



Shambles

What Do You Do When Everything Falls Apart? Discussion Guide

The Old Testament and the lives of the Patriarchs have so much to teach us. The Bible tells us that their life events happened to them as examples and were written down for our instruction (1 Corinthians 10:11). So let's consider the life of Joseph and what it means to be faithful when everything is going wrong.

What you will need: A Bible or your Bible app, a notebook, pen, and highlighter. The verses highlighted below are linked so that you can easily access them during your study time.

Jump Start

1. Before this week, had you heard the Bible story of Joseph and his "coat of many colors" as a child? Why do you think it should or should not be taught as a major part of Joseph's story?
2. **Remember God's faithfulness.** Read [Genesis 39:1-5](#). In the middle of a difficult situation, as a slave in the household, Joseph was faithful because God was faithful to him. What evidence did he have of God's favor? What evidence to you have of God's goodness?
3. **Renew your focus.** Read [Genesis 39:6-12](#). Just because God has blessed you and promoted you does not mean your life will be free from envy, temptation, jealousy, or trouble. Have you seen this principle in your own life? What does this have to do with focus? What did Joseph do correctly? What might he have done better?
4. **Remain fearless.** Read [Genesis 39:20-23](#). It is hardest to remain faithful and courageous in the middle of the battle, up against your enemies. How does knowing God is with you encourage you? What practical things will help you remember that God is with you and for you? What verses do you strengthen yourself with?
5. **Read [Genesis 50:20](#).** Explain how this was true in the lives of Joseph and Jesus. Share how this has been true in your life. If you are in the middle of a trial at this moment, how can we pray for you?

Deeper

6. Joseph is a foreshadow of Christ, just as Joshua foreshadowed the Savior when he led the Israelites to the Promised Land. Review these verses and comment on the similarities and differences between Joseph and Jesus.

Genesis 37:3, Matthew 3:17

Genesis 37:18, Mark 3:21

Genesis 37:27-28, Matthew 26:15

Genesis 39:1-3, Mark 10:45, Philippians 2:7

Genesis 39:11-12, Hebrews 4:15

Genesis 39:20, Matthew 26:59

Genesis 41:38-43, Philippians 2:9-10

Genesis 41:54-56, John 6:47-51

Genesis 45:1-2,15, Zechariah 12:10