Unit 4, Session 2

God Redeems Adversity

Summary and Goal
In the previous session, we watched as Joseph went from being the favored son of his father to a slave in Egypt by the hands of his jealous brothers. In this session, we will see God setting the stage for His plans to come to pass, just not in the way Joseph and his family would have expected. The dreams God gave Joseph (Gen. 37:5-7,9) would come true; Joseph’s brothers would bow down to him. But first, Joseph would have to endure more adversity. God’s act of redemptive reversal was not yet complete. In the end, we will see that we can be confident that God works providentially in our lives, even through adversity, for His glory and our good.

Session Outline
1. God is present even when we seem alone (Gen. 39:1-6a).
2. God is kind even when our situation is difficult (Gen. 39:19-23).
3. God is at work even when we can’t see it (Gen. 41:14-16).

Session in a Sentence
God works providentially in our lives, even through adversity, for His glory and our good.

Christ Connection
Joseph suffered unjustly in Potiphar’s house and in prison, but he was later exalted to a place of prominence. In a similar manner, Jesus suffered unjustly in His arrest and crucifixion, but He was later raised from the dead and returned to His exalted place of glory with the Father.

Missional Application
Because God is faithful and sovereign, we live with full trust in Him, knowing that even when obstacles appear to thwart His mission, He may use those very obstacles as part of His plan to bring glory to His Son.
Group Time

Introduction

PACK ITEM 2: THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP: Cut apart the numbered sections of this handout about Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s life and post them around your room. As group members arrive, ask them to move about the room and read each post in order.

READ the following paragraph in the DDG (p. 20) to summarize the information from Pack Item 2: The Cost of Discipleship.

German pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a smart, independent thinker who stood apart from his peers and true to his Christian convictions. Bonhoeffer’s father, a physician and professor, had taught his son to live his beliefs, not merely hold them. This lesson greatly influenced Bonhoeffer’s life, but it also led indirectly to his death by Germany’s fascist government. They were able to silence his voice, yet Bonhoeffer’s conviction continues to speak to the Christian world today.

INTERACT: Ask group members to share briefly some of their answers to the opening question on page 20 in their Daily Discipleship Guide (DDG).

What are some thoughts and feelings people could have about Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s life story? (it is tragic; it was too short; it was a waste; it’s so pointless; standing for his Christian convictions accomplished nothing; why didn’t God intervene?)

EXPLAIN: In response to answers to the previous question, acknowledge that Bonhoeffer’s story is tragic and heartbreaking, but also emphasize that God is sovereign and had a purpose in Bonhoeffer’s brief life, and we still feel its impact today.

SUMMARIZE: In the previous session, we watched as Joseph went from being the favored son of his father to a slave in Egypt by the hands of his jealous brothers. In this session, we will see God setting the stage for His plans to come to pass, just not in the way Joseph and his family would have expected.

For additional teaching options and other resources, please visit www.GospelProject.com/additional-resources.
**Point 1: God is present even when we seem alone (Gen. 39:1-6a).**

**SAY:** At the age of seventeen, Joseph’s life had taken a tragic turn when his brothers betrayed him and sold him into slavery. In Egypt, Joseph’s tragic story would continue, but God was using Joseph’s adversity, the impact of which we continue to feel today as well.

**READ** Genesis 39:1-6a (DDG p. 21).

1 Now Joseph had been taken to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the guards, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there. 2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, serving in the household of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made everything he did successful, 4 Joseph found favor with his master and became his personal attendant. Potiphar also put him in charge of his household and placed all that he owned under his authority. 5 From the time that he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian’s house because of Joseph. The LORD’s blessing was on all that he owned, in his house and in his fields. 6a He left all that he owned under Joseph’s authority; he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

? What do you think Joseph might have thought and felt during his journey to Egypt and purchase by Potiphar? (be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation)

**EXPLAIN:** Use the following paragraph in the DDG (p. 21) and the information below to show that though Joseph’s situation was difficult, he was not alone. And then note some other examples of people in the Bible who experienced God’s presence and grace in difficult circumstances: David, Hezekiah, and Mary.

