

## *The Joseph Document*



**The story of Joseph, the original story, is found in the pages of the Bible.  
You can find the whole story in Genesis,  
the first book of the Bible, chapters 37 - 50.  
(That's a lot of press)**

### **The Joseph Series: - Sometimes It Gets Bad**

There was disdain that the brothers had built toward Joseph; legitimately it could be called hatred. Joseph was his father's favourite and his brother's bane. When Joseph was sent to check on his brothers, and they spotted him coming a long way off, they plotted to kill him. Well, most of them.

Joseph was sent by his father to see how the brothers were making out with the family business of shepherding. They had relocated many kilometers away, and in a day with no communication resources, Joseph was the communicator between home/dad and his sons.

A couple of these brothers had previously committed mass murder, it was in their history, and now all but one brother was ready to kill Joseph. Rueben pleaded and they compromised by attacking Joseph, stripping him of his robe, and throwing him into a waterless pit. No sooner did Joseph hit the bottom that they sat down and ate their meal. Heartless. It was just another day in the wilderness, tending sheep. The brothers, with the exception of Rueben intended to leave Joseph there to die.

Joseph was guilty. Of what? He was guilty of previously sharing his dreams and goals as he tried to find a place within the family dysfunction. He was also guilty of receiving an inordinate amount of favoritism from his father. He had the robe, the Dreamcoat to prove it. Joseph was the firstborn son of Rachel, the wife that Jacob had loved more than the other wives.

Animosity was not new to this brood. The family's disdain and contempt had been growing for a long time.

Unaware and totally naive, Joseph walked straight into the ambush. He was the easy target of a family that was full of anger, disunity, unrest, and deception.

Insult to injury, the brothers had a twisted moment of conscience. They decided, rather than kill him, sell him to a traveling caravan of Ishmaelite's.

Joseph sold for eight ounces of silver. At today's price, his life was worth \$147.52.

For Joseph, this was not a good day. However, he was able, through thirteen years of processing, to get an accurate perspective. But, it was equally not a good day for his brothers. They just didn't know it yet.

Much later Joseph said this before he died, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Genesis 50:20, NIV)

### **The Joseph Series: – Joseph's Family = Dysfunction**

What does your dysfunctional family of origin have in common with my dysfunctional family of origin? Well, the question says it all. The question is entirely answered in another's dysfunctional mess of a family story; Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat is our modern version of this ancient story.

Joseph's father's obsession, just one of his dysfunctional characteristics, was how the family portrayed themselves to the world. His dad cared more about their family image than what atrocities the family's boys had inflicted.

We see in this biblical family mess upon mess, insult upon injury, and imbalance upon outright off-centeredness. If you look up the word dysfunction in the dictionary you will probably find a picture of the "Jacobites," all the boys, the sisters, the four moms, and of course Jacob himself. This is the home (tents) that Joseph grew up in.

Since foundations are critical; since beginnings often dictate the race; or as the idiom would say, "Once a cheater, always a cheater," Joseph conservatively had the deck stacked against him.

All of that was in play before the story that we have come to know:

Joseph, the dreamer

Joseph, the big mouth kid

Joseph, the tattletale

Joseph, the favourite

Joseph, the hated

Joseph, the throwaway

Joseph, the left for dead

Joseph, the sold  
Joseph, the ...deck stacked against, come from a mess, sold into a mess; somehow became second in command in the Egyptian Dynasty/Empire, dream fulfiller, and vision caster.  
What a story.  
What a metaphor.  
What a future; that we can mine hope out of these ancient pages.  
Genesis chapters 34 - 45.

### **Joseph Series: A Great Combo**

A lot can happen in twenty-two years. A lot of dreams and vision can happen; conversely, a lot of dream and vision death can also occur.  
Processing takes time. I've said it before, but it needs repeating. Processing takes time.

It took me many months for me to forgive an individual who hurt me deeply, and that was after I was trying and working to do so. Years later with plenty of new opportunities, I think I'm doing better. Forgiveness flows much easier. There are a lot of personal checks and balances that get applied along the way. It takes more than a weekend meeting or Saturday training course. Application or processing takes time.

When you are hurt, and it goes deep, you think and dream of what it will look like to be vindicated, but as time grinds on, you begin to lose your fleshly inertia; it gets processed out of you if you so desire.

We don't know how often Joseph thought of his dreams, or of his vindication, if at all. We just know he was vindicated and could have bitterly judged.

