

LIFE LESSONS

TO MAKE YOUR GOOD BETTER AND YOUR BETTER BEST!

**Good, Better, Best.
May I never rest.
Until my good is better.
And my better best.**

Author unknown

Deuteronomy 28 ¹³ The Lord will make you be like the head, not the tail. You will be on **top**, not on the **bottom**. ERV

John 10 ¹⁰ ...I have come...that you might have **life in all its fullness**. GNT

Philippians 3 ¹³ ...I know that I still have a long way to go. But there is one thing I do: I forget what is in the past and **try as hard as I can to reach the goal**... ERV

Hebrews 6 ⁹ ...We are **confident** that you are **meant** for **better things**...¹² ... (do) not become spiritually dull and **indifferent**. Instead, be **imitators** of those who **inherit the promises** through **faith and perseverance**. NLT / HCSB

“LIFE LESSONS” - MOSES

5 EXCUSES MOSES GAVE GOD

Excuse #1 Exodus 3 ¹¹ But Moses protested to God, “**Who am I** to appear before Pharaoh? **Who am I** to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt?” ¹² God answered, “**I will be with you.**” NLT

Excuse #2 Exodus 3 ¹³ But Moses protested... “**...what should I tell them?**” ¹⁴ God said to Moses...¹⁶...**Tell them** I have seen how terribly they are being treated in Egypt, ¹⁷ and I promise to lead them **out of their troubles**. I will give them a land rich with milk and honey. NLT/CEV

Excuse #3 Exodus 4 ¹ But Moses protested again, “**What if they won’t believe me or listen to me?**” ... ² Then the Lord asked him, “What is that in your hand?” “A shepherd’s staff,” Moses replied. NLT

Excuse #4 Exodus 4 ¹⁰ But Moses **pleaded** with the Lord, “O Lord, **I’m not very good with words. I never have been, and I’m not now**, even though you have spoken to me. **I get tongue-tied, and my words get tangled.**” ¹¹ Then the Lord asked Moses, “Who makes a person’s mouth? ...Is it not I, the Lord? ¹² Now go! I will be with you as you speak, and I will instruct you in what to say.” NLT

Excuse #5 Exodus 4 ¹³ But Moses again **pleaded**, “**Lord, please! Send anyone else.**” ¹⁴ Then the Lord became angry with Moses. “All right,” he said. “What about your brother, Aaron the Levite? I know he speaks well... ¹⁵...I will be with both of you as you speak, and I will instruct you both in what to do. NLT

We ALL have insecurities! What we do with them makes all the difference!

LIFE LESSON #1

“GET OVER YOUR EXCUSES AND ACCEPT GOD’S CALL ON YOUR LIFE.”

Romans 11 ²⁹ The ***gifts*** and ***the calling of God*** are ***irrevocable***. NKJ

“LIFE LESSONS” - JOSEPH

JOSEPH’S STORY – Summary (Genesis 37 thru 50)

Joseph was the second youngest and favorite son of Jacob. Joseph's 10 older brothers were jealous of him and they were so offended by the two prophetic dreams God gave him, which predicted that they would someday bow down to Joseph, that they plotted to kill him. But the oldest brother, Reuben, convinced them not to kill him and instead they sold him into slavery and he became the slave of a wealthy Egyptian man named Potiphar, who was the captain of Pharaoh's guard. Through Joseph's faithfulness and the favor of God, he was promoted and put in charge of Potiphar's prospering household, but he was later thrown in prison for attempted rape when Potiphar's wife lied about him because she was insulted that Joseph did not give in to her efforts to seduce him. In prison, God's favor quickly caused Joseph to be promoted again and placed in charge of the WHOLE prison! Also, while he was in prison, he met two men who had worked in Pharaoh's household, his chief butler and chief baker, and using God's prophetic gift he accurately interpreted their dreams. When the chief butler was freed from prison in exactly 3 days as Joseph had prophesied, he forgot about Joseph for OVER TWO YEARS until Pharaoh was given dreams by God, which his wise men could not interpret. The butler then remembered Joseph's skill with dreams and recommended him to Pharaoh. Suddenly, after ***13 years*** as a slave, Joseph was released from prison and brought to the palace where he gave Pharaoh the interpretation of his two dreams. The dreams predicted 7 years of bountiful crops followed by 7 years of famine. Pharaoh was so pleased with Joseph for interpreting the dreams and so influenced by God's favor upon Joseph that he promoted him, saying "I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt...I am Pharaoh, but without your word no one will lift hand or foot in all Egypt." (Gen 41:41,44 NIV) Joseph wisely and diligently used his position to store away abundant crops for the first 7 years so that there would be plenty during the 7 years of famine. During the famine, Joseph's brothers came from Canaan to Egypt to purchase grain for their families. Joseph recognized them but did not reveal his identity. Appearing before the man in charge of the most powerful kingdom on earth, his brothers naturally bowed before him, which was ***the fulfillment of one of the dreams that Joseph had told his brothers about 22 years before!*** Joseph then devised a plan to compel his brothers to return home and bring back their youngest brother Benjamin. When Joseph demanded to keep Benjamin in Egypt, presumably as a slave, but in reality to regain his fellowship as a brother, the fourth oldest brother ***Judah*** offered his own life as a slave instead of Benjamin. Through this unselfish act, Joseph saw the love Judah had for Benjamin and their father. Joseph then confessed to them who he was and in a very emotional moment, he expressed his forgiveness to his brothers for all they had done to him. The brothers then returned home and brought their families and their father Jacob back to Egypt, where they were cared for and made wealthy in ***Goshen*** by Pharaoh because of his devotion to Joseph.

