

HUME SUMMER 2025 SPIRITUAL DIRECTION - PONDEROSA

THEME TITLE

Allvaldr (*pronounced all•VALL•der*) - means "sovereign ruler/king" in Old Norse

THEME STATEMENT

If God's purposes are good, for His Glory and our eternal good, how then do we live a life that glorifies Him?

THEME VERSE

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today." Genesis 50:20

THEME PARAGRAPH

We live in a world where troubling things happen, and at the same time, we serve a God who is good and sovereign over all. This summer, we are going to dive into the story of Joseph in the book of Genesis to answer some of life's most puzzling questions such as, "Where is God in my affliction?" or "How can an all-powerful God allow such evil?" In Genesis 50:20, Joseph makes the definitive statement, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." As we study the story of Joseph, we hope that students can learn to trust in God, who is not only with us in our affliction but uses it for our good and His glory. Even in the trials and difficulties of life, we can trust in the sovereignty and providence of God.

DAILY BREAKDOWN:

1. God is Sovereign
2. The Problem of Evil (Sin)
3. Character in Temptation
4. Trusting God in Suffering
5. Repentance & Forgiveness (Gospel)
6. The Abundant Grace of God

MESSAGE 1 | GOD IS SOVEREIGN

TEACHING PASSAGE: GENESIS 37:1-11

This message will primarily focus on the character and attributes of God. Establish the setting for Joseph's life and for the God he serves. Please provide context for what has transpired leading up to the Joseph story. As you do so, please provide a survey of creation, fall, dispersion, and the overarching plan of God's redemption. The goal in providing the Genesis summary would be to emphasize with students the sovereignty of God, His goodness, and His overarching plan. We believe that those three concepts will help shape the rest of the Joseph story as we see his life unfold and create a framework for the messages to follow.

Allvaldr Film Narrative:

- Joseph's home is good – he's living life and learning about God
- Joseph dreams, brother's jealousy, and selling him into slavery

Teaching Points:

- Overview of Genesis to get to Joseph
 - **Genesis 1-11:** Creation, fall, dispersion
 - God's big plan unfolding
 - **Genesis 12:1-3:** Establish covenant with Abraham
 - God is Sovereign, He is good, He has a plan
- **Genesis 37: 1-11**
 - Establish story of Joseph
 - Address Joseph's dreams about ruling over his brothers
 - Joseph is Jacob's favorite son
 - Joseph's story is one of suffering where God's purposes are ultimately revealed
 - Suffering / brokenness
 - In the midst of suffering, God's purposes are good.
 - All pointing to God's sovereignty – God is setting up Joseph for His future purposes for him.
 - Acknowledge the brokenness and suffering in our current day. A result of the fallen world we exist within. However, we are all recipients and contributors to sin and chaos in our world.
 - God's purposes are good and bring Him glory, therefore, we can trust him and live by faith even in pain and difficulty.
 - Joseph's story is part of the God's grand redemption story
 - Potential supporting passage: **Psalm 33**

As students walk out of chapel we want them to know:

- God is sovereign
- God is good
- God has a redemptive plan

Discussion Questions:

1. What does it mean for God's plan to be good?
2. How have you seen God's sovereignty play out in your life?

MESSAGE 2 | THE PROBLEM OF EVIL (SIN)

TEACHING PASSAGE: GENESIS 37:12-36

In this passage, we observe sin in action as Joseph's brothers conspire to kill him and ultimately sell him into slavery. As we walk through this narrative, it is tempting to relate to the character of Joseph, but a quick reflection of our own sins forces us to pause and consider how much more we are like the brothers. In this message, we would like you to establish a clear understanding of what sin is, who is responsible, and the reality of what sin requires. While perpetrators of sin, we are also recipients of the effects of sin, evil, and suffering in our world. While teaching through this narrative, it would be beneficial to address suffering as it occurs in the current day. By acknowledging the fallenness of our world, we hope to help students grasp the idea that Christianity is not a quest to forget or eradicate suffering. Rather, suffering is central to the grand narrative of God's plan. As in our own lives, the purpose of Joseph's trials is hard to see unless viewed through a greater lens. It is important that students understand that we, as mere humans, are not suffering at the mercy of a distant or cruel God but His plan is ultimately for our good and for His glory. This is a sensitive message but one that is important for us to understand correctly, so as you teach through this passage, please do so with care. Explain that because of the fall, we not only have a sinful nature but live in a world that is under the influence of sin and now we experience pain, loss, and grief.

