



The Pursuit of Happiness

Week 7

Day 1: Finding Purpose in Pain

Reading: Genesis 50:15-21

Devotional: Joseph's story reminds us that God can use even our most painful experiences for good. When Joseph told his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good," he demonstrated a profound trust in God's sovereign plan. Today, reflect on a difficult situation in your life. How might God be working through this challenge? Ask for the strength to see beyond your immediate circumstances and trust in God's greater purpose. Remember, like Joseph, you have the power of God's Spirit within you to overcome adversity and find meaning in your struggles.

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Day 2: Overcoming the Victim Mentality

Reading: Romans 8:28-39

Devotional: It's easy to fall into a victim mentality when life doesn't go as planned. But Paul reminds us that we are "more than conquerors through him who loved us." Just as Joseph chose to see God's hand in his trials, we too can shift our perspective from victim to victor. Today, identify an area where you've felt victimized. How can you reframe this situation in light of God's love and promises? Ask God to help you see yourself as He sees you - not as a victim, but as His beloved child with a purpose.

Day 3: God's Presence in Our Suffering

Reading: Isaiah 43:1-3

Devotional: When Joseph was in prison, forgotten and alone, God was still with him. Isaiah reminds us that even when we "pass through the waters," God is there. In your darkest moments, it may feel like God has abandoned you, but He promises to never leave nor forsake you. Today, meditate on a time when you felt God's presence in the midst of suffering. How did this experience shape your faith? Ask God to make His presence known to you, especially in times of trial.

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Day 4: From Pit to Palace - The Journey of Faith

Reading: Hebrews 11:1-6, 13-16

Devotional: Joseph's journey from the pit to the palace wasn't just about physical circumstances - it was a journey of faith. Hebrews 11 reminds us that faith is "confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Joseph held onto his God-given dreams even when his reality seemed to contradict them. What dreams or promises are you holding onto in faith? Ask God to strengthen your faith and help you persevere, even when the path ahead seems uncertain.

Day 5: Extending Grace and Forgiveness

Reading: Ephesians 4:31-32

Devotional: Perhaps the most powerful moment in Joseph's story is when he extends forgiveness to his brothers. This act of grace mirrors God's forgiveness towards us. Paul urges us to "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Is there someone in your life you need to forgive? Reflect on how God's forgiveness has impacted your life, and ask for the strength to extend that same grace to others. Remember, forgiveness is not just for the other person - it's a key to your own freedom and joy.