



# FAITHFUL LIGHT CHURCH

Pastors: Dennis & Diane Gordon



**From Prison to Praise #5 WHEN LIFE IS NOT FAIR**

*Genesis Chapters 37:5 – Genesis 38:30*

**CHILDREN'S STORY: But That's Not Fair!** (back page)

(Dismiss young children to Noah's Ark after the Story.)

## **SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK**

*1<sup>st</sup> Reader Repeats 2x with Congregation*

### **Galatians 6:9**

*"And let us not grow weary while doing good,  
for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."*

## **GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME**

**JESUS WANTS ME TO TRUST IN HIM  
TO CARRY ME, WHEN TIMES ARE DIM**

**1. INTRODUCTION:** Joseph was Jacob (Israel's) favorite son and he had made a special robe for him. When you receive the Lord Jesus for your Savior you become God's special child and He clothes you in His royal robe of righteousness because He loves you, and helps you to walk with Him in holiness. Joseph's brothers hated him, but he still obeyed his father. Joseph's father trusted him with a special work to do. When God favors you, He also trusts you with a special work to do for Him. Last week we left Joseph as he was leaving to go check on his brothers.

**Objects to Bring:** Enlarged Fingerprint, In Jesus' Hands Craft & Stamp Pad

## 2. GOD GIVES VISIONS OF WHAT HE IS ABOUT TO DO.

When Joseph's father sent him out to the fields to bring him back a report on his brothers, he innocently shared a very odd dream.

Genesis 37:5-8 “*And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. <sup>6</sup> And he said unto them... <sup>7</sup> for, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf*



upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf. <sup>8</sup> And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.”

Joseph was an obedient son, protected by his father. In his childlike innocence, Joseph didn't get it that his brothers were not his friends, and he trusted them because he would not think of hurting them. He was clueless that this odd dream would make his brothers hate him more. Joseph's brothers were his only friends and he hoped by sharing his dream with them, they might know what it meant. God reveals what He is about to do through visions, and said through Joel that He would also speak to future believers, you and me, through dreams and visions in our day.

Joel 2:28-29 & Acts 2:16-18 “*But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; <sup>17</sup> And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: <sup>18</sup> and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”*

Amos 3:7 “*Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.*”

**God continues to use His servants to speak until He comes again.**

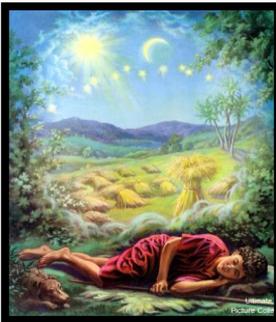
### **3. GOD WANTS US TO HAVE A PURE CHILDLIKE HEART LIKE JOSEPH THAT IS NOT SUSPICIOUS OF OTHERS.**

*Titus 1:15 “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled.”*

Joseph’s brothers were not pure hearted, but self-focused, and offended that God would speak to Joseph and not to an older brother. Jesus said we all must have a pure heart, to enter into His kingdom.

*Matthew 18:3-4 “and said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup> Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”*

When God speaks to your heart, it may be offensive to others who have not heard from God, or have been taught to believe only those recognized as being highly esteemed by men can hear from God, but God speaks to those who trust in Him. We are to trust God completely with innocent trust in Him, like Joseph, and then wait expectantly to see what God has planned next!



*Genesis 37:9-11 “And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. <sup>10</sup> And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth? <sup>11</sup> And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.”*

Joseph’s father Israel, knew through experience, to listen when God speaks. **He knew that God was choosing Joseph for a purpose.**

**WHAT IS THE PURPOSE THAT GOD HAS FOR YOU?**

#### **4. GOD MADE EACH PERSON FOR A SPECIAL PURPOSE.**

What are the dreams in my heart? Am I discouraged by "brothers" or "sisters" who belittle my dreams? We must never be afraid to put our complete trust and faith in God, and believe what He speaks into our hearts through His word and His Spirit. Then we will not be moved by what anyone may say!

