



New International Version is used for questions

1. What is something that you had to wait for to occur in your life? Was it hard for you to wait? Do you think God had anything to do with you having to wait? Why? Read Psalm 77:7-9. Have you ever felt this way?
2. Is there a promise of God that you are currently waiting to be fulfilled? God wants to use us while we are on this earth, have you ever had a dream of accomplishing something great for God in your life? What?
3. Pastor Rick said that God often shows us the destination before He reveals the process, what does that mean? Why do you think He does this? What is God trying to do through the process he takes us through to fulfill his promises? What was the process for Joseph?
4. God was developing the characteristic of endurance when Joseph was in Potiphar's home. What five enduring character traits does God want to develop in us through the process?
5. Read Genesis 39:20-23. How did Joseph respond to being thrown in prison? What was God teaching him? What is something God has taught you through a bad circumstance in your life?
6. Even though Joseph always did what was right, bad things kept happening to him. What would most Christians do if this happened to them? How do you think you would have responded if you had been in Joseph's place?
7. Read Genesis 50:15-21. What enabled Joseph to not be angry and get revenge on his brothers? Read 2 Peter 3:8-10. What is the "big picture" that God wants to use us to accomplish? How was that also part of the big picture in Joseph's story, even though he did not know it?

1. *We have gotten used to getting everything immediately in our culture and God does not operate on what we want or expect.*
2. *The only difference between the Christians in the stories who accomplished great things for God and us is they were willing to try and had faith that God would work. There is nothing that prevents a person from accomplishing great things (God's definition of great) except our faith or lack thereof.*
3. *The process is the method, the circumstances God uses to accomplish His will in our lives. He shows us the destination so that we have hope and a promise that whatever process he chooses to use is worth enduring and the end will be good. Romans 8:28 says that everything that happens in our lives God will use for good. God is going to use the process to develop good character in us and force us to learn to trust Him whatever happens, even if it seems bad at the time. Joseph's process was all painful for him until he became the second in command of Egypt, which is what God used to mold him into the person who God needed him to be.*
4. *The five characteristics God wants to develop in us are: a. Discipline—doing the same thing without quitting; b. Leadership—Guiding and serving others by going first; c. Stewardship—Faithfully managing what has been given; d. Excellence—Doing my very best at everything; and e. Integrity—Being the same person in every situation, honest and trustworthy. The way God develops these characteristics is to put us into situations where we have to choose to be these things or not.*
5. *Even in prison Joseph continued to do what was right and not get angry at God for what happened to him, even though it was unjust. God was teaching Joseph to fully depend on Him no matter what happened.*
6. *Many Christians believe that it is God's job to make them healthy, wealthy, and wise and so as soon as He does not do that, they get angry at Him and stop serving Him. They do not believe that they should suffer in any way and that God has failed them if they do.*
7. *What enabled Joseph to not be angry at his brothers was that he realized that there was a bigger picture that God was working out: Him being in Egypt so that he was in a position to keep his family alive during the famine. The big picture for us is that God wants to use us to reach the world with the Gospel and to be a positive spiritual influence in the world. Everything God does in your life is for that purpose. Joseph did not realize that his family line was the one that would one day produce the Messiah, the savior of the world. So God was using Joseph to one day make the salvation of everyone a possibility.*