian Henry

PRAY

UP: Thank God for the dreams He has planted in you. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to focus on God's plans and trust him especially through difficult times.

IN: Pray for someone at your Table or in your life to recognize the dreams God has planted in them. Encourage them to focus on God's plans in spite of difficult circumstances.

OUT: Pray for the Holy Spirit to stir up the dreams and plans God has for those who are disconnected from Him. Pray they will sense God's Presence and experience His love, grace, and mercy.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2026
JOEL 2:18-32

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026
ACTS 2:17-21

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026
GENESIS 15

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026
ACTS 16:16–40

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2026
PHILIPPIANS 4

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026
PSALM 37:34-40

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

WEEK 2
THE PIT OF TEMPTATION
GENESIS 39

Big Idea: Temptation confronts us with the choice between a temporary comfort or an eternal reward.

“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.” -Anonymous

Scripture is one of the best defenses against the attack of the enemy. Allow these truths to empower you to choose God's way over yours.

Daily BREAD Readings

Monday - Luke 4:1-13

Tuesday - 1 Corinthians 10:1-14

Wednesday - Proverbs 2

Thursday - James 1:2-27

Friday - Galatians 5:13-26

Saturday - Psalm 119:1-18

WEEK 2 – THE PIT OF TEMPTATION
GENESIS 39
MESSAGE NOTES

WEEK 2 – THE PIT OF TEMPTATION

GENESIS 39

TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Table Talk (1/3 of meeting)

- What's the worst fashion trend you've participated in?
- What are you thankful for right now? What's been stressing you out?
- How is God speaking to you this past week (through Scripture, prayer, a conversation, etc.)?
- Spend time in worship through song.
 - Recommended: Good Plans by Red Rocks Worship.

Share Discussion Guidelines (Page 7)

Discover what God is saying to you. (1/3 of meeting)

Big idea: Temptation confronts us with the choice between a temporary comfort or an eternal reward.

Read Genesis 39

- Have someone retell the story in their own words and have others fill in any details that were missed.
- What do we learn from Joseph regarding temptation? (verses 9-13)
- Think of a temptation you are resisting right now. How could God use this to strengthen you spiritually and prepare you for the future?
- We live in a time when many of our greatest temptations are convenient and available.
 - What is the true cost to us when we cave to temptation?
 - What is the reward for honoring God in our decisions?

- When someone attacks your character, lies about you, or hurts you, the temptation is to retaliate. How do you honor God with your response?

Go do it. (*1/3 of meeting*)

- Based on our discussion, what is one step you are going to take this week?
 - Pro tip: For accountability and encouragement, have the group pair up with a “buddy” for the week who will pray for them and check in mid-week about the action step!
- Break into twos or threes and pray for each other for wisdom and faith to act on what God is calling you to do. Remember, it’s not about fancy words—keep the prayer short and honest!

WEEK 2 – THE PIT OF TEMPTATION
GENESIS 39
GOING FURTHER DEVOTIONAL

Temptation rarely shows up all at once. More often, instead, it presses in slowly, day after day, wearing us down with the illusion that a little compromise will cost us nothing. It convinces us that obedience is optional, that consequences are exaggerated, and that we can manage the outcome if we just stay in control.

Joseph faced immense temptation in Genesis 39. Far from home, he is stripped of his identity and placed in a powerful household. At this, he is confronted with a decision that is both personal and incredibly costly, not just for him, but for everyone involved.

In our text, you'll see that Potiphar's wife doesn't make one request; she makes repeated demands. Scripture tells us that the pressure increased "day after day."

Joseph refused at first. As time went on, we find that he intentionally "stayed out of her way." He didn't flirt with the line, seeing how far he could get without crossing it. He ran as far in the opposite direction as he could. Joseph understood something many of us struggle to remember: temptation always asks us to trade something eternal for something temporary.

Joseph chose obedience, and the result wasn't immediate relief. In fact, doing the right thing landed him in prison. This is where the story challenges me the greatest. I think we often assume that God's "way out" leads to ease, or even at times, reward. But 1 Corinthians 10:13 reminds us that God provides a way to endure temptation, not necessarily a way to avoid hardship. Even in prison, the text repeats a powerful truth: "the

Lord was with Joseph.” God’s faithful presence didn’t change Joseph’s circumstances overnight, but it shaped who he became.

