

LESSON 2

TRIALS IN JOSEPH'S LIFE

Worksheets

- Bible Discovery Worksheet, Pages 1 and 2: Trials in Joseph's Life=
- Life Application Worksheet #1, Pages 1 and 2: Trials Are Tests of Our Faith
- Life Application Worksheet #2: Trials! Trials! Trials!
- Homework

Trials in Joseph's Life

The First Trial: Joseph and His Brothers

As you learn about the story, answer the questions in the left box, and draw your answers in the right.

Answer	Drawing
Jacob loved Joseph very much, and gave him a... <hr style="width: 20%; margin: 5px auto;"/> (Gen 37:3)	
What was Joseph's first dream? (Gen 37:6-7)	
What was Joseph's second dream? (Gen 37:9)	

Do you know how old Joseph was when all of this happened? He was only seventeen! If you were sold into slavery, you'd probably be very lonely and scared, and may even question if God is really with you or protecting you. But throughout all of this, Joseph never lost his faith in God. Let's read on and see how.

The Second Trial: Joseph and Potiphar

1. "The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a _____ man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the _____ was with him and that the LORD made all he did to _____ in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him. Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority."

2. "So it was, from the time that he had made him _____ of his house and all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for _____; and the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had in the house and in the field."

3. Potiphar's wife saw that Joseph was very handsome, and wanted to sleep with him. He said, "Look, my master does not know what is with me in the house, and he has committed all that he has to my hand. There is no one greater in this house than I, nor has he kept back anything from me but you, because you are his wife. How then can I do this _____, and _____ against God?"

4. Potiphar's wife said, "Lie with me." But Joseph left his garment in her hand, and _____ and _____ outside.

Joseph did not let go of his faith in God. He knew that everything he had been given was because of God's blessings, so he did not betray his faith. Joseph ran away from temptation! However, because of his refusal to sin, he was accused of a very, very serious crime. In fact, Potiphar would have been fully justified executing him on the spot! But instead, he threw Joseph into prison. Although it seemed like Joseph's situation just kept getting worse and worse, in truth, God was protecting and guiding Joseph for His own plans. Of course, Joseph could not have known this at the time, and he had to suffer even though he had done nothing wrong. But he still didn't lose faith in God! Let's read on and see how Joseph reacted to this new trial.

The Third Trial: Joseph Interprets Dreams

1. In prison, Joseph encountered two very troubled prisoners: the king's _____ and the king's _____.
2. "We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it." So Joseph said to them, "Do not interpretations belong to _____? Tell them to me, please."
3. "So the advice was good in the eyes of Pharaoh and in the eyes of all his servants. And Pharaoh said to his servants, 'Can we find such a one as this, a man in whom is the _____ of God?'"
4. "Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as _____ and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be _____ according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you.'"

Remember, Joseph had been sold as a mere slave upon entering Egypt, and had just come from imprisonment before meeting the Pharaoh! It was truly God's wonderful and miraculous work that allowed Joseph to rise to such an important position. He did not pretend to be very _____, but rather refused to take any credit for himself, and by doing so, _____ God.



Trials Are Tests of Our Faith

The Bible often tells us that God will protect us as long as we trust in Him. So, why do we, as Christians, still experience hardships in our lives? To discover why, read each verse below and fill in the blanks.

Acts 14:22	We must go through many hardships to _____.
Romans 12:12	It is a test of our faith and _____.
Romans 5:3	Suffering gives us the _____ to go on.

God gives us trials and tribulations so that we can overcome them and also learn from them. By having faith and relying on God, we can make it through these trials and emerge with a stronger faith. However, the Bible says that everyone deals with trials differently, and some may not even succeed in passing them.

