

Bible/College Class Notes – God’s Great Plans – Lesson 33

Joseph is Shown God’s Plan in His Dreams.

This week we learn how God preserved Joseph’s life as part of a great plan to save his family.

“... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.” Romans 8 v28

Bible Readings for this week:

(Choose a regular time each day to read the bible and pray whether it be when you first wake up or just before you go to sleep)

Day	Bible Reading	Tick When Read
Sunday	Genesis 37v1-11 (Joseph has two dreams)	
Monday	Genesis 37v12-24 (His brothers hate him)	
Tuesday	Genesis 37v24-36 (Joseph sold as a slave)	
Wednesday	Daniel 1 (Daniel stood firm for the Lord)	
Thursday	Psalms 1 (Godliness and ungodliness)	
Friday	Psalms 62 (Put your trust in The Lord – your Rock)	
Saturday	Romans 8v24-39 (God’s Electing and Saving Love)	

Important Lesson for us today: *Our Sovereign God allows difficulties to come into our lives for the following reasons: It may be, that in His love and mercy, He has chosen to bring us to an end of ourselves so that we obediently turn to Him with repentant hearts, seeking forgiveness of our sin.*

Alternatively, if we are a Christian, He uses trials and difficulties to test our faith, causing us to be ‘rooted and grounded’ in our faith. (Read Ephesians 3v17-19). When a tree is planted, and the wind blows hard, its’ roots grow deep down to establish a firm hold in the ground. The more storms, the stronger the tree becomes. So it is with our souls, when the ‘storms of life blow hard’, we must look to our Sovereign, Almighty God for help. He will show us why He has allowed this experience to happen to us and bring us through it. (Read Romans 8v28).

This will strengthen and establish our faith and testimony, knowing that He will never let us down.

Hymn 511 - Encourages us to look at our lives the same way as Joseph did.

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| 1. Though troubles assail,
And dangers affright,
Though friends should all fail,
And foes all unite,
Yet one thing secures us,
Whatever betide:
The Scripture assures us,
‘The Lord will provide.’ | 3. ‘His call we obey,
Like Abram of old.
Not knowing our way;
But faith makes us bold:
For though we are strangers
We have a good Guide,
And trust, in all dangers,
‘The Lord will provide.’ |
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EDT Bible/College Class Take Home Sheet

This sheet is given to remind you of the lesson and to encourage you to read your Bible.

Joseph’s Part in God’s Plan to Save His Family.

• Background to Today’s Lesson.

- Jacob (now called ‘Israel’), and his family, settled in The Promised Land - Canaan.
- Joseph, (Jacob’s 11th son, Rachel’s 1st child), trusted the Lord at an early age.
- At 17, he and his ten brothers were shepherds, but he refused to join in their evil and sinful practices. He told Jacob of their wicked and sinful ways.
- Jacob loved Joseph more than his brothers. He made him a coat of ‘many colours’.
- His brothers were very jealous of him and hated him. Joseph remained humble.

• The Lord Gives Joseph 2 Dreams of a Similar Nature. Gen 37v7, 8.

- 1. At harvest time *‘My sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance (bowed) to my sheaf’.*
- 2. *‘Behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me’.*
- These showed that one day his father and 10 brothers would bow before him.
- Jacob accepted this, but Joseph’s brother’s hatred turned into plans to kill him.

• We All face Difficulties and Trials in Life.

- The Lord, fully aware of Joseph’s situation, allowed difficult things to happen.
- Joseph trusted the Lord’s power and goodness to see him through these events.
- We, too, must look to the Lord in faith and prayer, committing ourselves to Him.

• God is Sovereign and has an Overriding Plan for Our Lives.

- Joseph’s dreams eventually came true - showing they were from the Lord.
- Meanwhile, Joseph trusted God, humbly accepting his brother’s treatment of him.
- God works all things according to His perfect plan; nothing happens by chance.

• God Even Uses Children and Young People in His Plans.

- **Note:** The Lord greatly used Joseph, Samuel, David, and Daniel in their youth.
- When we are Christians, even when young, God can, and will, use us to His glory.
- The Lord knows all about us, (even all our thoughts and motives), and looks into our souls for sincere faith towards Him as we seek to serve Him obediently.

• Whatever the Situation, God Never Abandons His People.

- God saw to it that Joseph’s life was spared even though he was hated, thrown into a pit, sold as a slave to the Ishmaelite’s, and taken by them down to Egypt.
- Joseph had total faith that God would one day bring good out of what was a dark, desperate situation. He did not complain, nor did he blame God. He quietly trusted.
- Unbelievers have no security, or certainty for the future. They have chosen to face all life’s difficulties on their own, especially the finality of death without a Saviour.

May we encourage you to seek the Lord as your Saviour and Sovereign God today, looking to Him for His overruling protection and care through this life and into eternity.

Paul wrote, “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God”. Ephesians 3v17-19.