-Jenna Bartlomain

PRAY

UP: Pray for the Father to deliver you from the evil one. (Mat 6:13) Ask God to help you turn to Him as soon as temptation arises. Clothe yourself with the armor of God by staying strong in His word. (Eph 6:10-18)

IN: Pray for a brother or sister in Christ, that God would deliver them from any areas of struggle. Use your authority given in Christ to declare their victory over temptation and to resist the enemy.

OUT: Pray that the Light of Christ will flush out the darkness in this broken world. Pray that the Spirit of God draws people toward Himself. Ask for an opportunity to put God’s goodness on display.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026
LUKE 4:1-13

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026
1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-14

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026
PROVERBS 2

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2026
JAMES 1:2-27

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2026
GALATIANS 5:13-26

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026
PSALM 119:1-18

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

WEEK 3
PURPOSE IN THE PIT
GENESIS 40

Big Idea: God uses our voice and giftings to encourage and warn others.

“Our seemingly separate lives become meaningful as we discover how truly necessary we are to each other.” -Margaret J. Wheatley

God insists on partnering with us to accomplish His purposes. Allow these passages to help you reshape how you view yourself and those around you.

Daily BREAD Readings

Monday - Ruth 1:1-18

Tuesday - Ruth 2:1-13

Wednesday - 2 Kings 4:1-7

Thursday - Acts 9:36-42

Friday - Matthew 27:57-61

Saturday - Luke 10:25-37

WEEK 3 – PURPOSE IN THE PIT
GENESIS 40
MESSAGE NOTES

WEEK 3 – PURPOSE IN THE PIT

GENESIS 40

TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Table Talk (1/3 of meeting)

- What's your favorite thing to do that's free?
- Briefly share a high and/or low from your week.
- How have you been taking steps of faith? What's your biggest challenge with that?
- Spend time in prayer through the P.R.A.Y. format:
 - **Pause:** Rest in God's presence for 2-3 minutes in silence.
 - **Rejoice:** Take turns thanking God for how you see Him at work.
 - **Ask:** What needs are there in our group and community? Ask God to meet those needs.
 - **Yield:** Have someone invite God to speak to us through Scripture so we can live it out.

Share Discussion Guidelines (Page 7)

Discover what God is saying to you. (1/3 of meeting)

Big idea: God uses our voice and giftings to encourage and warn others.

Read Genesis 40

- What is the main point of this passage to you?
- How did Joseph gain the confidence to interpret the dreams of others? (verse 8)
- Joseph noticed something was wrong with the men and pursued it (verses 6-7). Share a time when someone noticed your need and met it. How did that make you feel?
- God uses Joseph to both encourage and warn the others. How do you know when it's appropriate to

alert someone to a danger they don't see (or don't want to)?

- Based on what you know of others in this group, what gifts do you notice in them?

Go do it. (1/3 of meeting)

- God uses our voice and giftings to encourage and warn others.
 - What are some pain points you notice in the people and places you see every day?
 - Based on your life experience, gifting, and abilities, how might God be prompting you to meet those needs?
 - What step is God prompting you to take this week? Make an "I will..." statement.
- Close by worshiping God through song.
 - Recommended: Send Me by Bethel Music.

WEEK 3 – PURPOSE IN THE PIT
GENESIS 40
GOING FURTHER DEVOTIONAL

In Genesis 40, Joseph is once again in the pit. Imagine the temptation to be hopeless – first the pit where he was sold into slavery, then a glimpse of hope managing a household, and now unjustly accused of assault and abandoned in prison. In those circumstances, it's easy to give up.

But Joseph didn't. Because of his diligence, his ability, and his willingness to work, he is promoted to be in charge of the prisoners. He explores the opportunity that's available to him. It's not much, but because Joseph was faithful where he was, he once again found favor.

Then into this prison pit come two servants of Pharaoh. Rather than dismissing or ignoring them, Joseph engages with them: "Why do you look so worried today?" Once again, Joseph could have easily been self-absorbed, but instead he connected with those around him.

Even though he couldn't see it, God had positioned Joseph in a place of promotion. Imprisoned, abandoned, disheartened – but somehow just where God needed him to be to write the amazing part of Joseph's story that was still unseen.

These relationships – coupled with God's power – become the fast track to promotion that will define Joseph's legacy. But think about how amazing it is to go from desperation to destiny, and how God does that for Joseph in an instant.