Joseph’s situation was difficult: betrayed by his brothers, torn from his family, and taken to a foreign land as a slave. And to make matters worse, his brothers lied to their father, making it look as if Joseph were dead. So he was alone, and no one was going to look for him. But he was never really alone: “The LORD was with Joseph” (39:2).

- The Lord was with Joseph and brought him success in Potiphar’s house, which did not go unnoticed by his Egyptian master (39:2-3). Potiphar recognized that God was blessing his young servant and that all he did prospered. The shrewd Egyptian placed Joseph, his Israelite slave, in charge of his household and all he owned. Joseph was away from his people, but he was not away from the God of his people, and God remained faithful to His covenant promises: Joseph was a blessing to the nations.
• **King David**, a man after God’s own heart (1 Sam. 13:14), once stayed at home while his soldiers were on the battlefield. During that time, he slept with a soldier’s wife and she became pregnant, and to cover his sin, he sent that soldier to his death so he could marry his widow. But then the prophet Nathan confronted David. Alone with the Lord, David wept, repented, and worshiped. God did not abandon David but continued to bless him and remained faithful to His promises to him (2 Sam. 12:24-25).

• **King Hezekiah** was a faithful king like his ancestor David (2 Kings 18:1-8). Then one day, Hezekiah fell ill and the prophet Isaiah told him to set his house in order because he was about to die. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, and alone in his adversity, he faced his God: “Please, LORD, remember how I have walked before you faithfully and wholeheartedly and have done what pleases you” (20:3a). Hezekiah wept, but he did not lose faith, and the Lord added fifteen years to his life (20:6).

• **Mary**, a young girl, listened to the angel Gabriel tell her she would conceive a child by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:31). Imagine the scandal of a young, pregnant, unmarried girl. Joseph could have had her put to death. Her father could have thrown her out of his house, most likely dooming her to live as a prostitute. But Mary chose to believe the Lord: “I am the Lord’s servant … May it be done to me according to your word” (1:38). The Lord was with her and the Son of God was born to her.

**FILL IN THE BLANKS:** Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 21), emphasizing that God’s presence is not hindered by our circumstances—He is present everywhere and is always present with His people.

God Is Omnipresent: God’s omnipresence refers to His presence in all time and all places simultaneously. Because God exists apart from and outside of time and space, He is not limited by their constraints. God’s omnipresence is a deterrent for sin, and a source of great comfort and hope for believers.

Essential Doctrine “God Is Omnipresent”: God’s omnipresence refers to His presence in all time and all places simultaneously. Because God exists apart from and outside of time and space, He is not limited by their constraints (1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17:24). He is present with us wherever we are, and sees all that occurs; nothing escapes His attention (Pss. 33:14; 139:7-10; Isa. 57:15; Jer. 23:23-24; Matt. 18:20). God’s omnipresence is a deterrent for sin and a source of great comfort and hope for believers.

**INTERACT:** Ask group members the following question.

?? When have you experienced God’s presence in adversity or loneliness? (be prepared to give an answer of your own to jump-start the conversation)
**Point 2:** God is kind even when our situation is difficult (Gen. 39:19-23).

**SAY:** Joseph’s life appeared to be improving. While he was still a slave in Egypt, God had blessed him in his master’s house. But the rug was about to be pulled out from under him when Potiphar’s wife, using his garment as evidence, falsely accused him of attacking her.

**READ** Genesis 39:19-23 (DDG p. 22).

19 When his master heard the story his wife told him—“These are the things your slave did to me”—he was furious and had him thrown into prison, where the king’s prisoners were confined. So Joseph was there in prison.

20 But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him. He granted him favor with the prison warden. 21 The warden put all the prisoners who were in the prison under Joseph’s authority, and he was responsible for everything that was done there. 22 The warden did not bother with anything under Joseph’s authority, because the LORD was with him, and the LORD made everything that he did successful.

**EXPLAIN:** Use the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 22) and the information below to fill in the gap in the story about how Potiphar’s wife got Joseph thrown in prison.

Joseph was wronged for a second time because of what he wore, but he still did not turn from God, nor God from him. First, his brothers were enraged by the coat of many colors their father had given him. Now Potiphar became furious because of Joseph’s garment his wife gave to him along with her sordid story. For doing the right thing and fleeing a tempting and dangerous situation, he was thrown into prison (39:6b-20).