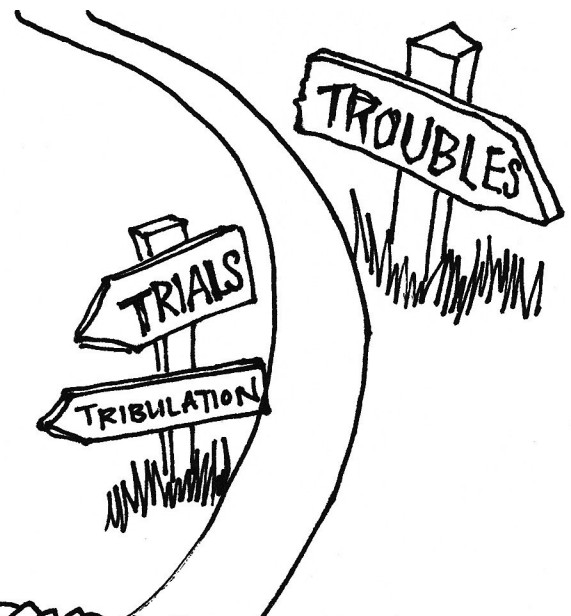
Not everyone is like Joseph, who managed to maintain a strong and firm faith in God, despite experiencing so many hardships. In fact, it's very difficult to have the same kind of faith in God that he had. **So, how do we overcome these trials and tribulations so we don't fall away?**

1. Joseph experienced extreme hatred and jealousy from his brothers.

We also may experience dislike from other people, such as our classmates, our siblings, or maybe even a brother or sister in church. This can make you feel hurt or angry. How can we deal with this trial?

Prov 19:11 – “The _____ of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to _____ a transgression.”

A patient person is slow to anger, and more willing to forgive. Joseph never got angry at Potiphar, or at the prison keeper. Moreover, he waited more than ten years before he was elevated to his high position! That must have taken a lot of patience! If we emulate Joseph's patience, we too will be blessed and eventually see God's plan for us.



2. Joseph had to serve as a slave in a foreign country, all alone with an uncertain future.

Fear is something that everyone experiences. How can we deal with this trial?

Deut 31:8 – “And the LORD, He is the One who goes _____ you. He will be with you, He will not leave nor forsake you; do not _____ nor be dismayed.”

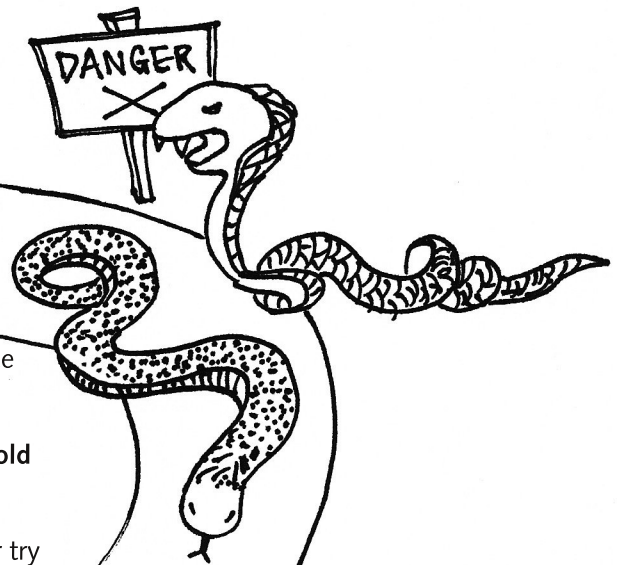
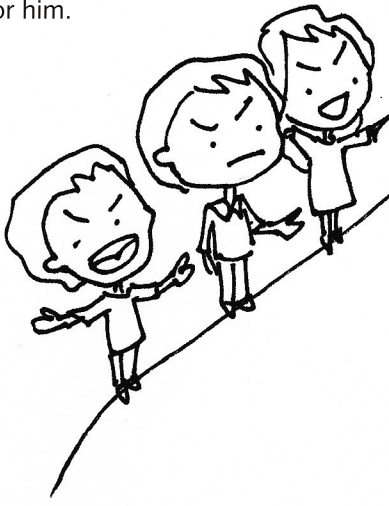
God has promised never to leave His children. Jesus repeats this promise in Matthew 28:20. As long as we put our faith in Him, no matter what fears we have, He will take care of us. And with God's power, what can anything in this world do to us?

3. Joseph was wrongfully accused, and was trapped in a prison for a crime that he did not commit.

There will be times when it feels like nothing is going right, like no one understands you, or like everyone is against you. Sometimes, it even feels like the entire world is trying to make your whole life go badly. How can we deal with this trial?

Ex 14:14 – “The Lord will _____ for you; and you shall hold your _____.”

Joseph followed this command to the letter. He did not protest, or try to fight. He obediently went to prison, even though he did not commit the crime, because he knew that God would fight for him.



4. Joseph encountered some very troubled people who had dreams that could not be interpreted. But Joseph helped them by using the wisdom God gave him.