*Psalm 31:19-20 "Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men! You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man; You shall keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues."*



*Isaiah 49:16 "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands...."*



**OBJECT LESSON:** *(Show an enlarged finger print. Give each young person a completed "My Life Is In Jesus' Hand" craft, and help each child touch the ink pad to make a thumbprint on the craft.)*

- Joseph did not have to be afraid because he knew his father loved him, and he knew that his life was safe in Jesus' hand.
- Jesus says that you are so very special to Him, that each and every one of you is engraved on the palms of His hands!
- Not one person has the same fingerprint as any other person!
- God made each one of us with special markings on our hands that are different from anyone else who ever lived!
- Jesus was watching over Joseph, because He had a very special plan for Joseph's life, and Jesus has a very special plan for you!
- Your fingerprints identify who you are and Jesus holds you in His hand. Do you know who you are in Jesus?
- Finding out who you are in Jesus Christ will give you great confidence to stand for Jesus and never let go of His hand!

## **5. EVEN WHEN YOU WALK INTO A TRAP, GOD DIRECTS THE STEPS OF THOSE WHO ARE COMMITTED TO HIM.**

Joseph's brothers had made such an obnoxious mess of their family name while they were in Shechem; it follows that Jacob would be quite concerned for his sons tending sheep there.

**Genesis 37:12-17** “*And his brethren went to feed their father’s flock in Shechem.* <sup>13</sup> *And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.* <sup>14</sup> *And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again.* So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.<sup>15</sup> *And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?* <sup>16</sup> *And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.* <sup>17</sup> *And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.”*

Joseph was glad to find his brothers safe, but again he was clueless!

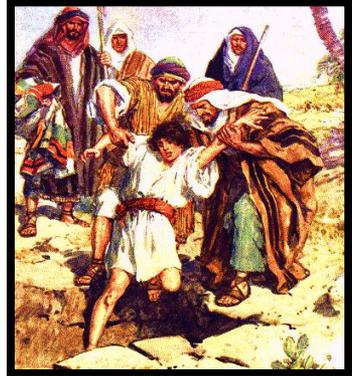


**Genesis 37:18-22** “*And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.* <sup>19</sup> *And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.* <sup>20</sup> *Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.* <sup>21</sup> *And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.* <sup>22</sup> *And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.”*

Reuben is the brother who had sinned greatly with his father’s wife, but he wanted no part in his brother’s plot to kill Joseph, and planned to come back when it was safe to rescue Joseph out of the pit.

## 6. JOSEPH IS STRIPPED OF HIS BEAUTIFUL ROBE.

Genesis 37:23-25a “And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; <sup>24</sup> and they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it. <sup>25a</sup> And they sat down to eat bread:...”



Joseph's coat was the symbol of his father's love for him, his heart.

Being betrayed by someone you love is a horrible feeling! It has happened to us all at least once in our lives. Jesus understands our sorrows, because those He came to save hated Him for no reason.

Isaiah 53:3 “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”

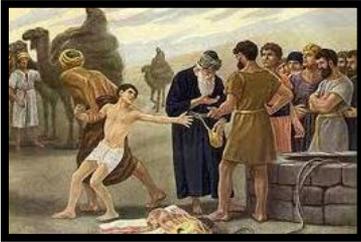


Ephesians 1:18-20 “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, <sup>20</sup> which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.”

When trials come your way, which they will, the Lord wants your eyes to stay open in that hard time, so you will know and understand the hope of your calling and the riches of your inheritance in Christ. Jesus placed the deposit of His Spirit in you and reserves His inheritance for you in heaven where you are seated with Him! Jesus's name is above the name of every sorrow, so our hearts can safely rest in Him.

## **7. JOSEPH IS SOLD INTO SLAVERY.**

**Genesis 37:25b-28** “...and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt. <sup>26</sup> And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood? <sup>27</sup> Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. <sup>28</sup> Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.”