- **Joseph had been serving Potiphar faithfully,** even if he was his slave unjustly. He had caused Potiphar to prosper. He had been true to God and to his master. Potiphar had seen this. The Egyptian knew Joseph’s character; he knew of Joseph’s dedication to God.

- **Potiphar’s wife** repeatedly asked Joseph to sleep with her, but he refused every time because he was an honorable and faithful man. Even when no one was around, he fled from her temptation, but she held on to his garment and he left it in her hand. Scorned for the last time, Potiphar’s wife used the garment to falsely incriminate Joseph before her husband, so he had Joseph placed in painful chains (see Ps. 105:18).

- At this point, we might expect Joseph to lash out, to shake an angry fist at God, curse Him, and die. But no. Scripture doesn’t record Joseph turning from God. There isn’t even a hint of it. Instead, it seems that **Joseph continued in full surrender to the will of God.** Joseph’s circumstances continued to become more difficult, but his faith in God seems to have grown in proportion.
INTERACT: Ask group members to use the scale in their DDG (p. 22) to answer the following two questions.

1. How do you tend to respond when you are treated unjustly?
2. How do you tend to respond when you see injustice toward others?

Curse God / Seek Vengeance  Indifferent  Trust God for Justice

READ: Ask a volunteer to read the second paragraph in the DDG (p. 22).

Though Joseph was treated unjustly and his circumstances declined, his hope in God did not waver. Joseph knew that the situation he was facing was not good but God always is. Adversity and injustice were a constant refrain in Joseph’s life for many years in Egypt, but so were God’s presence and kindness. And so, whether in Potiphar’s house or in prison, he continued serving God, accepting God’s kindness to him and extending it to others, and God made everything Joseph did successful.

EXPLAIN the nature of God’s kindness and the response we should have to His kindness shown to us.

- Joseph was faithful to God, but he did not earn God’s continual kindness to him. God’s kindness is never deserved; it is always an act of grace and mercy.
- We are called to live with gratitude to God for the kindness He freely gives us, whether in prosperity, adversity, and everything in between. And because God extends kindness to us even when our situation is difficult, we should respond by showing kindness to one another, even to those who wrong us (Matt. 5:44; 7:12). In our hurt, our sinful hearts seek to hurt others. But we need to put this desire to death and instead follow the path of Jesus, who served others through His suffering. We need the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts, purging the sinful contempt we often have for those who persecute us and replacing it with love. We cannot do this on our own.

Illustration: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s Strength to Love is an encouragement for believers to turn to God for strength to love our enemies and bless those who falsely accuse us. In the book, he shares that he drew his strength to love his enemies from the Spirit of God. During times of despondency, when his dream was becoming a nightmare, he would draw from the Negro spiritual “There Is a Balm in Gilead” (see the “Voices from Church History” quote).
**Point 3: God is at work even when we can’t see it (Gen. 41:14-16).**

**SUMMARIZE:** At some point, the Pharaoh’s chief cupbearer and chief baker angered him, so he threw them into the prison where Joseph was being held, and Joseph was assigned as their personal attendant. One night, the cupbearer and baker both had dreams that distressed them, and Joseph interpreted both dreams for them. The cupbearer’s dream meant he would be restored to his role in three days; the baker’s dream meant he would be executed in three days. Joseph asked the cupbearer to remember him when he was restored to serve Pharaoh. But the final verse in Genesis 40 records this heartbreaking conclusion: “Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him” (40:23).

**SAY:** Two years passed. Then one night, Pharaoh himself had a couple of dreams, which no one could interpret. At last, the cupbearer remembered Joseph. The cupbearer shared the story of his imprisonment and finally told the most powerful man in Egypt about Joseph.

**READ:** Ask a volunteer to read Genesis 41:14-16 (DDG p. 23).

14 Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and they quickly brought him from the dungeon. He shaved, changed his clothes, and went to Pharaoh.  
15 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said about you that you can hear a dream and interpret it.”  
16 “I am not able to,” Joseph answered Pharaoh. “It is God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

**EXPLAIN** Joseph’s mind-set regarding the two more years he spent in prison. And referring to the first paragraph in the DDG (p. 23), show how Joseph’s example should impact our own response to disappointment.

