

# My Time with God / Session 11

## Day 1

Read Genesis 37:1-11.

- Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?

Is there someone that you think "has it all"? Do you know someone who is beautiful, talented, friendly, smart, and well liked by everyone? If we feel as though we are lacking in an area where others flourish, we may become jealous. And without realizing it, we can mistreat others because of our jealousy. Jealousy will not make us more beautiful, talented, friendly, smart, or well liked. So, let's focus on our positive attributes; we all have some. God has blessed each of us and we are unique. God has given us exactly what we need to be exactly what He intended.

## Day 2

Read Genesis 37:18-36.

- Why did Joseph's brothers want to do him harm?

Sooner or later, something that begins inwardly in our thoughts will appear outwardly in our deeds. If we harbor ill feelings toward someone, when opportunity arises, our ill will turns into ill works. That was the case with Joseph. His brothers were jealous of him; they resented him. So, when they saw an opportunity to avenge him, they did. We, too, can fall into that trap. When we are jealous of others, we must be careful not to act upon our feelings. Instead, we can pray for God to change our heart before it manifests into hurt.

## Day 3

Read Genesis 39:1-20.

- Why was Joseph thrown into prison?

Do you ever feel penalized for doing what is right? For example, you decide not to go to a party because you know that alcohol will be there. Then, because you didn't go, your peers are offended and they make fun of you and treat you as an outcast. You did the right thing, yet you are treated unjustly. That's what happened to Joseph. He did the right thing, which made Potiphar's wife mad, so she lied about Joseph, and he was thrown in jail. Take comfort in knowing that God is growing you into the person he wants you to be. Continue to do the right thing, be obedient to God, and trust that He is always with you, no matter where you are or what you are going through.

## Day 4

Read Genesis 39:21-40:15.

- How did God show Joseph favor while he was in prison?

God can show us favor wherever we are and whatever we are going through. When God's favor or blessing rests on us, we are given the power not only to endure but also to flourish even in the face of adversity. God's favor upon our lives is of inestimable worth and more to be desired than any measure of riches or success. God's favor protects us, provides for us, and prospers the work of our hands.

## Day 5

Read Genesis 41:1-16,33-40.

- What does Joseph say that reveals his humility?

It's nice to be noticed and praised for our accomplishments, but we don't need to boast of ourselves and be puffed up, because God will raise His people in His time. Our humility gives honor to God. We can do nothing apart from Him, but we can do all things through Jesus Christ.

## Day 6

Read Genesis 42:1-13.

- Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt?
- How did Joseph's dreams come true?

When difficult times arise, we should trust God, but that doesn't mean that we should sit idly by and do nothing. If our grades in school are low, by all means pray, but at the same time, study more and study more intensely. If we are having relationship problems, pray persistently and faithfully, but also work towards peace in that broken relationship. Trust God to work things out for you, but do your part and look for God in the midst of it all.

## Day 7

Read Genesis 45:1-8; 50:15-21.

- Why were Joseph's brothers fearful?
- How did Joseph show kindness to his brothers?

What are your first thoughts when someone does something mean and vicious to you? At first, I'm hurt. Then, I sometimes get mad, especially if I feel as though I did nothing to deserve this act. It is easy to hold a grudge or devise plans for retaliation. However, easier is not always better. And with a little time, I realize that my hurt and anger is only hurting myself. It's hard to be happy when you are carrying around hurt and anger. It's not easy to forgive and forget, and it's really difficult to show kindness to those who mistreat us. But as we forgive others and treat them as we would like to be treated, we draw closer to God, because He gives us the power and will to do so. And once we get rid of the hurt and anger, we are much happier people.