There was no bitterness. No malice. No ill will.

Joseph authenticated what and who was before him, he revealed, he healed, and he restored.

The brothers, self-examined, repented and humbly accepted their new normal.  
What a great combination.

Restoration, true to the heart, relational restoration, can only happen when both parties own their own stuff and, not until they do.

Great combos are waiting to flourish.

Are you ready to do your part?

That's all that matters.

Joseph Series: Breakthrough!

"Get changed! Get shaved. The king wants to see you now!"

You waited and waited, and then you waited some more, now things are moving so fast you hardly know you are involved.

This was Joseph's breakthrough moment, well; this was the moment when all things changed.

Joseph's breakthrough moment happened earlier. I wasn't there, neither were you. Joseph in the privacy of his privacy had his wrestle with God and with no one else.

He wrestled with the same God that changed his dad and the way he walked. How do we know? Joseph held his values. They came out his mouth every time there was an opportunity. It used to be he had a dream and was going to be... Now, God is the interpreter of dreams.

There still was a common thread, dreams. Joseph never gave up on his dream. I'm sure that the dream became very refined, but Joseph knew that God had given it, and he knew that God would now interpret it. He just didn't know when.

Finally, we get to see the breakthrough.

The king's dream must have been very compelling and convincing. He moved the entire responsibility of the Egyptian economy into Joseph's care before a single crisis ensued.

We now read the story within a fifteen to twenty minute sitting and if we are not careful will miss the magnitude of what God did in, to, and for Joseph. We will miss what God did in, to, and for Pharaoh. We will miss what God did in, to, and for Jacob. Oh yes and remember those boys? We might miss what God did in, to, and for them.

### **Joseph Series: Dressed for Success**

Joseph was robbed of his identity as the favoured son; they stole his coat to show it. Joseph refused to be identified as a traitor and an adulterer; he abandoned his cloak to prove it.

Joseph became the ruler of the land; the garments of royalty declared it.

It took thirteen years and three coats for Joseph to discover his identity.

It would be easy for someone in his sandals to lose heart, to be forced to accept the overwhelming circumstances, to be compelled to give up, but the clothes of authority that he needed to wear demanded success; the leader that he was called to be required no less.

Identity is no easy assignment; it seems to bring with it the very struggle that could derail it. Joseph could have quit, and we would never have known. Conversely we also never would be taking courage from this story of the Amazing.

God was at work in Joseph's life; growing up he saw his dad struggle with God, and he must have learned it well.

"Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt. So Pharaoh made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace. (Acts 7:9-10, NIV)

We are instructed in the scriptures that God does not show favouritism. That means that what he does for one he will do for others. That means:

God is at work in your life!

He calls you son, and he calls you daughter he identifies you as his.

What clothes do you need to put on?

## **Joseph Series: Dream Killers Become Dream Makers**

They were all there, all the dream crushers, dream killers, dream stealers all bowed in the form of Joseph's older brothers, just like the distant dream.

Oh, you've met them. You've had them stalk your present with your past. Some of them are sitting right now in the swirl of your mind. They are once again saying, "Impossible, you'll never amount to anything, you're too small, too big, too dumb, too poor, too..." Fill in the blanks with your own DK's.

These are the haunting voices that daily narrate our lives from a place of obscurity. No, we're not actually listening to voices, just thoughts, shadowed, unbridled, invasive, hostile, and uninvited thoughts. These thoughts were placed into our world at delicate, vulnerable, unprotected, and unsuspecting moments.

There, Joseph stood before his unaware brothers with his chance for retribution. He could have had their heads, their lives, their future and they wouldn't have even known what hit them. Instead? Joseph's forgiveness flowed.

He did process them through checks and balances; he had to know that he was facing the real reformed deal, but forgiveness had already been granted.

Somewhere between cistern and prison, Joseph forgave his brothers. We know he did, we just don't know when he did because of this moment when he could have paid them back.

It was all the crap that Joseph's brothers threw at Joseph that set him up for his present position and authority.

Sounds Messianic!

Maybe even a foreshadowing?

## **Joseph Series Expecting, Anticipating Heart**

Even though he was detoured, waylaid, some would say stopped, Joseph kept looking for his dream. His dream lived in him.

From what I can gather Joseph didn't have much, any, support from the immediate world around him. Potiphar and Pharaoh were not interested in Joseph's dreams as much as Joseph was interested in his own, not even close. In fact, in that culture, slaves do not matter at all. So what if you have a dream?

