

Lesson #5 – Sunday, August 30, 2026

BIG IDEA: God is always in control even when it seems like He is not.

INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ What can go wrong in a week? Have you ever had “one of those weeks?”
- ⇒ A normal week can be shattered by a text, phone call, doctor’s visit, an accident, etc. We make plans, set goals, and assume that tomorrow will be like today – until it’s not.
- ⇒ Joseph is a Biblical example of a life full of unexpected turns.

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH: God is in _____.

- ⇒ The story of the Bible is the evidence of God’s control.
- ⇒ The greatest evidence of the sovereignty of God is the cross and the empty tomb.
- ⇒ Read what these verses teach us about the sovereignty of God: Psalm 33:10-11, 103:19, 115:3.
- ⇒ The question is not if God is in control. The question we must wrestle with is: Are we willing to respond to life’s uncertainties with the certainty that God is sovereign?

BIBLE STUDY:

1. Joseph’s _____ Life
 - a. Division 1 – _____ to Egypt (Genesis 37)
 - b. Division 2 – _____ in Egypt (Genesis 39-40)
 - c. Division 3 – _____ of Egypt (chapters 41-50)
 - i. The climax of Joseph’s story comes in the last chapters of Genesis. After a life of mistreatment, disappointment and endless tragedy, the tide finally appears to be turning when Joseph’s brothers appear in his presence seeking food.
 - ii. In chapter 45:4-9, Joseph finally reveals himself to his brothers. Instead of revenge, he shows great insight into God’s sovereignty in his life.
2. God’s _____ Hand
 - a. There are three truths that we need to remember from Joseph’s life in relation to God’s sovereignty.
 - b. First, God is sovereign over _____.
 - i. We have an advantage in that we know Joseph’s entire story. God had a great purpose for Joseph’s life. But we often forget that Joseph lived through some difficult times before he could understand what God was up to.

- ii. Remember: God's purpose is not dependent on people, and it cannot be deterred by people.
 - iii. How does it make you feel to know that God is not dependent on you for His purposes?
 - iv. Is it possible that God has put certain people in your life (that you might not like) that He is using to fulfill His purpose in your life?
- c. Second, God is sovereign over _____.
 - i. God used and caused events to accomplish His purpose in Joseph's life. As we saw in our summary, the Bible points out several times the fact that God was with Joseph every step of the way.
 - ii. We love to control our own lives. When circumstances don't seem right, we typically stress out. But just like Joseph, we have the same promise of God's presence.
 - iii. What difference would it make in your life if you could remember that God is sovereign over life's circumstances?
- d. Third, God is sovereign over the _____.
 - i. God directed all the details for His purpose.
 - ii. Knowing God has His hand on our lives at all times, why is it difficult to trust His sovereignty in our present circumstances?

LIFE CONNECTION:

- ⇒ What was Joseph's responsibility throughout the ups and downs of his life? He simply had to be faithful in the moment. That is our responsibility, too! We don't always understand what God is doing, but we only must take the next step in faith trusting that God is in control.
- ⇒ God is sovereign; we are not. Our job is to be faithful in the place and the time that God has placed us in.
- ⇒ What are you going through right now that is causing you to doubt God's ultimate control? What can you do to start walking in faith and trusting that God has a plan that will one day make sense?