Judah convinced the brothers to sale Joseph to the Ishmaelite traders and make a profit instead of killing him, so he was taken as a slave into Egypt. Was Joseph being punished for bragging? When something bad happens to me does that mean I have

done something wrong?

**Psalms 34:19** “Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.”

**Hebrews 12:10-11** For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. <sup>11</sup> Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”

Joseph’s dreams were from God. Just because his brothers were mean to him did not mean he was wrong to share his dreams, nor did it change who God created him to be. Just because someone says something bad about you doesn't make it so, nor can it change who God created you to be.

## **8. JOSEPH'S FATHER GRIEVES OVER HIS DEATH.**

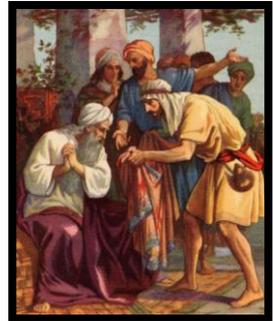
**Genesis 37:29-30** “*And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.* <sup>30</sup> *And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?”*”

When Reuben came back, Joseph was gone! Why didn't he stop them and what would they tell their father? The painful reality of sin overwhelms us after the deed is done. How about me? Do I wait too long to speak up for what I know is right?

**Ephesians 6:19-20** “*And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,* <sup>20</sup> *for which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.”*”

When we learn to speak boldly in the Lord as we ought to speak many heartaches can be avoided altogether.

**Genesis 37:31-36** “*And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;* <sup>32</sup> *and they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.* <sup>33</sup> *And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.* <sup>34</sup> *And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.* <sup>35</sup> *And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.* <sup>36</sup> *And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.”*”



Joseph's father believed the lie that a wild beast had eaten Joseph and he tore his clothes in grief and would not be comforted. But Joseph had been sold as a slave to Potiphar.

## **9. EVEN WHEN I SIN OR OTHERS SIN AGAINST ME, GOD CAN STILL FULFILL HIS PURPOSE FOR MY FUTURE.**



**Genesis 38:1-26** “*And it came to pass at that time, that Judah went down from his brethren...<sup>2</sup> And Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite, whose name was Shuah; and he took her, and went in unto her.<sup>3</sup> And she conceived, and bare a son; and he called his name Er.<sup>4</sup> And she conceived again, and bare a son; and she called his name Onan.<sup>5</sup> And she yet again conceived, and bare a son; and called his name Shelah...<sup>6</sup> And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, whose name was Tamar.<sup>7</sup> And Er, Judah’s firstborn was wicked...and the LORD slew him.”*

Judah did not live his life to be holy for God, but regardless of his sins, and his forceful rape of Shuah, the Messiah would still be born through the line of Judah. Judah promised that his daughter-in-law Tamar that she would marry Shelah to bare a son for Er, but he broke his promise, so Tamar found a way to trick Judah into fathering two sons through her, who are listed in the line of the Messiah.

**Genesis 38:27-30** “*And it came to pass in the time of her travail, that, behold, twins were in her womb.<sup>28</sup> And it came to pass, when she travailed, that the one put out his hand: and the midwife took and bound upon his hand a scarlet thread, saying, This came out first...therefore his name was called Pharez.<sup>30</sup> And afterward came out his brother, that had the scarlet thread upon his hand: and his name was called Zarah.*

**Matthew 1:1-3** “*The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.<sup>2</sup> Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;<sup>3</sup> and Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar...”*

We are not to commit sin, but God’s word tells us that we are to zealously desire God’s kingdom, and take it to ourselves at all cost!

