

The Story of Joseph: Sold Into Slavery

A Bible overview plan for 2011-2012

The Essential 100 (E100) is a systematic approach that guides readers through the big picture of the Bible. It is a carefully selected list of short Bible passages—50 from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. Each testament is broken up into ten, five-week series. We will move from Old to New Testaments every five weeks. My goal is to teach three of the five lessons in every series.

The E100 in Sunday school: We will REAP (read, explain, apply, and personalize) one passage each week and finish a series every five weeks. Each lesson will include a key verse for memorization. At the end of two years, we will have covered the essential 100 passages in the Bible.

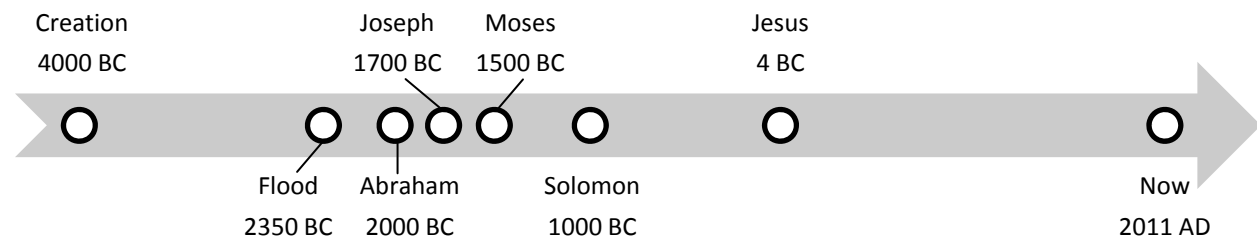
Additional information: To learn more about The E100 program and to obtain additional resources, visit e100challenge.com. Our Sunday school website is stuartheights.org/sundayschool.

The Schedule: The Story of Joseph

This is our third five-week series in the Old Testament. So far, we have looked at In the Beginning, and Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Now we shift to the last of the **Genesis** patriarchs, Joseph.

Date	Lesson	Key Verse(s)	Passage	Speaker
May 29	Sold Into Slavery	Genesis 37:26-28	Genesis 37	Jim Fleming
June 5	Prison and a Promotion	Genesis 41:14-16	Genesis 39-41	Jim Fleming
June 12	Ten Brothers Go to Egypt	Genesis 42:3-5	Genesis 42	TBD
June 19	The Brothers Return	Genesis 43:14	Genesis 43-44	Tim Archer
June 26	Joseph Reveals His Identity	Genesis 45:4-5	Genesis 45:1-46:7	Jim Fleming

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



Summary: Joseph was his father's favorite son. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers. God worked through a variety of circumstances to make Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt. God used Joseph to spare Egypt and Joseph's family. The result of all of this is the book of **Exodus**. Through all of these events, God was building Joseph's character so he would be ready when God needed him.

Preview: Family Feud

Rick Warren: God develops the fruit of the Spirit by allowing you to experience circumstances in which you're tempted to express the exact opposite quality! (*The Purpose Driven Life*, p. 202)

The following is based on, *The Purpose Driven Life*, by Rick Warren

God develops . . .	By allowing . . .
Love	unloving people to challenge us, tempting to us be unloving
Joy	sorrow, tempting us to despair and become bitter
Peace	times of chaos and confusion, tempting us to be agitated/stressed
Longsuffering	us to wait, tempting us to get angry
Kindness	people to be inconsiderate, tempting us to be unkind
Goodness	evil to intersect our lives, tempting us to be evil
Faithfulness	problems that challenge our trust in Him, tempting us to worry
Gentleness	evil to get results, tempting us to manipulate and intimidate
Self-control	us instant gratification, tempting us to self-indulge

Key thought: God works through the events of our lives for His good and for our good

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 37 (Author = Moses)

1 Joseph [Jehovah has _____]

3 a tunic [long, shirt-like undergarment] **of many colors** [literally, _____ palm and/or sole]

5 Now Joseph had a dream [the natural assumption of the reader is that this is a message from _____]

7 Did Joseph sin by telling his brothers his dream? _____. Did Joseph do himself any favors? _____

Barry Switzer: Some people are born on third base and go through life thinking they hit a triple.

15 Now a certain man found him [Jewish commentaries generally state that this is an _____]

21 But Reuben [behold, a _____]

25 And they sat down to eat a meal. [They remembered those cries for help for _____ years.]

31 When I sin, something has to _____

Apply (What is the point?)

- Over communicating good things can sometimes be a _____ thing
- A house divided against itself cannot stand
- God is working even when we cannot _____ Him working

Personalize (What do I do with that?)