WHY DID IT END SO WELL?

- His brothers plotted to kill him
- He was stripped of his robe and thrown into a pit
- He was sold as a slave
- He was tempted day after day by Potiphar's wife
- He was falsely accused of attempted rape and thrown into prison for years
- He was betrayed and forgotten in prison for 2 years by the Chief Butler
- He was surrounded by 7 years of famine

LIFE LESSON #2

"PERSEVERE THROUGH TROUBLES"

John 16 ³³ "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have ***peace***. In this world ***you will have trouble. But take heart!*** I have ***overcome*** the world." NIV

John 14 ¹ Jesus said, "***Do not be troubled. Trust in God...***" ERV

Prov 24 ¹⁶ Even though ***good people*** may be bothered by ***trouble*** seven times, they are ***never defeated***, but ***the wicked are overwhelmed by trouble***. NCV

LIFE LESSON #3

"SEE GOD'S PERSPECTIVE THROUGH FAITH & FORGIVENESS"

Genesis 45 ¹ Since Joseph could no longer control his feelings in front of his servants, he sent them out of the room. When he was alone with his brothers, he told them, "***I am Joseph.***" ² Then he ***cried so loudly*** that the Egyptians heard him and told about it in the king's palace. ³ Joseph asked his brothers if his father was still alive, but they were too frightened to answer. ⁴ Joseph told them to come closer to him, and when they did, he said: Yes, I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt. ⁵ ***Don't worry or blame yourselves for what you did. God is the one who sent me ahead of you to save lives.*** ⁶ There has already been a famine for two years, and for five more years no one will plow fields or harvest grain. ⁷ ***But God sent me on ahead of you to keep your families alive and to save you in this wonderful way.*** ⁸ After all, you weren't really the ones who sent me here—***it was God. He made me*** the highest official in the king's court and placed me over all Egypt. ⁹ ...Come here as quickly as you can. ¹⁰ You will live near me in the region of ***Goshen*** with your children and grandchildren... ¹¹ I will take care of you there during the next five years of famine. But if you don't come, you and your family and your animals will starve to death." ...¹⁴ Joseph and Benjamin hugged each other and started crying. ¹⁵ Joseph was ***still crying as he kissed each of his other brothers.*** After this, they started talking with Joseph. ¹⁶ When it was told in the palace that Joseph's brothers had come, the king and his officials were

happy. ¹⁷ So the king said to Joseph: Tell your brothers to...¹⁸...bring their father and their families here. I will give them the ***BEST*** land in Egypt, and they can eat and enjoy everything that grows on it... ²⁰ They can leave their possessions behind, because they will be given ***the BEST of everything***... CEV

Romans 8 ²⁸ We know that ***in ALL things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose***...³¹ What, then, shall we ***SAY in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?***...³⁷ ***...in all these things*** we are ***more*** than ***conquerors***... NIV

Genesis 50 ²⁰ “...***God made it turn out for the BEST***” CEV

LIFE LESSON #4

RELEASE GOD’S FAVOR BY LIVING WITH INTEGRITY

Psalm 84 ¹¹ God is a... ***shield***. The Lord grants ***favor*** and honor. ***He does not hold back any blessing*** from ***those who live with integrity***. GW/HCSB

Psalm 105¹⁹ Until the ***time*** came to ***fulfill his dreams***, the Lord ***tested Joseph’s character***. NLT

Genesis 39 ⁶ Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, ⁷ and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded. ⁸ But Joseph ***refused***... he told her “⁹ ***...It would be a great sin against God.***” ¹⁰ She ***kept putting pressure*** on Joseph ***day after day***, but ***he refused to do what she wanted or even to go near her***. NLT/CEV