

Further up, Further in

Resources for Continued Study



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"FAITH FOR THE LONG HAUL"

For individual study or group discussion

The Dr. George W. Long Preaching Series was established by the LMPC Session in 2001 to honor long-time pastor George Long, who served at LMPC through a season of spiritual renewal in the 1970s and '80s. It serves as an annual reminder of "our Savior's faithful use of his holy Word in our midst" and celebrates that God used Dr. Long to call LMPC back to the primacy of God's Word.

Anyone who analyzes Joseph's life cannot help feeling overwhelmed by the setbacks defining most of his early years. On the one hand, the stories we read of the sinfulness and the failings of people around him paint a realistic picture of humankind's brokenness. Yet on the other hand, God's covenant faithfulness towards his people, as it weaves through the stories of Scripture, strengthens our hope of redemption and restoration. In today's lesson, God equips Joseph with a steadfast faith in the face of adversity, providing for us a model of *"Faith for the Long Haul."*

Genesis 40 falls into the middle of the narration of Joseph's story, detailing the events after he is sold into slavery by his brothers (Genesis 37:25-28) and thrown into prison by Potiphar (39:11-20). The passage discloses that the "captain of the guard appointed Joseph" to attend to the other prisoners, insinuating Potiphar's continued trust in Joseph, despite his wife's false accusations.

Faith Ministers (vv. 6-7)

In verses 6-7, Joseph's faith enables him to minister to the cupbearer and baker, as he expresses concern over their troubled countenances.

- After being sold as a slave by his brothers, Joseph becomes second in the household of Potiphar. Then after being unjustly thrown in prison, he is entrusted with the duty of attending to the prisoners. What do these events tell you about Joseph's character?
- In his commentary on Genesis 40, Matthew Henry states that, "Communion in sufferings helps to work compassion towards those that do suffer."¹ How can one grow in empathy for those who suffer? Reflect back on our studies in Luke 6:27-36.

Faith Trusts God's Sovereignty (v. 8)

Even after enduring bitter trials and tribulations, Joseph's faith in God does not waver when he asserts, "Do not interpretations belong to God?"

- How can Joseph's example be a model for a Christian's perspective on life, providence, and faith? (See also James 1:2-18.)
- How was Joseph sure that he would be able to interpret the dreams of the officials? (Genesis 39:23; 41:38-39)

Faith Trusts God's Providence (vv. 15-16)

Inevitably, facing affliction leads the Christian to a crossroads, where the following questions require answers, "Will we interpret our circumstances in light of what we see, or will we walk by faith?" and "Will we interpret our circumstances in light of what God has spoken to us in his Word?"

- How does Joseph's story teach you to walk with God in faith and obedience?
- How many times have men failed you, just like the cupbearer failed Joseph in this story?
- Discuss similarities you see between Joseph and Jesus. How do Old Testament stories like Joseph's point us to Christ? (See also 1 Peter 1:10-12.)
- Joseph's story moves from of humiliation to exaltation. Read 1 Peter 5:6-7. How are Joseph's and Jesus' stories similar based on this passage?
- Take time this week to read the rest of the Genesis account of Joseph's life (Genesis 37-50). What did Joseph suffer at the hands of others? What encouragement did he receive from God despite his sufferings? (Genesis 39:2-6; 21-23; 50:20)

DATE: June 26, 2022

SPEAKER: Gabe Fluhrer

SERIES: GLPS

PASSAGE: Genesis 40:1-23

Family Dinner Table

What in the World is Faith?

by Paul David Tripp

Five things about faith. First of all, it's not based on what you can see. We serve a God whom we can't visibly see, and we can't audibly hear, we can't physically touch. Faith involves the love of your heart. Your life is shaped by what you love the most. And it says here, "Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls" (1 Peter 1:8). Though you haven't seen Him, you love Him.

It's expressed in joyful gratitude, "Rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory." I would ask you this question, "Do you celebrate more than you complain? Do you give thanks more than you grumble?" Faith is joyful because it's rooted in the awesome, amazing gift of God's grace in His Son. "Obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls;" the epicenter of faith is God's saving work and saving promises. I believe that I am His both now and forever. I believe that I've been forgiven. I believe that I'm indwelt by the Spirit. I believe that I'm being transformed by His grace. That's the epicenter of my faith. And then it's convinced of the outcome. Even though in between 'the already and not yet' is messy and confusing, I know God will be faithful to His promises. Faith is a radical commitment of the heart that radically changes the way that you live your life!²

PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS

PCA Mission to North America,
denominational partner ministry

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Christine, supported missionary
partners, serving in a sensitive area in
unreached refugee settlements.

¹Henry, Matthew. *Complete Commentary on the Whole Bible*. Christianity.com. <https://www.christianity.com/bible/commentary/mh/genesis/40>. June 20, 2022.

²Tripp, Paul David. *What in the World is Faith?* PaulTripp.com. April 4, 2022. <https://www.paultripp.com/1peter/posts/006-what-in-the-world-is-faith>. June 22, 2022.