Pharaoh's dramatic dream now interpreted and in play had Joseph doing his job, what he was appointed to do. That was all that mattered to Pharaoh but not to Joseph. We know because he named his kids from out of the dream-pool that he had in his heart. His dream leaked out of his life.

1) Manasseh – first son – and means forget – “It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household.” (Genesis 41:51, NIV)

2) Ephraim – second son – and means twice fruitful – “It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.” (Genesis 41:52, NIV)

I'm about 60; no make that 70% entrepreneurial. I see more potential than I ever could take advantage of, or in actuality that my wife would let me take advantage of. That means that I often live with an expectant anticipating heart.

I tend to be the guy that wants to move on the dream taking what is current and moving toward what I can see in my mind's eye. I want what I perceive to best, and I keep looking for it around every corner.

From my narrow slant on the world I understand dreams, I understand heartbreak, and I know the fulfillment of dreams that were thought to be dead. I also understand expectations that fall short of what's real.

Joseph's dreams became a reality. Maybe mine will also.

Maybe yours can too.

### **Joseph Series: Family Games**

Joseph knew his family's dysfunction, his brother's propensity to lie and deceive. He knew that they only lived for their agenda. He didn't know that it had changed.

Families play games.

My wife and I do, but we do it on purpose, with our kids now adults, and with delightful intent. We've done it their whole lives. For the most part, they loved it! How do I know? I told them so. Ha.

It's the family games that everyone denies that has me greatly concerned. In fact, they aren't games at all; they could more accurately be called deceptions, family code, and elephants in the room.

You know what I'm talking about. It's the demand that you fit into your role when you are with the family, the way that you act when your buttons get pushed; and no one can push your buttons like your parents and siblings. It's the stuff no one will talk about, but everyone knows it's there. And, you and your family do it every time! Enter Joseph. Joseph was thirteen plus years removed from the family dysfunction, game, code, and he had to know if the code was still in play. He went to quite some length to make sure things had changed. Joseph tested his brother's in their most vulnerable spot. He for lack of a better term pushed their buttons. Any future with them, had they been left unchanged, would not have been pretty.

Joseph was satisfied to the depth of his emotions that change had come. What a delightful moment.

Thirteen years had taken its toll on the brothers, on Jacob, their father, as well as on Joseph. The brothers had come to realize that their shameful behavior had cost their family deeply.

They came forward and owned their stuff.

This action gives us an awesome picture of repentance. It was almost that the brothers were getting in line to say, "If there is any blame here it is to fall on me, I'm the one."

Whether they grew into this or got forced into this through circumstances, they owned it.

In absolute humility they prepared for their fate, they couldn't expect anything else.

This moment overwhelmed Joseph. I don't think he could have hoped for such a spectacular outcome. Spectacular happens when such depth and hurt get healed.

So in this story, we see a beautiful picture of repentance and forgiveness. One is not complete without the other.

So this begs the questions?

What do you have to own?

What do you have to forgive?

### **Joseph Series: Finally a Chance**

Somewhere around year eleven Joseph finally got his break, or so he thought. He, once again, was successful in the prison that confined him. On this particular day, two more guests (his perspective) came into the jail. From their perspective, it would have been the roughest day of each of their lives. The king was ticked at them, and they were thrown away, just like Joseph.

After they had been there a while each of them separately dreamed, but both on the same night. They didn't know, but they were in the presence of a dreamer just like themselves. Joseph saw them in disarray and offered help. "Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams." (Genesis 40:8, NIV)

Joseph had learned something. He was no longer the interpreter of his dream or the dreams of others.

It's hard not to attach your own spin on things. Most of the time I find that I try to interpret my life, but Joseph realized that after eleven years he was not the interpreter of dreams. He could have them, as can I, as can you, but God was and is the interpreter.

It went well for the first guest the cupbearer, and it went terribly wrong for the second, the baker. After three days the interpretations came true, the Baker died, the Cupbearer was restored, and Joseph was once again forgotten.

Interpretations do belong to God, but so does timing and we don't like that. We feel forgotten, lost, alone and frustrated. If we could fast forward the calendar five years and we could ask Joseph if he was okay with the timing, he probably would be, but not that day.

What are you waiting on? What is the long-standing dream of yours that is on hold?

What prayer or plea appears to have 'No' as the answer?

What if there is a perfect moment coming?

