

LIVING with INTEGRITY

Providence
Message 8

Perry Duggar
March 13, 2022

► Outline

... He makes everything work out according to His plan.

Ephesians 1:11 (NLT)

A. Introduction

(Genesis 37:18-28; Psalm 105:7-25)

B. How God works through hardships:

1. **Suffering strengthens _____.**
**(Genesis 39:1-5. C/R: Romans 5:3-5;
2 Corinthians 1:8-10; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:7)**

2. **Struggles develop _____.**
**(Genesis 39:12-23. C/R: Matthew 25:23; Ephesians 6:7-8;
Philippians 4:13; Colossians 3:23-24)**

3. **Hardships develop _____.**
**(Genesis 40:20-23; 41:8-14,33,37-40.
C/R: Philippians 2:3-4; James 4:6-10,13-15; 1 Peter 5:6-7)**

4. **Problems fulfill God's _____.**
**(Genesis 45:4-8; 46:1-7,33-34; 50:15-20,24.
C/R: Genesis 12:1-3; 28:10-15; 41:50-52; Isaiah 46:9-11;
Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11)**

Answers: 1. faith 2. skills 3. humility 4. purpose

Resource Information: Scripture quotations marked (NLT) are taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved. C/R refers to a 'cross reference.' Today's outline and discussion guide are available through the Brookwood Church app.

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► Discussion Guide

Use this guide by yourself or with friends to pursue a deeper relationship with Jesus. To connect with others, visit brookwoodchurch.org/adults.

Conversation Starter

Describe one hardship you hope you never go through again, but you're better off because you did.

Begin your study with prayer

Pause for a few minutes to quiet your heart and mind. Then ask God for insight and direction as you study and reflect on this week's lesson.

Bible Study and Group Discussion

The following questions include specific passages, but you're encouraged to read the whole story of Joseph (Genesis 37–50) as you work through this week's lesson.

1. The writer makes it clear that, despite Joseph's circumstances, God was with him ([Genesis 39:1-5](#)). How can you tell God is with you during times of suffering? (See also [Matthew 1:22-23](#); [28:20](#).)
2. How has God used hardship and suffering to strengthen your faith? (See also [Romans 5:3-5](#); [1 Peter 1 6-7](#).)
3. God used suffering to develop Joseph's administrative and leadership skills ([Genesis 39:12-23](#)). What skills have you learned in times of hardship?
4. Is there an area of life you currently feel trapped? If so, describe. How are you relying on God?
5. When Pharaoh looked for someone to interpret his dreams, Joseph didn't volunteer himself ([Genesis 40:20-23](#); [41:8-14](#)). What role does humility have in fulfilling God's purpose? How does pride take a person off God's path?
6. God used Joseph's hardship to bless others. How can you remain fruitful during times of grief and suffering? Describe a time you thought of God and others more than yourself.

7. When have you sacrificed your own ambitions to follow God?
8. What's the difference between providence and sovereignty? How can you see each of these playing out in Joseph's story?
9. Joy is experienced in nearness to God. When have you experienced joy even during difficult times?
10. Joseph believed God used him to fulfill His purpose ([Genesis 45:4-8](#); [46:1-7](#); [33-34](#); [50:15-24](#)). We're just as much a part of God's plan as Joseph. How's God using you to fulfill His purpose? (See also [Genesis 12:1-3](#).)

Spiritual Practice

A spiritual practice is training for the soul. By building these into your everyday life, you're sure to strengthen your relationship with God.

Commit to this week's daily reading and ask God what He wants you to know each day.

Memory Verse

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them.

[Romans 8:28 \(NLT\)](#)

Daily Reading

Day 1: [James 1:2-4](#)

Day 4: [James 4:6-10](#)

Day 2: [Colossians 3:23-24](#)

Day 5: [Genesis 12:1-3](#)

Day 3: [Romans 5:3-5](#)

Prepare for Next Sunday

Next Sunday, March 20, we'll begin a new series called *Praying (Together) Through...* Renewal and revival are always preceded by a great passion for prayer among God's people. In this new series, let's encourage one another to grow in our individual prayer lives as we seek God's movement in our church by praying together in one voice. We'll start by examining how Jesus Himself prayed for unity in the church. To prepare, read [John 17:1-26](#).



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