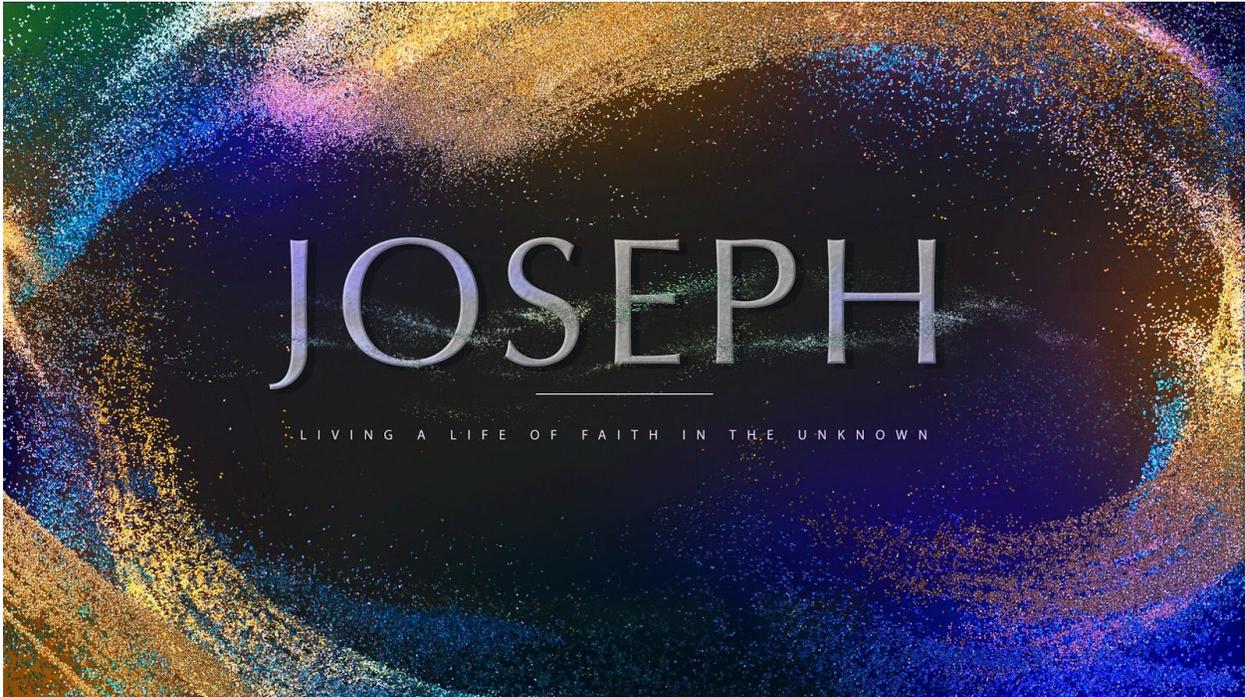


Application Questions



The Dark Unknown

Even in the dark, God is still there. Genesis 40-41 outline the tragic and unjust suffering of Joseph. Enslaved and imprisoned for thirteen years, Joseph had plenty of opportunity to give up on God. Instead of giving up, Joseph waits for God to come through.

Read Genesis 40-41

1. Has there been a time in life that you quit? What caused you to quit?
 2. In the story of Joseph, we can all agree that he had plenty of cause to give up. What do you admire the most about his character in the midst of suffering?
 3. When we believe that God is with us in our pain, it changes the circumstance. It moves from hopeless to hopeful. According to Romans 5:3-5, what is the hope in and through suffering?
 4. In the dark moments of life, how do you remind yourself the presence of God?
 5. While suffering may be out of our control, we do get to choose how we respond. What are the first excuses or reasons that come to your mind that tell you that that's not true? What's the most difficult thing for you in controlling your response to suffering? How do you pray to the Spirit for power to make wise choices through suffering?
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6. Joseph put himself “out there” again to be used by God in interpreting dreams. Even though it seemed like his first interpretations had failed, he still believed that God was not finished with him. When are you tempted to believe that God is finished with you? How do you fight that tempting thought of despair.

7. The words of C.L. Bancroft speak to despair...

When Satan tempts me to despair,
And tells me of the guilt within,
Upward I look, and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,
My sinful soul is counted free;
For God, the Just, is satisfied
To look on Him and pardon me.

How does this great truth help you in your moments of feeling that God is finished with you?

8. How can your group encourage you in your dark seasons of life?
