

1. What encouraged or challenged you the most in this week's sermon?
2. What major doctrines\* were presented in the message?

\*Doctrine means "a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by the Church".

We see the doctrine of God's sovereignty at work in this passage. God showed Joseph through his dreams that he would reign over his family. The story of Joseph is a great story within a story of God's sovereignty. We see God's hand in the chaos, as Joseph moves from one bad situation to the next all with the end goal of keeping his promise to place Joseph into a position of authority. This is all taking place within the main story of God's divine sovereignty in preserving the lineage of Abraham from the threat of famine and in giving them a land to settle in to become the nation of promise.

I have attached a short article on the topic of God's sovereignty below. Talk amongst your group about how this doctrine can give us peace, assurance, and rest in Christ.

3. What does the passage teach you about God?

This passage teaches us that God is in control of every situation that we face. The author tells us four times in chapter 39 that the Lord was with Joseph. When we face difficult times in our lives, it is easy to deceive ourselves into thinking that God has abandoned us. God has promised his people in multiple places that he will never leave them nor forsake them. We see in the story of Joseph that even though he was put into tough places, it wasn't God's abandoning of him but was God's fulfilling of his promise to him. As followers of Christ, no matter what circumstances or trials we face, we can trust that God is sovereignly working to bring about his redemptive promises in our lives. Talk amongst your group about how this gospel truth can be lived out in our daily lives.

4. What does the passage teach you about man?

This passage teaches us that man, apart from the saving work of Christ, is wicked and depraved. We see jealousy, pride, envy, lust, deceit, and hatred in this story. All these things are the fruit of a heart that does not desire after God but after self. Within this story, we see people rebelling against God and his promises chasing after the desires of their hearts and juxtaposed to this we see Joseph, who is trusting in God to fulfill his promises, fleeing from all worldly desires.

5. How do you see the gospel narrative\* unfolding in this passage of Scripture?

\*When we say 'gospel narrative' we are asking you to see and articulate how you see the story of redemption unfolding in the passage we're studying. Are you seeing how the whole Bible is telling one grand story of how God is seeking His people and redeeming them? If so, how are you seeing it in this passage?

We can see the gospel narrative unfolding in two different ways in this passage. We can see the bigger picture of God preserving his people through Joseph by providing for them so that they might grow into a great nation, through which the promised messiah, Christ, would come. But we can also see the gospel narrative unfolding through the story of Joseph. Joseph is a type of Christ, he is an illustration in the Old Testament that points to the redemptive work of Christ. He was despised by his family, sold for pieces of silver. He was falsely accused, resisted temptation, and used by God to save his chosen people.

Please read the short article attached to this document that lists some more of the ways that the story of Joseph is pointing to the story of Christ Jesus. Talk amongst your group to see if you can think of any other ways the story of Joseph points to the gospel accounts of Christ.

6. What application points in the sermon were most challenging or uplifting to you?
7. How has today's sermon changed you?

**Articles for Further Study:**

<https://www.ligonier.org/blog/divine-sovereignty/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/erik-raymond/wonderful-similarities-joseph-jesus/>