

A Life of Wisdom: Joseph

What does the life of a wise person look like? Are they someone who always makes the right decisions? Is their life one full of success and blessing? Over the past few weeks, we have spent time in the books of Proverbs, Job, Ecclesiastes, and Daniel, and in every single one we've been reminded that "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom." We've seen that true wisdom is ultimately about having a right relationship with God. Wisdom is an expression and outworking of our relationship with God. Joseph is one who models such a life as he matures in wisdom.

Opening Discussion: Who is someone that has modeled a life of wisdom to you?

Read Genesis 37:2-28

1. What does this tell us about Joseph as a young boy and his family situation?

2. How does a lack of walking in wisdom affect everyone in this story?

Read Genesis 39

3. What indications do we see that Joseph has matured in wisdom?

4. What does Joseph believe that keeps him from giving in to Potiphar's wife's seduction?

5. Survey Genesis 40-41. How would you summarize these chapters? How does Joseph manifest wisdom?

6. We often tend to think that a life of wisdom leads to blessings. Joseph's life, however, illustrates that sometimes what wisdom does is produce the perseverance necessary to remain in a right relationship with God no matter what. How do we see this in Joseph's life?

In Genesis 42-49, we read of Joseph's rise to power, becoming second only to Pharaoh. Through his wisdom he saves the land from the famine he discerned was coming from Pharaoh's dream. As a result of this famine, Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt seeking grain. Long story short, Joseph ends up forgiving his brothers, is reconciled to them, and is reunited with his father. Eventually his whole family comes to live in the land of Egypt. After their father dies, Joseph's brothers begin to fear that he might seek to repay them for their ill treatment when they sold him into slavery as a 17-year-old boy.

Read Genesis 50:15-21

7. How does Joseph model wisdom in this encounter with his brothers? What does wisdom allow him to do?
8. Are there any areas of your life right now where you need to apply this kind of wisdom and truly trust the plans of God?
9. What is the main lesson on wisdom modeled by Joseph that you want to apply in your life?