You may want to wait.

### **Joseph Series: Forget About It.**

To my knowledge, there were no counsellors or emotional support groups when Joseph needed them most.

And yet, Joseph managed to process his stuff and come through in an emotional healthy condition.

Remember:

Rejected  
Beaten  
Stripped of identity  
Discarded  
Sold  
Purchased like a commodity  
Given a break (of sorts) 'Minor' success, perspective  
Lured trapped and accused  
Left identity once again  
Stripped again of identity  
Plunged deeper  
Prisoner  
Dream Catcher  
Dream interpreter  
2nd in command

Joseph did something in his day that clearly spoke to his mental health and showed that he properly and thoroughly processed.

He had two sons and spoke of his life through their names.

1) Manasseh – forget - “It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.” (Genesis 41:51, NIV)

2) Ephraim – twice fruitful - “It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.” (Genesis 41:52, NIV)

He had this figured out still years before he met his family again.

I find this story amazing and an abundant source of hope.

How about you?

### **Joseph Series: Invent Your Future**

So many times I get caught in maintenance mode. I wake up to realize that I have been just plugging the system of ...whatever.

The other morning a blog by Seth Godin caught me completely by surprise. He talked about people are trying to predict the future, trying to be in the right place at the right time. He then went on to say, “A far more successful and reliable approach is to invent the future. Not all of it, just a little part. But enough to make a difference.” (May 27, 2017, "Seth Godin's Blog on marketing, tribes and respect.")

That caused me to do a double take.

Precisely that is what happens every time someone believes in himself or herself, God, a promise, or future, and then they step out and invent that part of their future. Joseph did that. I’m reasonably convinced that he didn’t sit there in prison and say that he was inventing his future, he just hoped in, believed in, and acted when he had the opportunity. Joseph believed that God was for him.

How about it?

Joseph did, now it’s time for you to invent.

Me too!

## Joseph Series: Just Forgive

Go ahead. Go ahead and tell Joseph, "All you need to do is forgive your brothers. If you'd just forgive your brothers, then everything will be fine."

We say it and infer it all the time. In fact, that seems to be a mantra of the church for the last 30ish years if my memory serves me well.

Every time someone is plunged into a situation that is over his or her head, we rehearse the message of forgiveness. Sometimes it is the way that we can gain the moral high ground. "Well, brother you know that you need to forgive."

The problem? The counsel is correct, and yes you do, but for different reasons than you might think. There are plenty of high grounders that are ready to let you know that you need to and it will make them very satisfied if you do.

But, that is not all that needs to happen. If I am correct, there are at least four more 'key' factors in moving on and growing in your relationships and your faith walk.

I was told the other day that the most important thing that Christians need to do is to learn how to forgive. I responded that I think that it is the second most important thing to do.

I believe that the most important is to take personal responsibility for the situation, if it applies, and it doesn't always. But, if it applies then I believe the very first thing that we need to do is own our stuff.

Thirteen years is a long time to process. Joseph was forced to take that time. He was an excellent servant in all his circumstances, but I have a hunch that he also processed the key factors.

I am reasonably sure:

- Joseph owned his stuff
- Joseph forgave
- Joseph accepted what was going on
- Joseph knew that evil was at play
- Joseph knew that God was at work

About Joseph;  
*They bruised his feet with shackles,  
his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass,  
till the word of the Lord proved him true.*  
(Psalm 105:18-19, NIV)

## Joseph Series: - Mess to Message

In a day of High-Speed Internet, anything short of instant is too long! To think that I used to think my 486 was fast compared to my XT, I just dated myself.

Wouldn't you just like to wake up to success tomorrow morning? I would. I would love to take the mess of my life, my over-the-top struggle and just watch it vanish in a Disney moment. Who wouldn't? Unfortunately, that is not how grown-up life works.

It sure did not work that way for Joseph. He had to process his life, as do we; we really don't advance, indeed grow and change, until we do.

Throughout the narrative, Joseph was referred to several times as successful in all that he did. That wouldn't have been my version of success, I could easily come up with several other words, but from God's vantage and perspective he was growing and changing even though, from mine, his life seemed to get worse. Sometimes it just doesn't seem to make sense to me, but God isn't waiting for me to catch up or for my permission to get or give understanding.

We might even concede to handling the 'Process,' but make it happen now. Don't make me wait until growth happens or seasoning takes place.