Allvaldr Film Narrative:

- Joseph's brothers lie to Jacob about Joseph's death
- The Lord is with Joseph in the midst of suffering

Teaching Points:

- Read through **Genesis 37:12-36**
- Address the beginnings of God's sovereign, good, ultimate plan
 - Joseph goes from home to slavery in foreign land being set up for God's future for him
- Explain sin
 - We are all prone to sin and are more like Joseph's brothers than Joseph in this story
 - We are all recipients and contributors to sin and chaos (more on this in next message as well)
 - The effect of our sin on ourselves and on others
 - Our sin is ultimately against God - total judgement for sin will eventually come

As students walk out of chapel, we want to students to understand:

- We are both recipients of sin and perpetrators of it
- Our sin is ultimately against God and leads to eternal death/separation from Him
- God will bring true justice for sin and has a plan to redeem

Discussion Questions:

1. How has your sin impacted your life and the lives of the people that you love?
2. How does sin affect our standing before God?
3. How can we recognize the sin in our own lives?

MESSAGE 3 | CHARACTER IN TEMPTATION

TEACHING PASSAGE: GENESIS 39

In this message, we are expanding upon our understanding of sin by addressing temptation and how to respond when we are inevitably faced with the things of this world that tempt us. Joseph is brought to a point in his life when he is more powerful than he has ever been before. It is here that he is faced with temptation by Potiphar's wife. There are no verses in this passage that give us a window into what Joseph was thinking and whether he considered giving into this temptation, but we do have his outward response to lean on. Joseph says, "How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" Here, Joseph provides us with the perfect definition of sin; a grievous act of rebellion, but an act of rebellion against a Holy God. Because Joseph has such a high view of God, he can fully grasp the weight of his decision.

Allvaldr Film Narrative:

- The Lord with Joseph, blessing/favor upon him
- Joseph, in Egypt, put in charge of Potiphar's house; temptation; obedience/faithful; put in prison

Teaching Points :

- **Genesis 39: 1-6a**
 - Continue to see God's plan as he blesses Joseph and sets him in seats of authority
- **Genesis 39: 6b-20**
 - Even within the Lord's plan, the world is still sinful and temptation will come
 - We are recipients and contributors to sin
 - More like Potiphar's wife than Joseph
- When faced with temptation, you get to choose – **Genesis 39: 8-12**
 - Trust God or give in (trust yourself)
 - Flee from temptation
 - A right view of God is required to withstand the fallenness of this world
 - How to see the world, trials, temptation through a Biblical lens
 - Understanding the reality of your sin and the Holiness of God

As students walk out of chapel, we want to students to understand:

- Flee from temptation
- In the face of temptation, there are two options: to trust God or give in (trust yourself)
- A right view of God helps us to have a correct response when faced with temptation

Discussion Questions:

1. How do we combat personal temptations? (Hint: *Gen. 39:12, 2 Tim 2:22, 1 Cor. 10:13*)
2. What can truly overcome temptation?

MESSAGE 4 | TRUSTING GOD IN SUFFERING

TEACHING PASSAGE: GENESIS 40-41

In the narrative, we begin to see God's plan unfold even further. As Joseph moves his way up to a position of authority in the prison and eventually brought before Pharaoh, we begin to get a glimpse of how God has been preparing Joseph for this moment. Though Joseph continues to experience trials as he is forgotten in prison for years, he continues to trust that God is with him through it all. In this message, we hope to communicate to students that despite the trials and circumstances we may face in this life, God is with us through it all, and we are called to remain obedient to His word.

