

HIGHER PURPOSE CHURCH



SERMON SERIES • WHEN YOU STRUGGLE, WRITE YOUR STORY

What If the Wait Is Part of the Work?

A Five-Day Devotional • Genesis 37–50 • Romans 8:28

This five-day devotional is drawn from the sermon *What If the Wait Is Part of the Work?* — Part 3 of the series *When You Struggle, Write Your Story*. Each day, you'll spend time in the story of Joseph and reflect on how God uses process, pain, and people to work things out of us, so He can work things through us.

How to use this devotional

- Read the scripture and devotional text slowly — don't rush.
- Sit with the reflection questions before writing your answers.
- Use the notes space honestly. Write what's actually true for you.
- Pray the closing prayer, or let it prompt your own words to God.

***Big Idea: God uses the process to work things out of you
so He can work things through you.***

DAY 1

Recognize What's Really There

Self-awareness is the first step toward transformation.

“The first thing we learn about him was that he was bringing bad reports to his father about his brothers... Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons.

Genesis 37:2–3

Joseph had gifts, a calling, and real potential. He also had blind spots he couldn't see. He reported on his brothers, wore his favor like a badge, and shared a dream that was meant to humble him — with the very people most likely to resent it. He wasn't malicious. He was unaware. And unawareness, left unchecked, is just as dangerous.

We all carry things we've never fully examined. Patterns formed in childhood. Reactions we've never questioned. Edges that feel like personality but are really wounds. Like a fish describing water — we can't easily see the environment we're swimming in. But God can. And before He can work through you, He often has to work on you. That work always begins with honest recognition.

Reflect

- *What is one reaction or pattern in your life that tends to create friction with others?*

- *Is there something a trusted person has said about you that you dismissed — but that may have been true?*

- *What would it look like to invite God into that specific area today?*

Today's Prayer

Lord, search me and know me. Reveal what I cannot see in myself — the blind spots, the buried edges, the habits I've called personality but you know are wounds. I don't want to be unaware. I want to be honest, even when it's uncomfortable. Work on me, so you can one day work through me. Amen.

Additional Notes

DAY 2

The Process Is Not the Punishment

God uses hard seasons to produce what easy seasons never could.

“The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered... his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did.

Genesis 39:2–3

Joseph didn't just need a promotion. He needed a transformation. If God had taken him straight from his father's house to the palace — with all that entitlement, all that naivety, all that pride — he would have been a disaster on the throne. The suffering wasn't punishment. It was preparation.

In Potiphar's house and in the prison, Joseph's gifts never left him — but his posture changed. He went from a boy who declared his dreams to others to a man who quietly served everyone around him. That shift didn't happen in a classroom. It happened in a pit. It happened in chains. It happened in a cell. The wait was doing work that a shortcut never could have done.

Reflect

- *What difficult season in your past has produced something in you that you now value?*

- *Where are you resisting a process God may be using to form your character?*

- *In what area of your life do you need transformation more than you need a promotion?*

Today's Prayer

God, I confess I want the palace without the prison. I want the outcome without the process. Help me trust that what feels like delay is actually development. You are not punishing me — you are preparing me. Do the deep work, even when it's slow, even when it hurts. I trust you. Amen.

Additional Notes

DAY 3

Who Is in Your Circle?

The right people around you can shorten the road.

“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”

Proverbs 15:22

Joseph spent years in the dark, in part, because there was no one around him to name what was happening and help him understand what God was doing. He had gifts, but no guide. He had a dream, but no one to help him steward it wisely. A mentor — one trusted voice — could have saved him years.

The people around you matter deeply. Not just those who celebrate your dreams, but those who will tell you the truth about yourself. Not everyone in your life is there to bless you — some are there to build you. Some people, including the difficult ones, are in your circle because God is using them as sandpaper to smooth rough edges that would otherwise hurt you and everyone around you. Before you ask God to remove them, ask God what they are revealing.

Reflect

- *Who in your life right now tells you the truth, not just what you want to hear?*

- *Is there a difficult relationship in your life that may be revealing something God wants to address?*

- *What kind of person do you need to intentionally pursue for mentorship or honest community?*

Today's Prayer

Father, give me the humility to surround myself with the right people — not just those who applaud, but those who can speak truth into my life. Help me to receive correction as a gift. Show me who you have placed in my path to build me, even when it's uncomfortable. And give me the courage to be that kind of voice for someone else. Amen.

Additional Notes

DAY 4

Reframe What You're Walking Through

The meaning you assign to your circumstances shapes what they do to you.

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20

When Joseph finally stood before his brothers — the men who had beaten him, sold him, and lied about his death — he had the power to destroy them. Instead, he said something that only a transformed man could say: what you intended for evil, God intended for good.

That statement is not naivety. It is not pretending the pain wasn't real. It is a declaration from someone who has seen enough of God's faithfulness to trust Him with the full arc of a story — including the chapters that made no sense. Viktor Frankl, a Holocaust survivor, observed that people who found meaning in their suffering survived, while those consumed by bitterness did not. Romans 8:28 is not a promise that everything feels good. It is a promise that God works all of it — the pit, the prison, the betrayal — together for good.

Reflect

- *What is the hardest season of your life? What did it teach you, change in you, or produce in you?*

- *Is there bitterness you are holding toward someone that is costing you more than it is costing them?*

- *How might God be asking you to reframe a current circumstance you have labeled as 'bad'?*

Today's Prayer

Lord, I surrender my story to you — including the chapters I do not understand. Help me to see my circumstances through your eyes, not just my own. Where I have held bitterness, give me the grace to release it. Where I have called something bad, open my eyes to what you may be building. You are a good author. I trust you with every chapter. Amen.

Additional Notes

DAY 5

Your Weakness Can Become Your Greatest Strength

What God works out of you, He will one day work through you.

“*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*”

Romans 8:28

The boy who couldn't read a room became the man who could forgive the people who destroyed his world. The man who once thought only of himself became the leader who saved an entire nation. The very thing that was Joseph's greatest liability — his lack of self-awareness, his entitlement, his inability to see how his words landed — became, through the process, his greatest asset: wisdom, humility, and service.

God does not waste the hard chapters of your life. What He works out of you, He intends to work through you. The patience you developed in waiting, the empathy you gained from pain, the credibility that comes from having actually walked through something — those are tools in God's hands that no shortcut could have produced. The wait was the work. And the work is not finished.

Reflect

- *What weakness or wound in your past has God already begun to redeem into strength?*

- *Who in your life could benefit from the very thing you have walked through?*

- *What is one step you can take this week to say yes to the process God is doing in you?*

Today's Prayer

God, I commit today to the process — not just the outcome. I trust that what you are working out of me, you will one day work through me. Take the weak places, the wounded places, the places I have tried to hide — and make them places of ministry, empathy, and strength for others. I didn't come through all of this for nothing. Use it all. Use me. Amen.

Additional Notes
