

High School Heroes Week 1: Joseph (name means: "May God give increase")

Passages that tell his story: Genesis 37 (dreams and betrayal); **39:1-4** (trust in God, that led to favor and fruitfulness); **39:7-20** (false accusation & imprisonment); **50:19-21** (Forgiveness & perspective after saving Egypt and his family from famine)

Genesis 37:18-20, 23, 26-28

¹⁸When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. ¹⁹"Here comes the dreamer!" they said. ²⁰"Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

²³So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing.

²⁶Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother? We'd have to cover up the crime. ²⁷Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed. ²⁸So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

Heroic Story: Betrayed, sold into slavery and forgotten by jealous brothers, this teenager didn't spend a lot of time in frustration and discouragement as to "why" things were happening to him, but rather, chose the approach and "**what should I do next even though this isn't the life situation I would have chosen?**"

Genesis 39:1-4

When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

²The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. ³Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. ⁴This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned.

And so he walked faithfully with God & found favor with others. As a young man, he stood by his convictions, was punished and forgotten in prison, but was never forgotten by God. Eventually he was freed and continued to be influential for good and God's glory.

Even later on in life he ultimately ended up in him saving the rest of his family from death and forgiving them for their mistreatment of him. He knew that God was writing his story all along, and that God could be trusted no matter what.

Heroic Principle: We can trust that God is at work even when it doesn't seem like He is.

Frustration in our circumstances doesn't have to mark us. Faithfulness regardless of our circumstance is possible through Christ.

Heroic Application:

1. In what situation in your life does God seem most distant, uninvolved and uncaring?
2. How might God actually be working even though you can't see it?
3. How does the potential that God might be at work help change your perspective?
4. Who can you reach out to and encourage that is currently going through a hard time?