

LESSON 4: JOSEPH

“Soon I will die,” Joseph told his brothers, “but God will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.” (Genesis 50:24, NLT)

Genesis 50:22-26; Hebrews 11:22

When we come out of hard times or difficult seasons, we reach a place of **peace** and contentment, maybe even **celebration**. This is how life goes: valleys and mountaintops, sorrows and joy, mourning and dancing. We walk through these seasons with the **confidence** that God is **always** with us, always good, and always faithful.

Joseph reached the end of his life with complete confidence in God’s **goodness** and complete trust in His **plan**. He was even enjoying his great-great-great grandchildren! But if he had **only** experienced joy and a life of ease, I don’t think he would have that same rock-solid trust. There is something about going through the hard times that deepens our faith and trust in a way that nothing else can. We can only truly experience **deep joy** when we have also experienced the flipside of that coin: **deep sorrow**. When we try to numb ourselves from experiencing sorrow, we also limit our ability to experience joy.

Are you in a place of waiting or sorrow right now? Do your best to **embrace** it. Learn what you can from it and know that God will redeem it. We can’t always see how He does it, and sometimes we won’t know this side of heaven, but we can be assured that He will **redeem** it.

Joseph **never** lost hope in God’s promises. As a result, he was a **blessing** to others, even when he was enslaved and imprisoned. May his life inspire us to do the same!

Questions to think about:

1. What do you have to celebrate today? How do past sorrows and difficulties make your celebration even that much sweeter?
2. What are some promises in God’s Word that you can cling to during hard times that will remind you that God will bring you out of them to a place of celebration?

Memorize them, write them on index cards and carry them around with you so you can meditate on them throughout the day.