We are not the only ones who will encounter tribulations; often, our friends may encounter trouble, or be in a tight spot and need help from us. Let's read what the Bible says about this.





Gal 6:2 – “ _____ one another's _____, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

Jesus commands us to love our brothers and sisters, and the Book of Ecclesiastes tells us that a “threefold cord is not quickly broken.” By helping each other, you build up a deep and meaningful friendship where you can support each other spiritually, and bring each other closer to God. This is the best kind of friendship that you can possibly have.

Trials! Trials! Trials!

How would you handle these trials?

Joseph went through many trials. Read the following cases and write down how you would handle each trial.

<p>1. Sister Brooke has been sick for a while. Both of her kidneys are not doing well and she is in need of a transplant. A kidney transplant is when they take the bad kidney out and replace it with a good working one. It is not always easy to find a good kidney for transplants. This requires either someone living to donate a kidney to her or one to be donated after someone passes away. But that's not all, their blood types must match, too, or else her body may reject the new kidney. In the meantime, she needs to go through a painful process that requires doctors to use a machine to clean her blood. It's a very uncomfortable process that needs to be done frequently.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> <p>If you were Brooke, how would you handle this trial?</p>	<p>2. Jaclyn and her family moved to a new city not too far away from their old home. At first, she felt like it would be okay because she'd only be 45 minutes away from her old school and church friends. However, when she started school, she had a hard time making new friends. So, on the weekdays, she would go to school, come home, do her homework, and then do it all over again the next day. She had no friends to play with after school.</p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> She thought that Sabbath days at the new church would be better because they were all brothers and sisters. But she didn't know everyone that well and most of them were really good friends with one another already. She continued to feel quite lonely for close to two months. </p> <p>If you were Jaclyn, how would you handle this trial?</p>
<p>3. Cameron had been doing a terrific job at his company. He was never late to work and he finished his work on time. His boss was very pleased with him.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> Cameron's co-worker Marty, who had worked in the company longer than Cameron, was beginning to feel jealous and didn't want Cameron to get any kind of promotion or pay raise. </p> <p style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"> Marty began to say bad things about Cameron in front of others and complained to his boss about Cameron—all in the hopes of ruining Cameron's reputation to get him fired. </p> <p>If you were Cameron, how would you handle this trial?</p>	<p>4. Harold's parents worked long hours and so they were not able to see each other much during the week. Harold's father had two jobs and would always be very tired when he got home. His mother worked a late shift, so by the time Harold got home from school, his mother had to start work. Even though Harold also lived with his two younger sisters and his grandparents, he still wished he could spend time with his parents. Sometimes, he had questions with his schoolwork or wanted to go out somewhere, but because they were not around, he could not do anything.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div> <p>If you were Harold, how would you handle this trial?</p>

E2 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 2—Trials in Joseph's Life

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. (**Psalm 28:7**)

Fill In the Blank

1. Because of Joseph's presence, God _____ Potiphar's household.
2. Potiphar gave Joseph complete _____ over _____ in his household, even the other servants.
3. In prison, Joseph encountered two very troubled prisoners. One was the king's _____, and the other was the king's _____.

Multiple Choice

4. _____ : Joseph's master put him in charge of everything in his house because _____.
 - a. God was with Joseph and gave him success in everything he did.
 - b. Joseph was the most handsome servant.
 - c. His masters were lazy.
5. _____ : The chief cupbearer and chief baker were sad one morning because _____.
 - a. Pharaoh gave the order to have them both killed.
 - b. Pharaoh had a birthday and they were not invited.
 - c. They could not understand the dream they each had.
6. _____ : When Joseph heard about the two prisoners' dreams, he said to them, _____.
 - a. "I am gifted in interpreting dreams. I will tell you what they mean."
 - b. "If you promise to get me out of here, I will interpret your dreams."
 - c. "Interpretations come from God."
7. _____ : When Pharaoh asked Joseph to interpret his dreams, Joseph _____.
 - a. Demanded freedom in exchange for his interpretation
 - b. Answered Pharaoh honestly and offered a solution to the problem
 - c. Acted wise and smart to try and get into Pharaoh's good graces

Short Answer

8. What was in Joseph's first dream?

9. What was in Joseph's second dream?

10. Why was Joseph put in prison?

11. When interpreting the dreams of the chief cupbearer, chief baker, and Pharaoh, to whom did Joseph give credit?

12. What can we learn from Joseph's trials?