



WEEK 3: October 6-12 – The Story 31 Week Lectionary

Joseph: From Slavery to Deputy

Martin Luther: “Daily Prayers – How the head of the family should teach his household to pray in the morning and evening.” *Luther’s Small Catechism (The Story Readings Added)*:

In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say:

“In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer, if you choose, you may also say this little prayer:

“I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.”

Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest.

Today’s Devotion Would Suggest:

Monday – Gen. 37, Tues. – Gen. 39; Wed. – Gen. 41; Thurs. Gen. 42; Fri. Gen. 43-45; Sat. & Sun. Gen. 45:25 – 46:7; 46:28-50:26

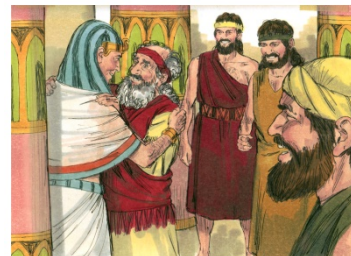
If Time Allows: Gen 37-50; Ps. 15-21 (Allows Reading the Bible through in 31 Weeks)

Reflection Questions: (See Reverse Side)

A Hymn: “How Precious Is the Book Divine” LSB 332

How precious is the book divine, By inspiration giv’n!
Bright as a lamp its teachings shine To guide our souls to heav’n.

It’ light, descending from above, our gloomy world to cheer,
Displays our Savior’s boundless love And brings his glories near.



Questions for the Week: September 19-25 – Chapter 3

Consider journaling your response to these questions. If you have time read: Genesis 36-50; Ps. 15-21

1. Monday (Sept. 19): Read Genesis 37. (*The Story* pg. 29-top of 31) The genealogy of Jesus is further developed: Abraham had a son Isaac; Isaac had two sons Jacob and Esau; Jacob then had 12 sons, the 11th being Joseph. Although Esau (Genesis 36) is not the son of promise (through whom Jesus would come), he is protected and considered a brother. Should we value and pray for our own siblings that they know Jesus? Joseph, Esau's nephew, is such a brother that would also be hard to love. Do we ever look down on someone for being like Joseph? For being a dreamer? Can you relate to Joseph's brother's reason for sending Joseph away? Why does God not just strike Joseph's brothers dead for this evil?
2. Tuesday: Read Genesis 39. (*The Story* pg. 31-32) While Joseph is in Egypt, things get worse at home, showing that God's family is imperfect. Judah (4th Son of Jacob; the great great... grandfather of Jesus) sleeps with a prostitute who is really his son's former wife. This is sin!!! Yet, God uses the evil to bring a child who will continue the line of Jesus. Joseph, meanwhile, does well with God's help to avoid sin. He is put into a bad situation: If he has an affair with his master's wife his success might continue, if he follows God he will be in prison. Would his success continue if he had the affair? Are you willing to suffer for doing right? Lutheran's call this: "The Theology of the Cross!" God works through suffering to bring ultimate glory. How might God use a bad situation you are enduring now to help others know God later?
3. Wednesday: Read Genesis 41. (*The Story* pg. 32 bottom – 34 middle) "All things work together for good for those who love God according to His purposes" (Romans 8:28). Can you think of a time where you saw good come after an evil situation? Could you see the good at the time? God used Joseph here to save not only his own family from the future famine, but many people of the whole known earth. Are our jobs today important? What would have happened if Joseph had been lazy while doing his job for Potiphar, the Jailer, or Pharaoh? What would happen to other people if we are lazy at our jobs today? How does doing our job well fulfill Jesus words, "Love your neighbor as yourself?" (Mark 12:31)
4. Thursday: Read Genesis 42 (*The Story* pg. 34 - 35). Here the dreams God gave Joseph are being fulfilled, but the only way to bring fulfillment is to have all 11 brothers bow down to him. How is God using Joseph to save the world? How is Joseph saving the world spiritually by saving his brothers (Clue: How is Jesus family line saved by this?) Would you ever be inclined to do as Joseph does and play what seems to be a cruel game with your brothers? How does this show that the Bible is not just a made up story?
5. Friday Read Genesis 43-45 (*The Story* pg. 36-39) What is your relationship like with your brothers and sisters? Why were Joseph's brothers terrified of Joseph before and after they knew who he is? Why does Joseph forgive his brothers? Who sent Joseph to Egypt? Does God still use tough situations to make us stronger? Is it okay to hold on to grudges? (Romans 12:18ff)
6. Saturday & Sunday: Genesis 45:25 – 46:7; 46:28-50:26 (*The Story* pg. 40-42) – God's plan to save all people through the nation of Israel (Jesus) takes a twist by going to Egypt. Yet, this trip to Egypt is God's plan. Consider detours in your own life, how did God use these to help grow you as a Christian? How did God take care of you despite the detour? Joseph is prepared for his vocation as a deputy to Pharaoh through His trials. How have you been prepared to fulfill your own vocations?