What are the keys? Of course God's power is preeminent. But Joseph had a part to play as well. He explored the

opportunities that were around him, even when they didn't seem to matter all that much. But because he did, he was in the right position for what God wanted to do. And then, he had to connect with the people God put in front of him.

What might God be calling you to explore? Are there people He wants you to connect with? Are you willing to take those steps of faith and obedience, trusting that God has a purpose even in the pit?

-Pastor Dale Roddy

PRAY

UP: Thank God for the gifts and talents that He has given to you and praise Him for your many blessings and abilities. Offer them to be used for His service.

IN: Pray for the members of your church family to have open hearts to share their gifts and use their voices to act as witnesses for Jesus, encouraging others to seek a relationship with the Savior.

OUT: Be still in God's presence and ask Him to bring someone to mind who has a need that matches your spiritual gifts. Pray for an opportunity and the boldness to meet that need.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026
RUTH 1:1-18

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026
RUTH 2:1-13

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026
2 KINGS 4:1-7

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026
ACTS 9:36-42

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026
MATTHEW 27:57-61

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026
LUKE 10:25-37

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

**WEEK 4
UPWARD MOBILITY
GENESIS 41**

Big Idea: God has big plans for people the world considers small.

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” -Mother Teresa

These texts reveal a consistent theme in the Bible of God using those the world considers the last or least.

Daily BREAD Readings

Monday - 1 Samuel 17:12-50

Tuesday - 2 Corinthians 12:1-10

Wednesday - 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Thursday - Judges 6:11-40

Friday - 1 Samuel 3:1-21

Saturday - John 21:1-18

**WEEK 4 – UPWARD MOBILITY
GENESIS 41
MESSAGE NOTES**

WEEK 4 – UPWARD MOBILITY

GENESIS 41

TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Table purpose statement (Can be shared at the start or before the Discovery section): This group exists for the purpose of discipleship. A disciple is someone who loves and obeys Jesus. (John 14:15) That means our focus is hearing from God and taking steps of faith. Our goal is to multiply another healthy Table. That means one day, some of you will lead a group like this!

Table Talk (1/3 of meeting)

- What do you like most about where you live?
- **High, Low, Buffalo.** Briefly share something from your week that was good, bad, and/or weird!
- How's it going with following and fishing?
 - Following= taking steps of faith
 - Fishing= sharing Jesus' love with others
- Spend time worshipping God through song.
 - Recommended: Cornerstone by Hillsong Worship

Share Discussion Guidelines (Page 7)

Scripture Context: Pharaoh has questions after a strange dream. When he consults with his advisors, they are stumped about its meaning. This jogs the memory of the cupbearer, who made a promise to Joseph that he would remember him after his release from prison.

Discover what God is saying to you. (1/3 of meeting)

Big idea: God has big plans for people the world considers small.

Read Genesis 41:14-40

- How do you see God at work in this story?
- What do you notice about Joseph's response to Pharaoh in verses 16, 33-36?
- Joseph's trust in God throughout his difficult journey shaped his character for this moment. How is that perspective helpful for you?
- Joseph was elevated to a position of great responsibility even though he was small and insignificant in the eyes of the world. In what ways do you wrestle with feeling insignificant or powerless?
- Joseph's integrity landed him in prison, but it's also what allowed him to be trusted with great responsibility and power.
 - How have your difficulties challenged you to live with integrity?
 - What responsibilities has God entrusted to you right now?

Go do it. (1/3 of meeting)

- How do you see God at work preparing you for His purposes?
- Based on our discussion, what is one step you are going to take this week? Make an "I will" statement.
- Break into twos or threes and pray for each other. Pray for the wisdom and the courage to step into the plan that God has for you.

**WEEK 4 – UPWARD MOBILITY
GENESIS 41
GOING FURTHER DEVOTIONAL**

1 Corinthians 1:27 MSG - Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses...

Joseph had been overlooked for a long time. Not just forgotten but invisible. He was a Hebrew slave imprisoned on false charges, so he was about as insignificant as a person could be in Egyptian society. He had nothing. No connections. No credentials. No power. The world had completely looked past him.

But God hadn't.

When Pharaoh's crisis arrived, all of Egypt's wisdom crumbled and failed. The magicians, advisors, and powerful elite could not interpret the dream that haunted the king. Just then, a forgotten cupbearer remembered a small Hebrew prisoner who had helped him. And just like that, Joseph went from the pit to the palace, from prisoner to prime minister.

