



Navigating Life's Messiness

A three-part devotional & prayer study based on
the life of Joseph

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When Joseph was a teenager, he was ignored, betrayed, and abandoned by his own family (his dad and brothers). You could say that he might have been feeling alone, sad, confused, and a million other things.

On top of his emotional turmoil, he was sold into slavery! His life just went from being the son of Jacob to being a slave – in a foreign country – to an unknown Egyptian officer!

Talk about a messy life!!

Open your Bible to Genesis chapter 39. Let's "sit in" on this next portion of Joseph's life. Put yourself in his shoes: what must be going through his mind? What emotions are present?

Don't rush your time exploring this next part of Joseph's story. Go slow. Grab a pen/pencil/highlighter. Underline, circle, and highlight words & phrases that stand out to you. Write thoughts or questions in the margins. *Interact with Joseph's story.*

- Read Genesis 39:1 – 41:40
- In your own words, summarize what has happened in our passage.
- What messy situations are currently taking place in Joseph's life?



- What feelings do you think Joseph might have experienced during this part of his life?
- How does Joseph respond to this messiness?
- Where do you see God at work so far?
- How can you see a sense of truthfulness and honesty in Joseph's life?
- Would it be fair to say that justice "escaped from Joseph's clutches" on more than one occasion?

Can you see the messiness in Joseph's life? From his experiences in the home of Potiphar, to time in prison, to interpreting dreams? Messiness continues to happen in his life, but God is actively at work through it! Through being wrongfully accused of assault, and years spent in prison, God is clearly with Joseph during these moments that are 100% out of his control.

Joseph was loyal to Potiphar, and showed it by fleeing from Potiphar's wife, yet was still thrown in prison. Joseph was loyal to the baker and cupbearer by interpreting their dreams, yet still seemed to be punished by being forgotten about for two years.

Then came Pharaoh & the dreams he had. Joseph was lifted out of jail into an incredibly high senior official position! Seems like his messiness was over, right?



NOW – it's time to enter your own story!

Use Joseph's messiness to look at your messiness!

We've read that Joseph is put into a slave position, then falsely accused of a crime of which he was innocent of, then thrown in jail for some time.

Take a moment to reflect and think on experiences in your life that got you thinking "I'm trapped!" or "I'm stuck" or "I keep on doing the right things, but nothing's changed." Maybe you have been "a prisoner" to a relationship or an addiction of some sort. Maybe you are caught in a bad habit or two, and it feels like you can't get away & are "enslaved to it."

Take some time now to be with God and pray over these messy moments in your life.

- What might you be a slave to in your life?
- Are there any areas of your life where you feel trapped, burdened, or imprisoned?

Use this time to talk with our Lord. Be honest and humble. Simply bring your "daggers" to God. Ask Him to help you navigate through these messy areas of life with you. He will!