- Show tact when sharing truth
- Insure there is no _____ in my family
- Grow from the challenges in my life

The Story of Joseph: Prison and a Promotion

Preview: No Fair! (Or, Crock-Pot Character)

Joseph has been sold into slavery by his brothers and now he is in Egypt. When we looked at Joseph's life last week, he was an egotistical teenager who irritated his family. This week we will see Joseph mature. His life will seem unfair, but remember that God is interested in developing our character.

David Guzik: Egypt had been a large and thriving kingdom for at least a thousand years before Joseph came there. They were wealthy and had massive natural resources. They were educated and had no real enemies at the time. When Joseph came to Egypt, some of the pyramids already looked old, and the Sphinx had already been carved.

Key thought: God is not in a _____

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 39-41 (Author = Moses)

Genesis 39: Joseph a Slave in Egypt

1 Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt [Joseph is ____ at this point]

6 Why was Joseph attractive?

8 But he refused and said [he refused first and _____ second]

Friedman: It was to see whether he was truly fit to become ruler of Egypt. By passing the test, he proved that he would be able to rule over the land of impurity and immorality without succumbing to its corrupting influence himself.

12 fled and ran outside [perfectly fulfilling **2 Timothy 2:22**. **David Guzik: God provides a way of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13), but you have to _____ the way out.**]

Coffman: One of Satan's cleverest clichés, "Wherever there's smoke, there's bound to be fire!" Well, here, there was a lot of smoke, and no fire at all!

21 But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy [_____ : goodness, kindness, faithfulness]

Genesis 40: The Prisoners' Dreams

1 It came to pass after these things [Joseph is now ____]

7 Why do you look so sad today? [This Joseph is very different from the 17-year-old in **Genesis 37**]

8 And they said to him, “We each have had a dream, and *there is no interpreter of it.*” [_____ dreams]

19 Pharaoh will lift off your head from you and hang you on a tree; and the birds will eat your flesh from you.” [Joseph spoke _____ when giving God’s messages. Blurred truth is no truth.]

23 David Guzik: God orders both your *steps* and _____ !

Genesis 41: Pharaoh’s Dreams & Joseph’s Rise to Power

1 Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years [Joseph is now ____]

8 Coffman: Only one voice speaks throughout Genesis. Only one power controls its events. That voice and power are those of God.

16 *It is not in me* [Loosely paraphrased, “It’s not _____ me”]

25 The dreams of Pharaoh *are one . . . 26* the dreams *are one* [Joseph _____ himself for clarity]

33 Joseph is creating his own _____ description

42 his signet ring off his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand [so Joseph could sign/ _____ public documents]

51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh [causing to _____]

52 And the name of the second he called Ephraim [double ash-heap: I shall be doubly _____]

Challenge: Be patient with God in everything (He is always working: **Romans 8:28**). David Guzik: Joseph is a good example of man who seemed to have all the gifts and talents for leadership, but God put him in a place where his character would be developed, and this took many years. Gifts and talents may be impressive and immediate, but character is what God looks for and always takes time to develop.

Apply (What is the point?)

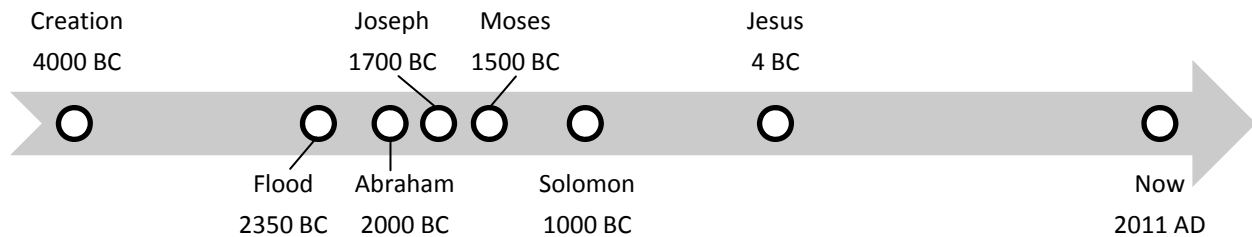
1. Timing is everything
2. Faithfulness is always rewarded
3. God will use anything to accomplish His will

Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be content with the timing and leave the timing up to God (just be **1 Peter 3:15** and **Luke 12:11-12**)
2. Be faithful in everything God puts in front of you, no matter how small, annoying, or meaningless it may seem (**1 Corinthians 4:2**)
3. Be looking for God at work and thank Him when you see His hand (**1 Peter 5:6**)

The Story of Joseph: Ten Brothers Go to Egypt

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



Preview: Remember, remember

Summary: Joseph was his father's favorite son with his father's favorite wife. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers because he told them they would bow down to him. God worked through a variety of painful circumstances to make Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt. Last week, we saw Joseph transform from an egotistical teenager into a mature man. Joseph's life seems unfair, but God used all of these things to develop Joseph's character. However, the sin of Joseph's brothers still has to be dealt with. Now, we see Joseph with the opportunity to do anything he wants to his brothers.