There is a little-concealed phrase in the great biblical 'Hall of Faith' that is easily missed. It says, "...whose weakness was turned to strength;" (Hebrews 11:34, NIV) the quote is an operational key for life. God uses weakness. Did you hear that? I know you read it, but did you hear it? God uses weakness, then, now, in your life and mine. Stop for a moment; read that last sentence out loud so you can hear yourself saying it; grabbing this concept is so crucial for your equilibrium and wellbeing. It means that the mess, the screw-ups don't have to remain that way. It means that just as Joseph came through and out, you can too. You can experience a transformation from mess to message. You can leverage your past for success in your future, but even better than that, you can leverage your past for someone else's future.

Just because it isn't instant doesn't mean it won't happen.

Your life can be an incredible message.

Stay in the game!

## **Joseph Series: More Than a Dream**

The word dream can have a different meaning to different people.

"I have a dream" by Martin Luther King was vastly different than my waking up moments this morning.

I woke up feeling like I had been on a movie set of scripts and roles all night. It was delightfully exhausting. Idea after idea rolled out scene after scene unfolded, but I don't remember a single one now that I'm awake.

For Joseph's dream to leave the script of an idea and join the real world, many players many physical realities had to be moved and altered. That meant time; that meant energy; that meant processing for everyone involved. It had to go from what is now to what will be. That meant things had to change, and change is very problematic for the routine.

You probably don't like change any more than I do, but I want my dreams fulfilled. Not the pleasant dreams I can't remember from last night, but the ones that are shaping my life and 'firing my jets.' The dreams of change, distinction, meaning and significance, those dreams that if uttered might bring risk, challenge, and embarrassment because how dare I? How dare you?

What dreams are making room for you? What secret space of incredible is waiting for you and your “more than all we ask or imagine?” “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,” (Ephesians 3:20, NIV)

Remember, change takes time.

### **Joseph Series: Potential**

“Joseph you've got potential.”

Character and potential are two great words when you haven't lived under them for years.

My kids grew tired of the phrase, “It's building character.”

‘For once let me live without character,’ they would say, apparently expressing fatigue.

Truth be told, there was a time when I despised the word potential. On the one hand, I was thrilled that people saw hope in me for future but on the other, I wanted to be able to show them a completed product.

Sometimes the process and processing just suck, it doesn't lend to a positive attitude and often feels long and hard.

We do get tired and don't want to make the exchange, but we do want to have the life where character and potential are finally realized.

Joseph was in a potential building and character-revealing phase of his life for over thirteen years.

Did it pay off? With dividends to spare!

Will it pay off for you? As long as there are Egypt's to manage, and as long as there are futures to be had, I think there is a payoff for the one who stays at it.

*“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* (Galatians 6:9, NIV)

I can see; You have potential.

### **Joseph Series: Serious Vetting**

Joseph was number two in all of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. It was his job to make sure that the country's wealth was secure and properly accessed. He was well within his job description to ‘make sure.’

His brothers were on the other end of this process of scrutiny with no clue, but they were rocked by the uncanny, accurate, deserved and pointed treatment.

Was Joseph just going to an extreme? Like really, didn't he take it too far?

Thirteen years, no, that was just until he entered Pharaoh's service, then there were seven years of abundance where he collected the supply for the coming lack. Then,

the famine started. Another two years into the famine once every other option had been used, financed, leveraged, Joseph's ten brothers showed up in Egypt and immediately bowed to the man in charge. How could they have known? Twenty-two years about to be vetted and cross-examined. It wasn't the brother's intention to move to Egypt. They were just looking for food.

When I moved to the city I now live in, I heard the story multiple times, "I came for two weeks for the summer, and I ended up staying for twenty-five years." My story isn't quite that extreme, but I was on a ten-year plan in my mind. I've lived in Fort McMurray now for fifteen years.

That's what happens when you come to a place of abundance. It shows how desperately your former life needs change.

Joseph was the saviour for his family, but they didn't know it yet.

But, saviours aren't effective until the need is abundantly clear.

Joseph knew what he had to offer, but he didn't know that he could, thus the vetting. It wasn't just a selfish motivation on Joseph's part to grandstand over his brothers, but He knew what could be theirs. They had to have it presented in the context of their great need.

Do you have enough context yet? Is it time for you to need a saviour?

Joseph knows, he says, "Yes!"

### **Joseph Series: Shame Exposed**

Shame damages every time it encounters you and levels a direct assault on your dignity, self worth and identity.