Why did God choose him? Joseph had nothing the world valued, but he had everything that God required: faithfulness in the unknown, integrity in hardship, and dependence cultivated through the years in the pit. The very things that the world dismissed were everything that qualified him for God's big plans.

We often measure significance by the world's standards: position, influence, and recognition. God operates differently. He sees potential for the prisoner, purpose in the pit, and power in those that everyone else has forgotten. The question isn't whether we're impressive enough for God's plans but whether we'll stay faithful in

the waiting.

Joseph's story reminds us that God's plans aren't limited by our circumstances. When we feel overlooked, invisible, or stuck, God may be positioning us for something far greater than we can imagine. Our job isn't to make ourselves be seen. It's to remain faithful while we are hidden, trusting that God's plans are always bigger than our pits.

-Pastor David Dickenson

PRAY

UP: Father, help me to recognize ways You want to use me. Show me how, when, and where to do these things, however small.

IN: Who at my Table or in my sphere of influence is feeling small and insignificant? Give me the words to pray for them.

OUT: Father, I pray our youth- from the smallest to the oldest- will see how You want to use them. Put spiritual mentors in their lives to encourage them.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026
1 SAMUEL 17:12–50

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026
2 CORINTHIANS 12:1-10

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026
1 CORINTHIANS 1:18–31

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026
JUDGES 6:11-40

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026
1 SAMUEL 3:1-21

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026
JOHN 21:1-18

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

**WEEK 5
THE BIG REVEAL
GENESIS 45**

**Big Idea: Godly character transforms
bitterness into blessing.**

*“Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing
compared to love in dreams.” -Dostoevsky*

Following Jesus tests our ability to love others in the way that Jesus did - by blessing His enemies and working for their good. Will you let Him transform you until you do the same?

Daily BREAD Readings

Monday - Genesis 45:1-11

Tuesday - 1 Peter 3:9-17

Wednesday - 1 Samuel 24:1-13

Thursday - 1 Samuel 26:1-11

Friday - Romans 12:14-21

Saturday - Matthew 5:43-48

WEEK 5 – THE BIG REVEAL
GENESIS 45
MESSAGE NOTES

WEEK 5 – THE BIG REVEAL
GENESIS 45
TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Table Talk (1/3 of meeting)

- What's your favorite food to make for other people?
- What are you thankful for? What's stressing you out?
- How are you saying "yes" to God with your life right now? OR where do you need to do that?
- Have an open time of prayer for:
 - Any needs within our group members
 - Our church family (students, parents, singles, marriages, leaders, the elderly, etc.)
 - Areas in our community (schools, first responders, businesses, neighbors, etc.)
 - *Remember, it's not about having the perfect words. Keep it short and honest!*

Share Discussion Guidelines (Page 7)

Scripture Context: In the chapters leading up to this passage, Joseph's brothers have come to Egypt seeking help for food. They don't realize the brother they betrayed is now the most powerful person next to Pharaoh. After setting a trap to test their character, Joseph reveals his identity in this emotional scene.

Discover what God is saying to you. (1/3 of meeting)

Big idea: Godly character transforms bitterness into blessing.

Read Genesis 45:1-15

- What caught your attention as you read this passage?

- Joseph holds no bitterness toward his brothers.
 - How do you think Joseph was able to forgive them?
 - What's hard about letting go of bitterness for you?
- How would you define forgiveness? What makes it healthy or unhealthy?
- Share a time when God enabled you to overcome bitterness.
- In what ways do you need to change in order to genuinely bless those who cause you harm?

Go do it. (1/3 of meeting)

- Have someone lead a prayer in response to our scripture study. Include a time of silent reflection to let the Holy Spirit bring to mind someone who has harmed you that God wants you to bless.
- *Heavenly Father, I choose to forgive _____ who harmed me. I cancel their debt to me. I release my right to bring revenge. I release them from my hands and place them into Your hands, Jesus my Just Judge. I pray right now for their blessing and their good. God, as you have forgiven me so I choose to forgive. Holy Spirit, as you have loved me, may you pursue them with Your perfect love. I pray this in the Name of God who works everything for the good of those who love Him, amen.*
- What's a way we can bless people in our community as a group? Make a plan to do that (or appoint someone to help make it happen!)

