

DEVOTION: “Trust in God, Who Is With Us”

BIBLE STORY: Joseph

TEXT: Genesis 37:1-5,12-14,23-36; 39:1-23; 40:1-13,21; 41:1-4,8-16, 28-43,46-49,54-57; 42:1-8; 45:3-5; 47:27; 50:19-22

BIBLE STORY:

Joseph was the next to the youngest son in his family. The father loved Joseph more than his other eleven children. He gave Joseph a beautiful, colorful robe. Joseph arrogantly told his family about his dreams of ruling over them. His brothers hated him. One day the brothers sold Joseph to a caravan of slave traders going to Egypt. But God was with Joseph.

In Egypt, Joseph was sold to Potiphar, captain of the king’s guard. He took care of Potiphar’s home and all his belongings. One day Potiphar’s wife falsely accused Joseph of trying to rape and he was put into prison. But God was with Joseph.

In prison, the guard found favor in Joseph and put him in charge of all the prisoners. Two prisoners, the chief cup bearer and the chief baker, had dreams. Joseph told them what the dreams meant. Soon afterwards, the cup bearer went back to work for the king, and forgot about Joseph interpreting his dream. But God was with Joseph.

Two years later the king of Egypt had two dreams and he did not know what the dreams meant. The cup bearer told the king about Joseph, who could interpret dreams. Joseph was brought to the palace. With God’s help, Joseph told the king what the dreams meant. There would be seven years when there would be lots of crops and food. Afterwards there would be seven years of drought, with little rain and very little food. The king put Joseph in charge, second-in-command of Egypt. Joseph governed the country. He had the people store and save food during the prosperous years, when there was lots of food. This way the people could buy food during drought years. God was with Joseph.

One day Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt to buy food. When they found out that the governor of Egypt was their brother, they were afraid. Joseph said, *“The evil intentions you had for me, God used for accomplishing good, in saving the lives of His people.”* Joseph invited his whole family to come live in Egypt where he could help take care of them. Joseph was happy to see his father again. God was with Joseph.

ATTENTION: Pause and say: “At the appropriate time, say this phrase with me: **‘God is with us. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.’** Let’s practice: **‘God is with us. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.’**”

LIFE LESSON: Trust in God, who is with us.

- Even though people in school or the workplace bully us, and mistreat or accuse us unjustly,
“God is with us. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.”

So trust in God, who enables and helps us overcome the wrongs of others.

- Even though a family member or friend leaves us, and forsakes or abandons us,
“God is with us. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.”

So trust in God, who is faithful and will never leave us.

- Even though we lose our job,
and the bank forecloses on our house and repossesses our car,
“God is with us. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.”

So trust in God, who opens new doors of opportunities for our lives for His glory.

- Even though a family member or a friend dies,
and leaves us with sorrow and loneliness,
“God is with us. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.”

So trust in God, who comforts and mends our broken hearts.

- Even though an illness or accident occurs,
and causes us pain and discouragement,
“God is with us. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.”

So trust in God, who sustains us through His loving grace and power.

- Even though death approaches at our doorstep,
and uncertainty and fear overwhelm us,
“God is with us. We can do all things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us.”

So trust in God, who gives eternal life through believing in His Son, Jesus.

Yes, trust in God, who is with us!

PRAYER: (optional)

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