

“God’s Sovereignty in Suffering”

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a flexible guide that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

Message Summary

The New Day Church family is reading through the bible chronologically in 2017. After seeing the beautiful story of God’s creative work we saw the disastrous reality of the rebellion of Adam and Eve and the curse that followed. In bringing a curse on His creation, God cursed the ground, the relationship between man and woman, and Satan with a final defeat that would be brought from the offspring of the woman. However, in Genesis Chapter 12 we also learned that God is full of mercy. God’s mercy would be meaningless apart from His justice. Therefore, chapter 12 begins the picture of God’s mercy in the midst of justice. God brought a new beginning and set out to reverse the curse.

But the reversal of the curse would not happen overnight. God has been reversing the curse since the days of Abraham. And He has been working in spite of human suffering. We saw this profoundly in the story of Joseph in Genesis 37-50. Joseph, the favorite son of Jacob, the grandson of Isaac, and the great-grandson of Abraham, found himself in a life of suffering. From favorite son to slave in Egypt, Joseph endured much suffering along the way. However, just as God promised, Joseph became a great man and leader of his people. Through Joseph and in the midst of his suffering, God preserved His people so that His redemption plan would come to pass. Joseph’s story, however, is more than a story about one man who endured many trials in life. His story, like all of Scripture, points us to Jesus, the ultimate fulfillment of God’s redemption. Jesus, like Joseph to Jacob, was God’s favorite Son. He stepped out of the glories of heaven and became a servant of all so that He could ultimately make a way to restore us to a right relationship with God. Jesus is Lord over all and worthy of your worship.

Through the story of Joseph we see God’s presence and His active work in the lives of people who suffer. We learned that God is not only present but He actively orchestrates events to bring about His purposes. He uses suffering and sin to bring about redemption. As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week, think about how your life compares with the life of Joseph. How have you endured suffering? Have you ever been treated unfairly as Joseph was treated? Have you ever been slandered? Have you ever wondered if God was present in the midst of your suffering? Be ready to discuss these questions and the ones on the next page and discover God’s sovereignty in your suffering!

Message Outline

The Portraits of Joseph...

- The favorite son.
- The despised brother.
- The slave in a foreign land.
- The pure servant.
- The slandered prisoner.
- The leader over the land.
- The restorative brother.
- The reunited son.

Jesus is...

- The favorite son.
- The despised brother.
- The slave in a foreign land.
- The pure servant.
- The slandered prisoner.
- The leader over the land.
- The restorative brother.
- The reunited son.

Principles of God’s Sovereignty in suffering...

1. When God reveals His plan He doesn’t always work it out the way we plan. (37)
2. God’s plan of redemption won’t be frustrated by our plan of rebellion. (38)
3. God is present not only in success but also in suffering. (39)
4. God’s apparent delays to rescue from suffering are orchestrated events that enable His purpose. (40-41)
5. God may allow suffering to bring conviction of sin that results in repentance and reconciliation. (42-45)
6. God’s direction is trustworthy even if suffering results or it doesn’t make sense. (46-47)
7. God uses suffering and sin to accomplish His plan to save a people for Himself. (48-50)

“God’s Sovereignty in Suffering”

Group Discussion

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Genesis 37-50:

1. What does this passage teach about God? (God’s Identity; Theology)
2. What does this passage teach about what God has done? (God’s Action; Christology)
3. What does this passage teach about man/me? (Old & New Creation Identity; Ecclesiology)
4. What does this passage teach about what I should do? (Reveals what I really believe about Questions 1-3; Missional Ecclesiology)
5. What does this passage teach about how I do it uniquely in my context? (personal action steps of obedience)

Weekly Prayer Focus

• Church:

- Pray that all who have believed the Gospel will obey Jesus in believer’s baptism.
- Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
- Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
- Pray for the Missional Communities to impact their communities with the Gospel.
- Pray for Missional Communities to multiply into new neighborhoods.
- Pray for new DNA groups to start.
- _____
- _____
- _____

• Local:

- Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
- Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- _____
- _____
- _____

• Global:

- Pray for J & A and their children as they prepare for the mission field.
- Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
- Pray for the team working in SEA, the new believers, for those who have heard the Gospel, and the church planting movement among the unreached.
- Pray for Good Shepherd Ministries and Bill & Sandy Younger.
- Pray for Servants Hearts Ministries and Bob & Georgette Kornegay.
- Pray for Pastor Abraham and his church in Guatemala.
- Pray for the work of Paul & Sarah Young and Dakota Baptist Church in North Dakota.
- _____
- _____
- _____