

“Running With the Giants” Series

Week 01 : Joseph

Take a few moments to check in with each other as a group --

It’s been a minute since everyone got together [in-person or online, at least!]. How did everyone’s holiday and end-of-year gatherings go?

Discussion Questions:

Why do you think most people are wired to have heroes, people to look up to?

Read **Hebrews 11:1-2** together, then discuss. Faith is central to all the heroes we’ll examine during this series. As we step into a new year, on a scale of 1-10, what’s your current level of faith?

There’s a lot to cover on the life of Joseph [**Genesis 37-50**] — being daddy’s favorite [the coat of many colors]; dealing with jealous brothers; getting thrown into a pit, then sold into slavery; working with Potiphar, then being accused of misconduct by his wife; dealing with imprisonment... wow, the list goes on and on! So here’s the question — as you heard this weekend’s message, what about Joseph’s story most gripped you?

Pastor Steve said, “God’s will is more about who you are than it is about what you do or where you go.” Two questions: First, how do you see that playing out in Joseph’s life; Second, how do you see that playing out in your own life?

Have you ever been betrayed, falsely accused, or faced with severe loneliness? Joseph faced all three and more, yet maintained faith. How do you think Joseph was able to remain hopeful and faithful, and how might his example encourage us?

Read **1st Peter 1:3-9** together, then discuss. Can you think of a time in your life God used suffering or grief or trials to strengthen your faith? Please take some moments to share with each other.

If you cross-reference **Genesis 41:46** with **Genesis 37:2**, you quickly realize thirteen years have passed from the time Joseph was betrayed by his brothers to the time he became Pharaoh’s right-hand man. What practices or spiritual disciplines do you think someone would have to maintain to avoid giving up after such a long stretch of hardship?

Read **Genesis 45:1-8**, then discuss. Here it is, the moment of truth. If you had been Joseph, would you have responded this way? What is most compelling to you about the way he deals with his brothers?

A fascinating, challenging question was asked during the message — “What if God’s big plan for your life is that you wouldn’t spend so much time trying to figure out God’s big plan for your life, but instead focused on loving Him and loving others?” How did that hit you?

Wrap-Up:

Is there someone you need to forgive, as Joseph forgave his brothers? Is there discouragement you need to acknowledge, so others can encourage and pray for you? Share personal takeaways as a group, and pray for each other to take action on anything God reveals to you through this message.