- Joseph’s response that it is God who provides insight shows how he handled the disappointment of the previous two years, of being forgotten by the cupbearer: **Joseph continued to recognize God’s presence and power in his life.** The cupbearer had forgotten Joseph, but God had not.
- Joseph continued to trust God and to seek His glory, so he was not about to take credit for what God does. Ultimately, **this moment was not about Joseph; it was about God.**

Joseph found favor with God and gave God the glory whether he was in the pit or the palace. Likewise, as believers, we must stand firm on the Word of God and always seek God’s glory. But we have an advantage over Joseph: We have heard the message about Jesus Christ as Savior and know the end of the story (see Rom. 8:28). Consequently, we are to submit to God’s plan even when we cannot understand it. We are to believe in the God of the promise even when it is difficult to believe in the promise of God.

**INTERACT:** Ask the group the following question.
What are some reasons we might find it difficult to give God the credit due Him for His wisdom and power? (we have struggled to trust Him through our journey and trials; it feels awkward to do so in a world where we are conditioned to bring attention to ourselves; we might feel like pointing attention to God can actually draw attention to ourselves)

EXPLAIN the meaning of Pharaoh’s dreams and God’s providential act of redemptive reversal in Joseph’s life (Gen. 41:17-57).

- A seven-year famine was coming upon the land after seven years of plenty. Joseph advised Pharaoh to appoint a man to oversee the process of storing up food during the seven good years so they would have enough to weather the famine.
- Pharaoh agreed to the plan and appointed Joseph as the man to oversee the process. Pharaoh made Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt. The exalted son had become the exalted official by way of being a slave and prisoner.

READ the following paragraph in the DDG (p. 23).

It was difficult for Joseph to see God at work during each link in the chain of events that led to his exaltation in Egypt, but without each one, Joseph never would have stood before Pharaoh to interpret his dreams. With no interpretation, there would have been no preparation and people would have died from starvation, including Joseph’s family. The promises of a Messiah would have come to naught but for God’s providential work in the pains and trials of Joseph’s life. Like Joseph, we might not be able to see God’s plan at any given moment, but we will see it one day.

FILL IN THE BLANKS: Provide group members with the answers for the call-out in their DDG (p. 23).

God’s Providence: Providence refers to God’s continuing work and involvement in His creation. Christians believe in God’s personal and direct intervention in the world—as opposed to a hands-off approach to creation—that affects not only the natural order but also the individuals and events within human history.

Essential Doctrine “God’s Providence”: Providence refers to God’s continuing work and involvement in His creation. This includes, in various degrees, God’s preservation of the created order, His governance, and His care for His people (Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Gen. 8:21-22). Christians believe the world, and even the cosmos itself, is contingent upon God, incapable of existing apart from Him. Christians also believe in God’s personal and direct intervention in the world—as opposed to a hands-off approach to creation—that affects not only the natural order but also the individuals and events within human history.
My Mission

EXPLAIN: Joseph foreshadowed Jesus through his experiences, highlighting God’s greatest act of redemptive reversal in Scripture.

- Joseph went from favored son to slave. He suffered unjustly in Potiphar’s house and in prison, but God later exalted him to a place of prominence—the second most powerful person in Egypt—allowing Joseph to save his people.

- The Son of God humbled Himself by leaving His throne on high, taking on flesh, and coming to earth as a servant. Jesus suffered unjustly at the hands of the ones He came to save, rejected, wrongly accused, and forsaken. Unlike Joseph, Jesus was not granted freedom; the sinless Savior was crucified and buried. But on the third day, God revealed His greatest act of redemptive reversal to the world. Jesus burst forth alive from a tomb that could not contain Him. Sin had been forgiven. Death had been defeated. And Christ returned to His exalted place of glory with the Father, where He now reigns for us for all eternity.

READ the following misional application statement in the DDG (p. 24), and encourage group members to choose at least one of the options below as a way to respond to the truth of God’s Word.

Because God is faithful and sovereign, we live with full trust in Him, knowing that even when obstacles appear to thwart His mission, He may use those very obstacles as part of His plan to bring glory to His Son.

