



**MINISTRY. ATTITUDE. PRAYER. STUDY.**

***The Journey Worship Service***

**Weekly guide for 1/3/10**

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***Shattered Dreams***

***“From the pit to the palace” – the life of Joseph***

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Matthew 2: 1-12

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' " 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:

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## MONDAY 1.4.10 Genesis 37:1-11

Joseph was just one of Jacob's many sons but was obviously his father's favorite. While he was given special gifts like a richly ornamented robe from his father, Joseph was also despised by his brothers. Joseph had been blessed with the spiritual gift of dream interpretation, but his brothers and father were not so quick to agree with Joseph's meaning of these dreams.

- Do you think that Joseph was treated unfairly by his brothers?
- Why was Joseph's family slow to receive his dream interpretation?

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## TUESDAY 1.5.10 Genesis 37:12-36

Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him that they wanted to kill him. Reuben talked his brothers out of killing Joseph and instead they sold him into slavery. Joseph ended up in Egypt as a servant of Potiphar, a powerful official of Pharaoh.

- What do you think was going through Joseph's mind as he was sold into slavery in Egypt?
- How did Joseph's life change from being one of his father's favorites to being sold as a slave?

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## WEDNESDAY 1.6.10 Genesis 39:1-23

While sold as a slave in Egypt, Joseph was blessed by God and was put in charge of Potiphar's household. When Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph, he refused her advances. Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph of harming her and Joseph was thrown into prison. Even in prison, God was bringing Joseph success.

- Several times throughout this reading, the phrase "the Lord was with Joseph" is used. How can we see this phrase ringing true in Joseph's life?

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## THURSDAY 1.7.10 Genesis 41: 41-56

When Joseph was in prison, he was called on to interpret a dream for Pharaoh. Since Joseph was able to tell Pharaoh what the dream meant, he was blessed by Pharaoh. He was made second-in-command to Pharaoh and was blessed with expensive gifts and positions of influence and power.

- How did Joseph's previous experiences in his life prepare him for this opportunity with Pharaoh?

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**FRIDAY 1.8.10 Genesis 42:1-8; 25-28**

Joseph was put in charge of Egypt during the time of a great famine throughout the land. Because of Joseph's great planning, Egypt was able to prepare for this famine by having full storehouses of grain. When areas around Egypt were hit hard by the famine, Joseph's brothers were sent to Egypt in order to buy food. Although Joseph did not reveal his identity to his brothers, he was very gracious to them.

- If you were Joseph, what would have been your response to your brothers?
- What do you think was going through the mind of Joseph's brothers?

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**Saturday 1.9.10 Genesis 45:1-7**

Through a well-designed plan, Joseph was able to be reunited with his brothers and his fathers. Strangely enough, Joseph was not angry with his brothers but rather thanked them for sending him to Egypt. Because of the opportunities that God gave Joseph, he was able to save many lives in Egypt and beyond.

- How was Joseph able to see God's plan for his life unfold?
- What can the story of Joseph's life teach us today?

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