**Matthew 11:12** “*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.”*

## **10. GOD'S PURPOSE & PLAN FOR ME**

1. Jesus has a purpose for my life and wants me to trust Him.
2. When life is not fair, I will be patient because God has a plan.
3. We must become as children, to enter the kingdom of God.
4. God speaks to those who trust in Him with childlike faith.
5. God has made me different from every other person He created, and my life is written in the palm of His hand.
6. I must not let go of the dream God puts in my heart, and I must not get discouraged, no matter what anyone says or does to me.
7. I can be sure that my hidden sins will always find me out.
8. Bad things happening can mean that God is preparing me for something wonderful ahead and needs me to be strengthened.
9. When my heart is stripped bare, I can trust Jesus to restore my life, and I can trust Him to fulfill His purpose for my future.
10. It is a small loss to sacrifice my own foolish way, to gain the blessed inheritance God has for me in this life, and in heaven!

*2 Peter 1:3-4 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him, that hath called us to glory and virtue: <sup>4</sup> whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*



*John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*

**Our Father in Heaven, I praise You and thank you for Your grace and mercy, and thank you for the purpose You have planned for my life. I surrender to You my foolish pride, and offer my whole heart to follow You. Help me to seek You first every morning, so I will see the light that You shine on my path, and open my ears to hear Your voice, so I may live all my days in Your blessing and for Your glory, in Jesus name, Amen.**

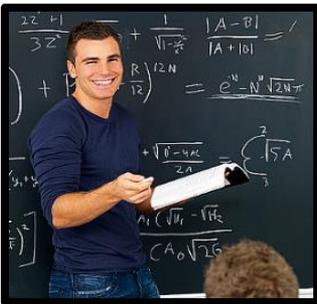
## 11. CHILDREN'S STORY: But That's Not Fair!

Jerry wanted to get good grades in school so he did his homework every day and studied before each test. His friend Larry laughed and bragged about watching TV after school every day, and he never studied. When test time came,



Larry just waited until the teacher wasn't looking and copied answers from Jerry and the other kids. Jerry thought he did well on the test, but when grades came back, Larry had an 'A', but Jerry's paper had a big red 'F' with a note that said he cheated! Jerry said, "That's not fair" because he studied and Larry cheated!" But Jerry had to sit in the corner, and his parents were called to take him home!

Larry laughed when Jerry said he did not cheat, and he laughed when Jerry was punished. At the end of the year Jerry's parents were proud of him, and it was still not fair that Larry never had to pay for his sin of cheating, but Jesus was holding Jerry in His hand. Letting go of Larry's sin and trusting Jesus, made Jerry stronger.



Jerry graduated from high school with honors for his achievements and went on to graduate from college. When he got home from college, Jerry heard that Larry had dropped out of school and was always into some kind of trouble. Jerry had learned that by doing everything in his life to honor God, and not giving up when life was unfair, that God was

faithful to keep His promises. Jerry got a job he loved as a school teacher, and he was rewarded with blessings and honor his life.

From little boy to adult, Jerry had learned a very valuable lesson: Life is not always fair but God is, and He uses the sins of others to strengthen His children. Jerry also learned that the sins of others cannot change who you are. When you live your life for God, and praise Him even when things go wrong, God uses everything that happens to you for your good, and gives you a blessed, happy life.

## 12. TIMELINE COLORING PAGE

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR ME  
JESUS WANTS ME  
TO TRUST IN HIM,  
TO CARRY ME, WHEN TIMES ARE DIM

Isaiah 49:16  
"Behold,  
I have graven thee  
upon the palms  
of my hands...."

1790 BC  
Joseph  
Suffered  
Unfairly  
But God  
Has A Plan

/ Fold  
/ Over  
/& Glue  
/

Cut  
Out

### Directions:

1. Color children and Jesus.
2. Cut out around hands and fold in half.
3. Fold top of wrist at dotted line.
4. Cut out flap of back wrist at dotted lines.
5. Fold front wrist flap over back and glue.
6. Apply glue stick to close fingers together.
7. Cut out child and place inside Jesus' hands.
8. Help each child to place thumb on a Stamp Pad and put fingerprint in heart.

