

Awesome God!
A Sermon by Rev. Frances Savill
Sunday July 24, 2022
VBS Sunday

VBS Genesis – stories of Joseph

As I said we followed the stories of Joseph, on Monday we saw all the mistakes that Joseph, his father, and his brothers made. But God still loved all of them, and God was with them.

So Joseph went from the favourite son in his father's house, to a pit that he was thrown into by his brothers and then he was sold as a slave and taken away by Midianite traders. Joseph was taken far from his home, far from his family and friends. He was taken from all that was familiar to him.

But we learned that God is always with us, no matter where life takes us. And God was with Joseph, even in a foreign land, even in his life as a slave. Joseph did what was right, and soon he was promoted within the household of Potiphar, and things were going pretty well for Joseph for a time.

But then Joseph had a run in with Potiphar's wife. She lied about Joseph, and accused Joseph of betraying her husband and the household.

Joseph was sent to prison for a long time. But even in prison, God was with Joseph and Joseph did what was right. God is with us everywhere, even when it doesn't seem like it. Sometimes we get discouraged and we forget that God loves us and is with us. Sometimes our circumstances make us think that God doesn't love us, or that God isn't doing what is best for us.

Can you imagine being Joseph? You were given a dream by God and when you told everyone they all got mad at you and your brothers wanted to kill you. They sold you into slavery and you were taken far from your people and your home. But you did what was right, and things were better for a while, but then you did the right thing and someone lied about you and you were thrown into an Egyptian prison.

For seven long years Joseph was in prison, but still he did what was right, and still he cried out to God, and God was with Joseph. Two of the King's officials ended up in jail with Joseph, one was the cupbearer to the king, the Pharaoh of Egypt, the other was the royal baker.

They had dreams and Joseph was able to interpret them. To the cupbearer to the Pharaoh, Joseph said; remember me and tell the Pharaoh I am innocent when you are restored to the position of honour. But the cupbearer to Pharaoh, when he was restored to his place of honour, did **not** remember Joseph. Two more years Joseph was in prison.

And if you stopped the story now you might say that God is not good, and Joseph had a terrible life. But God was preparing Joseph for something incredible. The Pharaoh had two troubling dreams, and then the cupbearer remembered Joseph.

Joseph went from the prison pit, to being before Pharaoh. Joseph told the Pharaoh what his dreams meant because God had told Joseph what they meant. God gave Joseph the wisdom.

There was going to be a great famine in Egypt that would last seven years, after seven years of abundance. Egypt would need a wise leader to rule over the land for the seven years of abundance or everyone in Egypt would die and the kingdom would fall during the seven years of famine.

Joseph was made second in charge of all of Egypt. He wore the king's robe, rode in the king's chariot, there was no one greater in Egypt except the Pharaoh himself. God was with Joseph.

And then the last surprise of the story for our week. Joseph was reunited with his family. He was able to save them, and Joseph forgave his brothers, and saw his father again. Together we saw that God loves us no matter what! That God is with us everywhere. God is in charge. God is stronger than anything. And God is surprising!

Our God is an awesome and amazing God!