- How will you respond when it is difficult to feel God’s presence or trust in Him and His promises?
- What are some ways we can encourage one another to continue trusting in God and His promises in difficult circumstances?
- How can you begin to view obstacles in your life as opportunities to share Christ with others?

CLOSE IN PRAYER: God, You are there even when we can neither see Your sovereign hand at work nor feel Your omnipresent love. Grant us the faith to continue trusting You even in the midst of adversity and suffering, knowing that You are molding us into the image of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who endured injustice and hardship in going to the cross for our sake and for the joy set before Him. Help us to encourage others with the truth of the gospel as they undergo suffering. Amen.

INSTRUCT: As your group departs, encourage group members to read and respond to the Daily Study devotions in their DDG (pp. 25-27), which build and expand upon the group study. Also advocate for small groups or families to use Encourage One Another (p. 28) for mutual accountability and fellowship grounded upon the foundation of God’s Word.
Daily Discipleship

Throughout the week following the session, use the ideas below to remind and encourage your group members to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. The Daily Study devotions in the DDG (pp. 25-27) will help group members get into God’s Word and study it for themselves. Encourage One Another (p. 28) will help group members and families fellowship with one another with purpose.

Daily Study

Brief daily devotions in the DDG (pp. 25-27) will help group members take initiative in their own discipleship.

- Make sure all group members have access to a Bible to read. Have some Bibles available to give to guests who may need one, or offer to get one and arrange a time to meet to give it and show how to navigate it for the devotions.

- Share the following idea from the devotion for Day 3 as a part of point 3 in the session: God has promised to work all things together for His glory and our good, but He has not promised that we will see how He does that. We must seek to serve God and trust Him, whether we see gain and reward or not.

Consider leading by example and reading the daily devotions yourself with your own DDG. Based on your study, use brief messages throughout the week (group text, email, social media) to encourage your group to keep up with their daily time in God’s Word and to live it out. Here are a couple of examples you can use:

- Day 1: “The amazing promise of Scripture is that as followers of Christ, we are never alone (Matt. 28:20). Our reality is greater than our feelings.”

- Day 4: “As followers of Christ, we are to be prophetic voices warning people of the coming judgment and also sharing the saving gospel of Jesus.”

Visit www.GospelProject.com/Blog for additional content and resources you can use to help group members gain more insight into their daily studies. Send group members a link or a portion of a blog post or other content that you believe will be helpful and encouraging for their time in God’s Word.

Encourage One Another

This brief plan for fellowship and accountability in the group member’s DDG (p. 28) will help groups of 2-4 people to meet sometime during the week to reflect on the session and to share how God is working and they are responding. It could also be used for family discipleship with students and children who are using The Gospel Project in their groups.

- Encourage group members to comfort one another with the truth that God is always with them in Christ, no matter their feelings or circumstances.

- See yourself as a member of the group who also needs encouragement in the faith, and participate in such a group this week.
Additional Commentary

**Point 1: God is present even when we seem alone (Gen. 39:1-6a).**

“Joseph was sold as a slave to Potiphar, an Egyptian whose name means ‘the one whom the god Ra gave’ (39:1). As the captain of the guard, Potiphar was in charge of the prisons and was responsible for carrying out the punishments laid down by Pharaoh the king. Potiphar was therefore an important official with heavy responsibilities. The Lord was with Joseph, and soon Potiphar noticed Joseph’s able and honest service (39:2-3). It is interesting to note that this heathen man realised that Joseph’s God was blessing all his work as this suggests that Joseph witnessed to those around him that it was the Lord who was helping him.”

“[M]ore than his forefathers Joseph fulfills the divine promise that God’s chosen people will be the means of blessing to the non-chosen. The only non-covenant person in Genesis expressly said to be blessed because of the presence and gifts of an individual from the faith community is Potiphar (39:5). Furthermore, when Joseph, upon identifying himself to his brothers, mentions that God sent him to Egypt ‘to save lives’ (45:5), we know that these include Hebrew lives and Egyptian lives.”