Allvaldr Film Narrative:

- Joseph in prison; cupbearer and baker put in prison; 2 dreams interpreted; remember me; forgotten for 2 years
- Pharaoh's dream; Joseph is remembered; Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dream; Joseph put in charge of Egypt

Teaching Points:

- **Genesis 40** – Joseph Interprets Two Prisoner's Dreams
 - Begin by addressing the continuation of God's plan unfolding in Joseph's life and discuss how Joseph abides in the Lord regardless of his circumstances
 - Joseph relies on the wisdom of the God - **Genesis 40:8**
 - Trusting God, even in Joseph's lowest time
 - Reliance in faith when we cannot see to step out boldly
 - How do we trust and persevere even when we can't see what God is doing?
 - When your experience doesn't line up with what you feel would be the "goodness of God," what do you do?
- **Genesis 41** – Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams
 - God continues to work in His wisdom and time
 - Even when we can't see it, and it is uncertain, God is working
 - Joseph is obedient to the Lord, and now elevated to rule Egypt
 - God working a plan we still don't fully see
 - Curtain begins to pull back on God's redemptive plan and purposes
 - Trusting and obeying in all circumstances – the low and the high

As students walk out of chapel, we want to students to understand:

- God's purposes and plans are good, and we are called to trust Him and live by faith, with perseverance and endurance, in all circumstances, even when we don't see the plan and we may feel forgotten.
- God has not forgotten about you. He is with you.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you trust God? Why or why not?
2. How does Joseph model trusting in God for us?

MESSAGE 5 | REPENTANCE & FORGIVENESS (GOSPEL)

TEACHING PASSAGE: GENESIS 42-45:15

As we continue in this narrative, we have reached the moment in the story in which God's plan for Joseph is revealed. Joseph, seated in a position of authority, has been presented with the opportunity to save the lives of many, including the lives of his family. We will get a glimpse into an interesting parallel as Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt in need of someone to provide a way for them to live. In this journey, they must face the sins of their past and seek forgiveness. Similarly, we are all in need of a savior, but we too must first acknowledge the sins of our life and seek forgiveness.

Allvaldr Film Narrative:

- Brothers travel back and forth to Egypt
- Joseph's reveal of his true identity to his brothers

Teaching Points:

- Continue through the narrative of Joseph's story highlighting significant parallels between what Joseph's brothers experience and what each of us experience and are offered through the Gospel.
 - **Genesis 42: 1-2:** Jacob/Brothers recognize their need (famine)
 - They recognize the solution to their need is that food is being sold in Egypt
 - **Genesis 42:6:** They are in need and unable to provide for themselves, and bow down
 - Fulfillment of Genesis 37 dream
 - **Genesis 45:** Joseph's brothers are forced to come face to face with the sins of their past and in a moment where they could and should have received the judgement they deserve, they are presented with life.
 - Brothers' sin still concealed/unrevealed/unacknowledged
 - Revealed sin leads to life
 - Joseph and forgiveness to his brothers
 - Initial provision and withholding judgement
 - Joseph's brothers not receiving what they deserve
- From the conclusion of this point in the narrative, share the Gospel
 - **You may connect Gospel and Joseph by referencing Joseph as a "type of Christ" -- more info on the last page of the spiritual direction.*

As students walk out of chapel, we want to students to understand:

- As we bow and surrender, God's good purposes include us not receiving the judgement we deserve.
- We are in need and God has done a work to provide for that need (forgiveness & restoration) which is part of God's ultimate and good plan.
- God's good redemption/restoration from sin fulfilled ultimately in Jesus.

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you see how God restored sin in Joseph's life, and that he can do the same for you?
2. Is there concealed, unconfessed sin in your life, that needs to be confessed?
3. What is required of us to receive salvation in Jesus?