Shame is completely different than embarrassment or humiliation. Embarrassment and humiliation have to do with pride and bruised ego but shame is all about your inner person being attacked and called down.

Shame limits well being; it tortures, it abuses and it internalizes pain.

It uses words like:

I don't deserve.

I am not worthy

I always...

I never...

I won't ever...

I can't ever...

Shame says, "If you really knew me you wouldn't love me or accept me." "Just give me half a chance and I will screw it up."

### **Joseph Series: Skin In The Game**

The moment arrived at lightning speed, and yet the storm took so long to get there.

Joseph waited and dreamed of a day that he wouldn't be in slavery, he dreamed of having position or prominence, or was that just a faint, old, childish fantasy?

He did all the hard work of introspection and retrospection. He busted his chops to maintain and gain a good attitude. The Bible calls that success.

In a moment, in a whirlwind of, "Pharaoh wants to see you now." Joseph was standing before the great! In a moment he was in a situation that could cost him his life or promote him to his destiny. He had seen it before. The stakes were incredibly high, the passion was immeasurable, and the 'skin in the game' was all Joseph's.

Years ago I asked an RCMP officer how he liked his job. He said that it was 98% boredom and 2% sheer terror.

This moment for Joseph was framed exactly like that.

It's improbable that Joseph was thinking that morning, "Next week this time I will be second in command for all of Egypt." Now here he stood in a breath-held moment totally unsure of what his next step would be.

I find it hard to believe that this played out exactly the way that he dreamed. My experience is life just doesn't work that way but here very naturally and in sequence Joseph experienced the 'super' natural. I believe that his heart held to something more, something that he knew had 'greater' attached, but like the rest of us, the clarity was yet to manifest. A supernatural God who, loved and cared passionately for Joseph orchestrated his life, and so he is yours.

Don't get confused by the supernatural part. My confusion ended when I began to see God as super natural. He's more natural than I am and more than likely he is going to work through very natural circumstances to see my life where he wants it to be.

And Hey. Since He doesn't respect one person more than another, He's doing it for you.

All you need is 'skin in the game.'

Trust.

### **Joseph Series: Think Outside The ...**

The circumstances you find yourself in

The pain that is in your heart

The broken relationship that you can't fix

The disease that will not quit

The home that has been broken and shattered

The great plans you have for your year

The retirement that for which you can hardly wait

The new House

The new Car

The new Job

The new sweetheart you have on the side

The plans of discarding all that is right and true  
The one night stand

Think

Think outside the box that you find yourself in.  
Joseph had to. He had to look for more than childhood dreams. They just weren't working out how he had envisioned them. The prison box that he was held captive in did not house the dream that was in his heart.

All he had left were hopes and dreams, and you know? They were probably too small.

What box, what pressure cooker are you living in? Perhaps, the very thing creating all the pressure is forming you, for the better, the best.

Think.

### **Joseph Series: You Cannot Move Forward Until...**

Owning your stuff, finding forgiveness, and trusting in the one who can make a difference, is the new normal; it was for Joseph's brothers.

The brother's lives depended on it, and they couldn't move ahead without it. Joseph had his brothers, his father, and their entire families move to prime real estate, the best Egypt had to offer. They moved from absolute need to unbelievable provision all because of who they trusted. They once despised him, but now they trusted Joseph with their entire lives and future.

Joseph's brothers could not have been saved from their dilemma without this trust. Joseph was a picture of God's provision to his siblings and all of their families. He was deliverance from their dilemma, healing from their past, hope for their future, and their new way of life.

History shows; the Bible shows; even Broadway shows that they made the right choice and they trusted the right person. It took them a while, it took incredible hardship, but they finally got it right.

Joseph was left for dead, despised, rejected, and unjustly suffered alone. He was raised to a position second only to Pharaoh himself. Joseph used the new position of 'fortunate' to provide for everyone else, especially his brothers.

Anyone else in Egypt couldn't have and wouldn't have provided for the brothers. Only Joseph had the answer and the help for their deepest needs; it could be argued that this was unfair to others, narrow and extremely exclusive or it could be accepted that this provision was uniquely designed for their personal lives.

Your future life, your new purpose, your hope for what is yet to be are found here; just as Joseph foreshadowed his family's future hope and provision, so Christ foreshadows yours.

Now, it is your story, your new normal.  
Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat has its foundation in a true story,  
which when applied, will change your life.