

## HIS STORY

- What do you think Joseph thought and felt during his journey to Egypt, especially when Potiphar purchased him? What do you believe would have been most difficult?
- When have you felt God's presence in adversity or loneliness?
- What lessons can we learn from Joseph's victory over temptation?
- Why is it important to do the right thing, regardless of the outcome?
- Imagine yourself in Joseph's position. How would you feel if the cupbearer forgot to mention you? How might Joseph's belief in God being there through the good and the bad give comfort and hope during these moments?



## Essential Doctrine

**God's Providence** | Providence refers to God's continuing work and involvement in His creation. This includes, in various degrees, God's preservation of the created order, His governance, and His care for His people (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Gen. 8:21-22). Christians believe the world, and even the cosmos itself, is contingent upon God, incapable of existing apart from Him. Christians also believe in God's personal and direct intervention in the world—as opposed to a hands-off approach to creation—that affects not only the natural order, but also the individuals and events within human history.


**Christ Connection**

Joseph's life pointed forward to Jesus. Jesus would be betrayed, handed over to captivity, stripped of His robe, and unjustly sentenced to death. But Jesus' rejection and humiliation was God's plan to save Israel and the world. Maybe it looked like God had abandoned Jesus, like His cries to the Father went unanswered, but when the grave opened on Sunday morning, it was clear Jesus was not alone. God vindicated His Son.

We get a glimpse of this plan in Joseph's life. He suffered. It seemed like he was abandoned, but God was with him and accomplishing His good plan. Joseph succeeded even in captivity, and his humiliation would eventually lead to God's exaltation to bless Israel and all nations (Gen. 12; Phil. 2).

## OUR MISSION

## HEAD



- **What is the advantage of looking at all of Joseph's trials through the big picture? How can we do the same for our own?**
- **Why is it easier to go through trials by focusing our attention on God rather than our circumstances?**

## HEART



- **Why do we assume God is there in the good times and gone in the bad?**
- **God never abandons His people. How does this bring you specific encouragement this week for something you are facing?**

## HANDS



- **Which is easier—showing kindness or becoming bitter during difficult circumstances? Which did Joseph choose? Explain.**
- **What can we learn from Joseph’s story when it comes to focusing on others instead of ourselves during moments of personal difficulty?**