

Getting Started

Can you think of a time a bad situation turned out for the good? Maybe a lost job turned into a different opportunity, or a loss allowed you to grow in a different way.

How did the initial loss feel?

When did you notice that something good had come out of it?

How did your perception of the initial loss change in the aftermath?

Into the Bible

Joseph is the classic case of the Lord bringing good out of evil. His story is told in Genesis 37-50. You probably know the story, so you don't have to read too deeply.

Genesis 37—Describe the reversal of fortune that Joseph endured. Try to imagine how he felt. (Take note of how old Joseph was, 37:2.)

Genesis 39—Describe the ups and downs Joseph experienced in his service to Potiphar. Try to imagine his emotional state as things went up and then as they came crashing down.

Genesis 40:1-4, 14, 23—Would it have been better for Joseph to never get his hopes up? How do you think he felt when it became clear the cupbearer forgot him?

Genesis 41:39-40,46—How did Joseph's story come out? How long did he wait for that resolution? What do you think he thought about the road that led him there?

Genesis 50:20—Another 9 years had passed by this time. How long do you think it took Joseph to come to this point of perspective?

Digging Deeper

I think sometimes we are confident that God will work out all things on the last day, but we are less confident that He can work things out in the shorter term. Have you ever had a situation or a relationship problem that just seemed insoluble? Did it ever work out?

How might the news that God solves unsolvable problems—giving sight to a man born blind, raising the dead—help you re-imagine that problem? Does it make any difference to think, “This is not insoluble to God”? How does hope in the possibility of healing make present difficulties easier? Or does it?