

Name: _____

Date: _____

JOSEPH: FAITH IN A FOREIGN LAND

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.” (2 Corinthians 4:17)

Objectives

Knowledge of God’s Will	Joseph’s entire life was in God’s hands, and his constant faith allowed him to glorify God before many nations.
Knowledge of God	God controls the course of history. God is faithful.
Good Works	We must strive to keep our faith in a foreign land. Remain faithful to God and remember that everything is under His control, no matter what ups or downs we experience.

A. Faith in Adversity

Joseph’s most important characteristic of faith can be clearly seen in his obedience. Both with his family and as a slave, Joseph fulfilled his responsibilities and remained faithful in his duties.

1. *Joseph and his brothers:* He may have had reason to be afraid of being with his brothers, but Joseph still obediently went to see them at his father’s command.
2. *Joseph and Potiphar’s wife:* Even in a foreign land, Joseph adhered strictly to the commands of his Father in heaven.
3. *Joseph imprisoned:* We continue to see Joseph’s good nature in his care towards his fellow prisoners, and in his diligence towards all that the keeper of the prison had placed under him.
4. *Joseph before Pharaoh:* While any normal person might have sought to elevate himself before Pharaoh, Joseph refused to take any credit, giving all glory to God.

B. God’s Faithfulness to Joseph

Many forget God entirely when their lives are blessed and free of trials. But Joseph never forgot God whether in dire or blessed circumstances, and his faith did not go unanswered.

1. *Bought by Potiphar:* God blessed Potiphar’s house because of Joseph.
2. *Second in command over Egypt:* Egypt was a superpower, and Joseph effectively ran the nation. After his years of suffering, it was now clear that God had never forgotten Joseph.
3. *Joseph’s brothers come to Egypt:* Because Joseph remained faithful, eventually, God not only reunited him with his family again, but also let him spend another seventeen years with his beloved father.

C. Faithfulness that Is Clearly Seen

We can see Joseph’s faith in two characteristics: his diligent servitude, and his trust in God’s absolute sovereignty.

1. *Joseph served God wholeheartedly:* Despite his unjust situation, Joseph was industrious and trustworthy under both Potiphar and the prison guard, as well as when he was overseer over Egypt (Gen 39:5, 23; 45:7).
2. *Joseph trusted in God’s sovereignty:* While Joseph had an understanding of God in his early life, Joseph grew to have a clearer understanding of God’s sovereignty while in Egypt (Gen 40:8; 41:16, 51–52; 50:20).

Life Application

1. Faith in a Foreign Land
2. Maintaining Our Faith in God

Name: _____

Date: _____

Lesson 9 Homework Assignment

Joseph: Faith in a Foreign Land

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (2 Corinthians 4:17):

1. What does the memory verse teach us about our attitude towards suffering?
2. “But as for you, you meant _____ against me; but _____ meant it for _____, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to _____ many people alive.” (Genesis 50:20)
3. What was unique about Joseph’s attitude before Pharaoh?
4. In what two ways was Joseph’s faith clearly seen?
5. In a time of great success, did you forget God? How can you prevent this in the future?
6. Considering what we studied about Joseph’s faithfulness, how do you think you can show your own faithfulness to God while experiencing either adversity or success? Think of a memorable situation that you have experienced in the past, then write down how you can react better in the future as a child of faith.