WEEK 5 – THE BIG REVEAL
GENESIS 45
GOING FURTHER DEVOTIONAL

Think of your favorite epic adventure movie. The plot of that movie roughly goes somewhat like this:

1. The main character- our hero- faces a daunting journey, with impossible challenges and opposition. Part of this opposition comes in the form of a nemesis with an evil plan.
2. After much sacrifice and daring feats, the main character overcomes said challenges.
3. Everyone's favorite part: in a moment where they seem defeated, our hero (or one of their buddies) rallies to give the bad guy what they have coming.

That last part is when we all cheer and yell “stick it to them!” Our heart soars. We feel justice has been served and evil has been thwarted.

This is not a new storyline- it's an ancient one. Many mythologies around the time that Genesis was written had the same arc. That's why the readers would be shocked reading Genesis 45.

For several chapters, we've followed the story of Joseph, who is faithful to God and has handled his challenges with sacrificial integrity. The injustice of his brothers' betrayal has hung over the whole storyline, which is why their return to the story makes us eagerly anticipate their demise.

Joseph is in the power seat. And yes, for a couple of chapters he toys with them in a way we might find satisfying.

But in the climactic moment, rather than seeing Joseph

vanquish his “enemies” we find him overcome in emotion. We are shocked when he blesses them not just with the food they’re asking for, but he takes it way further and gives them even more: a secure future. It’s even more shocking when we recognize that the hero of our story is showing us the heart and nature of God. Joseph’s story points forward to Jesus’ climactic moment on the cross. He does not merely meet our need by paying the debt of our sin- He invites us into a secure eternity with God. God is inviting those into His presence that once stood against Him.

These counterintuitive stories present us with a clear truth and a lingering question: *God blesses His enemies. Will you trust in His power and plan and do the same?*

-Pastor Jonathan Cordle

PRAY

UP: Father, I know that it's only through You that I'm able to return curses with blessings. So I ask You, Lord, to draw me into Your presence through prayer and through Your word so that when the time comes, I'm able to stand firm and glorify You by overcoming evil with good.

IN: Pray for there to be no division within the Church. Pray for the continued transformation of all those who call Jesus their Lord and Savior.

OUT: Spirit, we ask that You guide our words and our actions so that those who don't yet know You may see who You are through us. Help us, Lord, to let Your light shine on everyone that we encounter. Help us to learn to respond and not to react, so that we may reflect Your goodness and Your love.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026
GENESIS 45:1-11

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026
1 PETER 3:9-17

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026
1 SAMUEL 24:1-13

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026
1 SAMUEL 26:1-11

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026
ROMANS 12:14-21

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026
MATTHEW 5:43-48

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

**WEEK 6
SWITCHAROO
GENESIS 48**

**Big Idea: Don't chase greatness;
chase the blessing.**

“Living for God’s glory is the greatest achievement we can accomplish with our lives.” -Rick Warren

These Scriptures help retrain our sensibilities to the counterintuitive ways of Jesus.

Daily BREAD Readings

Monday - Deuteronomy 28:1-14

Tuesday - Joshua 6:1-20

Wednesday - Daniel 1:1-16

Thursday - Luke 1:26-38

Friday - Luke 5:1-11

Saturday - Philippians 2:1-11

**WEEK 6 – SWITCHAROO
GENESIS 48
MESSAGE NOTES**

WEEK 6
MAUNDY THURSDAY (THE LAST SUPPER)
TABLE GROUP GUIDE

Maundy Thursday is observed as the night before Jesus was crucified, where Jesus shared the Last Supper with the disciples. Plan a special meal to conclude with your Table to commemorate Maundy Thursday (it doesn't have to be on a Thursday).

SHARE A MEAL TOGETHER

Table Talk (1/3 of meeting)

- What is a nostalgic food that brings back memories when you have it?
- Share how you've seen God at work through this series OR share something you're thankful for.

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

- Spend time praying in gratitude, completing the sentence "Thank You, God, for _____."
- Worship God through singing together. Recommended worship songs:
 - Gratitude by Brandon Lake
 - King of Kings by Hillsong Worship
 - Trust in God by Elevation Worship

MAUNDY THURSDAY READING

Choose different readers for each part, then go through the guide. Read unhurriedly with expression.

Reader 1: Today we observe Maundy Thursday, which was the night before Jesus was crucified. Maundy Thursday was two days before the Jewish Passover.

Reader 2: Passover was instituted in the Old Testament. The people of Israel had been held captive for 400 years in Egypt, where they were slaves. Through Moses, God had sent 9 plagues to Egypt, in order to persuade the Egyptians to let the Israelites go free. But the Egyptians refused.