MESSAGE 6: THE ABUNDANT GRACE OF GOD

TEACHING PASSAGE: GENESIS 46-49 (*brief overview*) & 50:15-21

In the years that followed the reveal of Joseph to his brothers, we witness a season of immeasurable and undeserved favor from God given to Joseph and his brothers. Joseph's brothers deserved to be killed by Joseph and his men but instead, Joseph uses his influence and power to bless the family that rejected him. The narrative continues as Joseph is united with his father, and then he convinces Pharaoh to allow them to dwell in the land of Goshen. In response to Joseph, Genesis 47:5 says that Pharaoh gives them the 'best of the land.' The main passage for today's message is Genesis 50:15-21 where Joseph's brothers ask for forgiveness one final time for the evil they had done against him. Joseph's response is the pinnacle of this year's theme as he responds by saying, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today."

Allvaldr Film Narrative:

- Brothers go get Jacob and rest of family, and return to Egypt and prosper
- God speaks to Jacob on the way
- Joseph's brothers ask for forgiveness once more, and Joseph assures them that God used their evil for good

Teaching Points:

- Begin with an overview explanation finishing both the narrative of Genesis making sure to highlight the following points:
 - The continuation and fulfillment of God's purposes for Joseph and his family
 - Conclusion of this redemption story but it is only one part of THE redemption story
 - God's good plan of redemption unfolding and concluded in the story of Joseph, and would continue unfolding until Jesus comes, and eventually returns. (Can point to **Exodus 1** as next chapter to be carried on in grand narrative of Scripture.)
- **Genesis 50:15-21** – Remaining steadfast in the truth and forgiveness of the Gospel
 - Doubting & experiencing forgiveness
 - Joseph's brothers once again doubt his goodness and forgiveness fearing death after Jacob's death
 - Even when presented with life and truth, they still doubt Joseph's forgiveness
 - When the Lord has presented you with His truth, goodness, and forgiveness, do you still doubt him?
 - "What you meant for evil, God meant for good..." **Genesis 50:20**
 - Do you believe that?
 - Reminder of what we've already discussed – God's sovereignty far outweighs any force on earth and if we abide in Him, He can use us to fulfill His good plans
- **2 Corinthians 4:7-18**: How do we then live in light of God's good will, sovereignty, and the truth of the Gospel we have received?
 - Every good we have experienced this side of eternity will be made better and experienced in full forevermore for eternity with Christ
 - Empowered through the Holy Spirit we have the opportunity to reach others with this truth
 - **2 Corinthians 4: 16-17**: The trials we will face here on earth are unmatched by truth of who God is and what we are promised in eternity with him.

As students walk out of chapel, we want to students to understand:

- God's good purposes include us receiving what we don't deserve – grace.
- What man meant for evil, God meant for good – within the story of Joseph, within Genesis, within the grand narrative of Scripture.
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit, God can use us to help support His grand narrative and bring others to know Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Can you recognize times where God is using past hardships as a blessing today?
2. Can you foresee how God may use your current condition as a blessing in the future?
3. What are ways you can be used by the Holy Spirit for God's kingdom?

Resource on Parallels Between Joseph & Jesus and Joseph as a “Type of Christ”

NOTE FROM THE CAMP DIRECTORS: We thought this would be great to address as you see fit. It's not a main teaching point. For the believer, this is so incredible and fascinating to understand, while for the new believer, this point could be confusing. Addressing this during the Gospel message would seem like the most appropriate time to bring the most clarity to this point.

[Parallels Between Joseph and Jesus - The Gospel Coalition](#)

[60 Parallels Between Joseph and Jesus](#)

Message 2

- Joseph as a type of “Christ”, pointing to our future hope of Christ
 - Betrayed, sold for silver, facing undeserved consequences

Message 3

- Joseph as a type of “Christ”
 - Faithfulness can still lead to hardship
 - Jesus was perfect, and still met unjust suffering
 - Separated from loving Father
 - Jesus was the ultimate solution for sin, bearing the wrath of God

Message 4

- Joseph as type of “Christ”
 - Joseph’s interpretation of dreams validating God being with Joseph
 - Jesus’ miracles validating Jesus as from God
 - Joseph as mouthpiece of wisdom and judgement of God
 - Exalted to power / resurrection of Jesus
 - Forerunner into land of plenty ... Jesus ascension

Message 5

- Joseph as a type of “Christ”
 - Mercy, Grace, and withholding judgement ...
 - Sent ahead to preserve life