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The Celebration

Heroes: Joseph

We have learned…

- If God can use Joseph's dysfunctional family - then God can use you and me.
- Our identity must be like Christ - not based on our feelings, how we treat others matters.
- My circumstances can not determine my faithfulness, and does not change God's love for me.
- God is our dream giver
- Waiting doesn't mean you have done anything wrong
- How to live and walk by faith
- Storms / Seasons never last forever
- Forgiveness brings freedom

Genesis 45:24 So Joseph sent his brothers off, and as they left, he called after them, "Don't quarrel about all this along the way!" And they left Egypt and returned to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan.**26** "Joseph is still alive!" they told him. "And he is governor of all the land of Egypt!" Jacob was stunned at the news—he couldn't believe it. **27** But when they repeated to Jacob everything Joseph had told them, and when he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to carry him, their father's spirits revived. **28** Then Jacob exclaimed, "It must be true! My son Joseph is alive! I must go and see him before I die." *(NLT)*

What Should We Celebrate? #1

Celebrate: _____

Genesis 47:7 Then Joseph brought in his father, Jacob, and presented him to Pharaoh. And Jacob blessed Pharaoh. **8** "How old are you?" Pharaoh asked him. **9** Jacob replied, "I have traveled this earth for 130 hard years. But my life has been short compared to the lives of my ancestors." **10** Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh again before leaving his court. *(NLT)*

What Should We Celebrate? #2

Celebrate: _____

Matthew 25:21 "The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'" *(NLT)*

Genesis 47:29 As the time of his death drew near, Jacob called for his son Joseph and said to him, "Please do me this favor. Put your hand under my thigh and swear that you will treat me with unfailing love by honoring this last request: Do not bury me in Egypt. **30** When I die, please take my body out of Egypt and bury me with my ancestors." So Joseph promised, "I will do as you ask." *(NLT)*

Genesis 49:29 Then Jacob instructed them, "Soon I will die and join my ancestors. Bury me with my father and grandfather in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite. **30** This is the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre in Canaan, that Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as a permanent burial site. **31** There Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried. There Isaac and his wife, Rebekah, are buried. And there I buried Leah. **32** It is the plot of land and the cave that my grandfather Abraham bought from the Hittites." **33** When Jacob had finished this charge to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed, breathed his last, and joined his ancestors in death. *(NLT)*

What Should We Celebrate? #3

Celebrate: _____

Genesis 48:3 Jacob said to Joseph, "God Almighty *[El-Shaddai]* appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me. **4** He said to me, 'I will make you fruitful, and I will multiply your descendants. I will make you a multitude of nations. And I will give this land of Canaan to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.' **5** "Now I am claiming as my own sons these two boys of yours, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born here in the land of Egypt before I arrived. They will be my sons, just as Reuben and Simeon are. **6** But any children born to you in the future will be your own, and they will inherit land within the territories of their brothers Ephraim and Manasseh. *(NLT)*

Genesis 48:12 Joseph moved the boys, who were at their grandfather's knees, and he bowed with his face to the ground. **13** Then he positioned the boys in front of Jacob. With his right hand he directed Ephraim toward Jacob's left hand, and with his left hand he put Manasseh at Jacob's right hand. **14** But Jacob crossed his arms as he reached out to lay his hands on the boys' heads. He put his right hand on the head of Ephraim, though he was the younger boy, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, though he was the firstborn. *(NLT)*

What Should We Celebrate? #4

Celebrate: The _____

Genesis 49:8 "Judah, your brothers will praise you. You will grasp your enemies by the neck. All your relatives will bow before you. **9** Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him? **10** The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor. **11** He ties his foal to a grapevine, the colt of his donkey to a choice vine. He washes his clothes in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes. **12** His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk. *(NLT)*

What Should We Celebrate? #5

Celebrate: The _____

Genesis 49:8 "Judah, your brothers will praise you.

You will grasp your enemies by the neck.

All your relatives will bow before you.

9 Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?

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He washes his clothes in wine, his robes in the blood of grapes.

12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth are whiter than milk. *(NLT)*

Genesis 50:14 After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father's burial. **15** But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said. **16** So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us **17** to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. **18** Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said. **19** But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? **20** You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. **21** No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them. *(NLT)*

What Should We Celebrate? #6

Celebrate: _____

THE _____
IS NOT YOUR _____.

YOUR _____
IS YOUR _____.

Genesis 50:22 So Joseph and his brothers and their families continued to live in Egypt. Joseph lived to the age of 110. **23** He lived to see three generations of descendants of his son Ephraim, and he lived to see the birth of the children of Manasseh's son Makir, whom he claimed as his own. **24** "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." **25** Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, "When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you." **26** So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt. *(NLT)*

What Should We Celebrate? #7

Celebrate: _____

Luke 15:8 "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? **9** And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.' **10** In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents." *(NLT)*

Isaiah 45:22 Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other. *(NLT)*

1 Timothy 2:3 This is good and pleases God our Savior, **4** who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth. *(NLT)*