Reader 3: So God told Moses to prepare the Israelites for one last plague: God would kill all of the firstborn in Egypt, both people and livestock. But God would not

harm the people and livestock of Israel. After that, Egypt would let the Israelites go free, as God had promised centuries before that time. This event is called the Exodus. “Exodus” means “a going out.”

Reader 4: The story of Joseph is a prequel to the Exodus. His story doesn’t just set the stage for the events of the Exodus. It points forward to how God would deliver the Hebrews in the Exodus. Just as God delivers one faithful man (Joseph), this same God would deliver the people to whom He would establish His covenant.

Reader 5: Read Genesis 50:15-21

Reader 6: This passage is the heart of the Joseph story, which is ultimately fulfilled in Jesus. On the cross, He took the sin, death, and darkness that sin created and turned it into our salvation- the Good News that God rescues us.

How has God rescued you? (Leave space for everyone to answer.)

Reader 7: Two days before Passover, Jesus instituted Holy Communion. He thereby became the Passover Lamb who would take away the sins of the world.

Reader 8: Read Luke 22:7-23.

COMMUNION

- Serve one another the bread and juice, with the leader serving first.
- When giving the bread and juice, say “the body and blood of Christ, broken for you.”

CLOSING PRAYER

Have someone read this prayer aloud: *Jesus, You stepped into history to serve others and love the lost. As You washed Your disciples’ feet, You were present with them yet thinking of us. As we reflect on the Last Supper before You were betrayed, we are reminded of the ways You work all things for our good. We pray that we might point others toward the hope we have in You. We anticipate with joy the feast in heaven where we will see You face to face. Amen.*

**WEEK 6 – SWITCHAROO
GENESIS 48
GOING FURTHER DEVOTIONAL**

We live in a world obsessed with greatness. We want to be on top, successful, and influential. What starts as a healthy desire for excellence can turn into an unhealthy obsession with status. It's easy to get lost in the illusion of social media. Watching carefully curated experiences can lead us to unhealthy desires for the unrealistic and unattainable.

There is a certain sense of urgency or hustle when trying to achieve greatness. But pursuing God's blessing invites us to the rhythm of faithfulness. God isn't impressed with our greatness, but He blesses faithfulness.

Jesus observed, "Whoever is faithful with little is faithful with much" (Luke 16:10). In God's economy, faithfulness is the key to receiving God's blessings. Signs of faithfulness include trusting in God's plan even when we don't see immediate results, working with excellence, and leaving the outcomes and promotion up to God. Faithfulness involves surrendering to God and allowing Him to shape us more fully into His image.

Blessing exceeds success. It lasts longer than applause and brings the joy of walking in step with God. Most importantly, faithfulness brings glory to God in everything we do. We can remain faithful with what is in front of us, knowing that God sees us. Small acts of obedience on our part lead to God's great blessings, which in turn give Him great glory.

Ask God today to help you prioritize faithfulness over greatness and obedience over applause. Invite Him to teach you to trust Him in the small things, recognizing He is the One who brings the increase. And, receive His blessing that grants you peace.

-Pastor Christy Gibas

PRAY

UP: Give glory and praise to God for the many blessings He has provided for you. Thank Him for your gifts and talents that enable you to be a blessing to others. Ask Him to keep you from becoming proud and puffed up, but rather give you a humble spirit so that you will be pleasing to Him in all your ways.

IN: Pray for God to use you, your friends, your neighbors, and your church family to make a positive spiritual impact in the community by your obedience and willingness to share Christ.

OUT: We are often easily impressed by those in a position of wealth, power, or greatness. But God desires for us to be humble in heart, seek Him first, and recognize that we are nothing without Him. Pray that God will use you this week to humbly reach out to someone who would be blessed by your sacrifice.

MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2026
DEUTERONOMY 28:1-14

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2026
JOSHUA 6:1-20

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026
DANIEL 1:1-16

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026
LUKE 1:26–38

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026
LUKE 5:1-11

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2026
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

BE STILL

READ

ENCOUNTER

APPLY

DEVOTE

CLOSING REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the lessons God has highlighted to me through this series?
2. What is something significant I want to take with me going forward? What is God calling me to do or remember? How can I lean on my community to help with that?
3. Write a prayer praising God for how you've seen Him at work and asking for the Spirit's help to live out what you've learned.



The Table
CHURCH

TABLE.ORG