Key thought: Character development takes _____

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 42 (Author = Moses)

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

1 I have heard that there is grain in Egypt [mention of Egypt made them _____]

4 Jacob did not send Joseph's brother Benjamin [Jacob never saw the _____ of picking favorites]

6 David Guzik: When Joseph's brothers plotted murder against him and sold him into slavery, they did it specifically attempting to defeat his dreams (Genesis 37:19-20). Instead, by sending Joseph to Egypt, they provided the way the dreams would be fulfilled!

8 EasyEnglish: There were many reasons why the brothers did not recognize Joseph. These are some of the reasons.

- Joseph had shaved his _____ off.
- Joseph spoke in the Egyptian language and an interpreter translated.
- Joseph wore Egyptian clothes.
- Joseph had an Egyptian _____.

16 surely you *are* spies!" [Coffman: Every accused was considered guilty until proved innocent, and the burden of proof was always upon the _____]

21 Then they said to one another, "We *are* truly guilty [Adam Clarke: God combines and brings about those favourable circumstances which produce attention and reflection, and give weight to the expostulations of conscience]

21 for we saw the anguish of his soul when he pleaded with us [Joseph cried for his life in the _____], **and we would not hear; therefore this distress has come upon us."** [Galatians]

David Guzik: Some have described the conscience as the "_____ of the soul."

The Brothers Return to Canaan

25 Then Joseph gave a command to fill their sacks with grain, to restore every man's money to his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. Thus he did for them. [This is a beautiful picture of what the _____ does for us—Jesus is the bread of life, we have us the treasure of the Holy Spirit, and the Father gives us gifts to help us along the way]

27 But as one of them opened his sack [from the Hebrew, _____]

28 What is this that God has done to us? [EasyEnglish: The brothers did not understand what was happening. Therefore they were _____.]

35 Easy English: We may sometimes be in a situation that is similar to this. It seems to us that God's promises are failing. It seems that God's plan is not working. And God has not told us what to do. . . . We must trust him, especially when it is difficult to trust him. Actually, God's plan was working _____ Joseph was ready to save them all.

Apply (What is the point?)

1. **David Guzik: God can, and must, sometimes use ways we think are harsh to call us to where He wants us to be**
2. People can _____
3. **Numbers 32:23b: Be sure your sin will find you out.**

Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Examine my _____ to see if there is any sin that needs to be uncovered
2. Allow the space and time necessary for people to change
3. Be on the lookout for ways to show _____

The Story of Joseph: The Brothers Return

Review

Joseph has allowed his brothers to return home with the grain they purchased. Simeon is being held hostage in Egypt until the youngest of the sons is brought back to meet Joseph/Zaphnath-Paaneah. The sons arrived home to discover that the money they had bought the food with was in their grain sacks.

Primary Character Review

Jacob/Israel: "Fearful" and aging patriarch

Joseph: Original favorite son of Jacob born to Jacob's wife Rachel who has been (or so his family thought) dead to his family for over 20 years, moonlighting as Zaphnath-Paaneah, Vizier and second in command to the Pharaoh/King of Egypt

Benjamin: "New" favorite son of Jacob, born to Jacob's wife Rachel and Benjamin is Joseph's full brother (all of the other brothers were half-brothers)

Reuben: Firstborn son and rightful family leader

Judah: Led brothers into selling Joseph into slavery

Simeon: Half-brother to Joseph, being held hostage in Egypt

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 43-44 (Author = Moses)

Genesis 43

1. Hunger is a _____ (1-2) **2 And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food."**
2. Judah takes a _____ role (3-5)
3. Jacob/Israel is _____ by fear and begins accusing others (6-7) **6 And Israel said, "Why did you deal so wrongfully with me as to tell the man whether you had still another brother?"**
4. Judah's sales pitch (8-10) **8 Then Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the lad with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones."**

5. Jacob's plan revealed (11-15)

- a. Doubled money
- b. Additional gifts to be sent
- c. Supplication to God Almighty

6. Zaphnath-Paaneah's/Joseph's reaction: plan a _____ (16-17) **16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Take these men to my home, and slaughter an animal and make ready; for these men will dine with me at noon."**

7. Fear caused _____ (18-22) **18 Now the men were afraid because they were brought into Joseph's house**

8. Important _____ are missed (23-25) **23 But he said, "Peace be with you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has given you treasure in your sacks; I had your money.**

9. The brothers are reunited and prophecy is fulfilled (26-34) **26 And when Joseph came home, they brought him the present which was in their hand into the house**