**Point 2: God is kind even when our situation is difficult (Gen. 39:19-23).**

“The swiftness with which the narrator reports the imprisonment of Joseph mirrors what happened in reality. As a slave, Joseph had no legal rights. While the reader is not immediately conscious of the significance of Joseph’s being imprisoned where the king’s prisoners were confined (v. 20), this will prove significant for future developments. (The law codes of the ancient Near East, including OT legislation, do not employ punishment by imprisonment in jail. Yet the practice is well known and attested in ancient Egyptian literature; therefore, this story fits well with the culture of ancient Egypt.) By echoing much of the language of vv. 2-5, these verses imply that Joseph’s experience in prison paralleled his earlier experience in Potiphar’s house. Because of the Lord’s presence with him, Joseph prospers (v. 23).”
“Christians need to follow the example of Joseph’s response when Potiphar’s wife demanded, ‘Come and sleep with me’ (Genesis 39:7). Joseph refused and said, ‘How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God’ (Genesis 39:9). Forcefully refusing to yield to her demands, he also took steps to avoid Potiphar’s wife altogether. He did not call adultery a sin against her or against Potiphar but a sin against God … Like Joseph, we should avoid any situation that could invite such temptations. We should avoid people and settings that could lead us to danger. And if we are being harassed or pressured to be unfaithful, we should resist to the full extent. We could possibly tell a trusted person to keep us accountable. As much as it depends on us, ‘Run from anything that stimulates youthful lusts’ (2 Timothy 2:22).”

**Point 3: God is at work even when we can’t see it (Gen. 41:14-16).**

“Joseph listened as Pharaoh explained that he was helpless because no one could interpret his dream, but that he had heard that Joseph had the gift of doing this (41:15). Joseph did not let this praise go to his head, but humbly replied, *I cannot do it, but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires* (41:16). Often those who claim that the Lord has given them gifts place God in a secondary role while they display the gift as if it were their own. This is a very bad mistake. The gift can never be greater than the giver. Joseph gave God the glory from the start.”

“Pharaoh’s interview of Joseph recalls the slave’s dialogue with the two officers in prison (see 40:8). Pharaoh uses the language of the two officials when describing his frustration (v. 15). He sketches the prison incident, which entailed the recitation of the dreams followed by Joseph’s interpretation. Although the similarities in the two circumstances are apparent, Joseph is not presumptuous. His response to Pharaoh’s probe, as in the first case, denied any special claims for himself. God is the sole source of dreams and their interpretations (v. 16; 40:8). ‘I cannot do it’ is succinctly and pungently stated by one Hebrew word … That the king will receive the answer ‘he desires’ (šâlôm, “peace”) (or ‘favorable answer,’ NRSV, HCSB, NJB) does not mean that the interpretation is necessarily pleasant for the king; rather, God will give him the correct (‘right,’ NAB) explanation that the king seeks and thus pacify his disturbed spirit (e.g., NLT, ‘will set you at ease’).”

References
5. “Genesis,” in Africa Study Bible (Oasis International, 2016), 58.
The Books of Genesis and Exodus are meant to be read together, providing an important clue for our approach to the rest of Scripture. The story begins in Genesis and unfolds with breathtaking speed, but then the pace slows as the rest of the book tells us the story of four generations of the one family through which God promised to bring blessing to the world.

As Genesis winds down, we encounter Joseph, one of Abraham’s great grandsons, and see that God’s promises are not always easy for His people. But through Joseph’s difficulties, we encounter the vital concept of redemption. His life was one of setbacks, frustration, and disappointment. But all the while, we see that God was at work through Joseph’s adversity, not despite it. God brought about redemption for Joseph and his family; God is always bringing glory to Himself and good to His people through their hardships, even by overriding their sins.

Then as we move from Genesis to Exodus, we pass over nearly four hundred years to a time when God’s people are enslaved. The stage is set for an even greater display of God’s desire and ability to redeem His people. When they cry out to God for deliverance from their slavery in Egypt, He provides a rescuer in Moses to free His people and to provide for them.

God’s deliverance of Joseph and the nation of Israel were the early stages of a beautiful crescendo of God’s plan to redeem His people that culminated in Christ Jesus. In Him we have experienced redemption from the slavery of sin and death. As we study these sessions, let us pray that the Holy Spirit stirs our hearts anew so that we are captivated by the love, grace, and mercy of God made known to us in our redemption through Christ so we can share Him with others.
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