Genesis 44

10. The _____ is set (1-6) **1 And he commanded the steward of his house, saying, "Fill the men's sacks with food, as much as they can carry, and put each man's money in the mouth of his sack.**

11. The _____ is sprung (7-13) **12 and the cup was found in Benjamin's sack.**

12. Judah's _____ is revealed (14-17) **16 Then Judah said, "What shall we say to my lord?**

13. The _____ of Judah is complete (18-34) **33 Now therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers.**

Apply (What is the point?): Psalm 27:1; Proverbs 3:5-6

1. Hardships bring opportunity
2. Growing up is tough sometimes
3. Things are not always as they seem

Personalize (What do I do with that?): 2 Timothy 1:7

1. How often does fear cause me to miss God-given opportunities?
2. What relationships do I need to offer and/or ask forgiveness in?

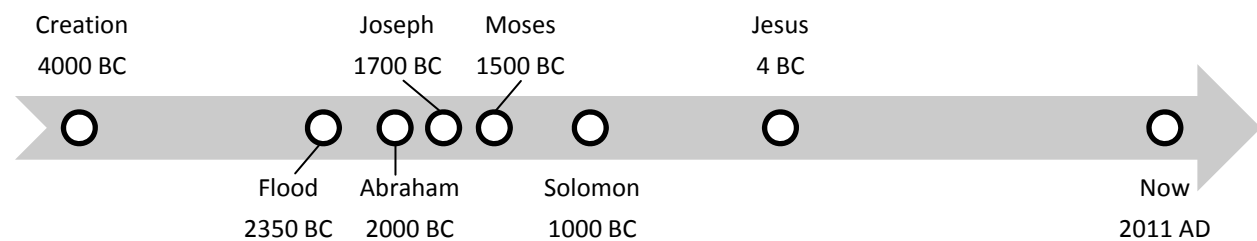
The Story of Joseph: Joseph Reveals His Identity

Review: Genesis

Here are some things we have learned from **Genesis**:

1. God sets the stage for the rest of the Bible concerning His word (**Genesis 1:7c**: “**and it was so**”)
2. God takes the initiative (**Genesis 1-46**)
3. God fills (**Genesis 1**)
4. _____ changes everything (Adam & Eve)
5. God provides (the sacrifice for Adam & Eve’s sin)
6. Unity without proper direction is unprofitable (Tower of Babel)
7. God uses people who do not deserve to be used (Abram)
8. God does the impossible (Abram & Sarai)
9. Blood is required in covenants (Abramic Covenant)
10. Faith is complete obedience to God’s word (Abraham & Isaac)
11. Favoritism in families is toxic (Jacob & Esau)
12. The ends do not justify the means (it is never right to do wrong in order to get a chance to do right)
13. Reconciliation requires change (Jacob & Esau)
14. God is working even when we cannot see Him working (Joseph)
15. God is not in a _____ (Joseph)
16. God can use almost anything in character development (Joseph)
17. People can change (Joseph’s brothers)
18. God is not yet _____

Assuming a literal interpretation of Bible dates, the following timeline is close:



What is remarkable is the volume of time that **Genesis** takes up in our world history. Almost ____% of the history of the entire world occurs in **Genesis**.

Now, to summarize where we are with Joseph: Joseph was his father’s favorite son. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers because he was a punk. God worked through a variety of painful circumstances to make Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt. Joseph’s brothers are sent to Egypt to get food (because there is a famine) and Joseph recognizes them but they do not recognize him. Joseph tests them to see if they are repentant and today the big reveal: Joseph tells them who he really is.

Aside: Typology

Wikipedia: A doctrine or theory concerning the relationship between the Old and New Testaments. Events in the Old Testament are seen as pre-figuring events or aspects of Christ in the New Testament.

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Genesis 45:1-46:7 (Author = Moses)

Genesis 45

5 But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life [That is _____. Real forgiveness is forgiving those that have wronged you and seeing God's hand working in, through, and despite all things for good].

8 Why was Joseph in Egypt? Was it because his brothers were evil or because God was good? _____

22 to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver [this was ____ slaves' worth of money]

23 And he sent to his father these things: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and food for his father for the journey. [Why so much?]

28 It is enough. [Have you ever had a time in your life where you were totally overwhelmed with the goodness of God and you had to say, "It is enough"?]

Genesis 46

3 So He said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there.

4 Joseph will put his hand on your eyes [i.e., he will be the one to close your eyes when you _____]."

7 Do you want to know the rest of the story? Joseph lived happily ever _____.

Apply (What is the point?)

1. God is faithful to do what He said
2. Reconciliation is worth the effort
3. Forgiveness is _____

Personalize (What do I do with that?)

1. Be faithful to what God has told you to do
2. Look for opportunities to reconcile with others and to help others reconcile
3. Forgive as often as possible and as _____ as possible