

Bible Study

Lesson: Genesis 43-46

Knowing who you are in Christ, understanding your purpose, and trusting God that all things work together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose, are extremely important for mastering challenges and also important for overcoming the binding emotions of anger, fear, bitterness, jealousy, powerlessness, envy, inadequacy, unforgiveness, and the like.

In these chapters we see how Joseph showed remarkable forgiveness and compassion to his brothers who sold him into slavery because they envied him. Because of his brothers' jealousy toward him, Joseph suffered hardship and the burden of being away from his home. He was taken away from his father who loved him, unfairly put in prison, punished, and betrayed, because of his brothers' evil intentions. Joseph, however, knew that God was with him. Joseph had trust in God, obeyed God's guidance in fulfilling his purpose, and proved God's greatness to everyone who saw that God was with him. The forgiveness and compassion Joseph showed to his brothers came from a place of knowing God's love and standing strong and secure in the truth of God's love for him. This freed him from feelings of fear and powerlessness during his trial, and freed him from anger and unforgiveness toward his brothers.

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When Joseph, who rose from prisoner to now governor of Egypt, revealed who he was to his brothers, he said, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. So, it was God who sent me here, not you! And He is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh- the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt” (Genesis 45: 4-8). What an incredible awareness and understanding Joseph had of God's glory. Joseph was blessed with greatness, ultimately- becoming a ruler to help others, being reunited with his family and having their love and respect, having sons of his own, being prosperous, and a blessing to others.

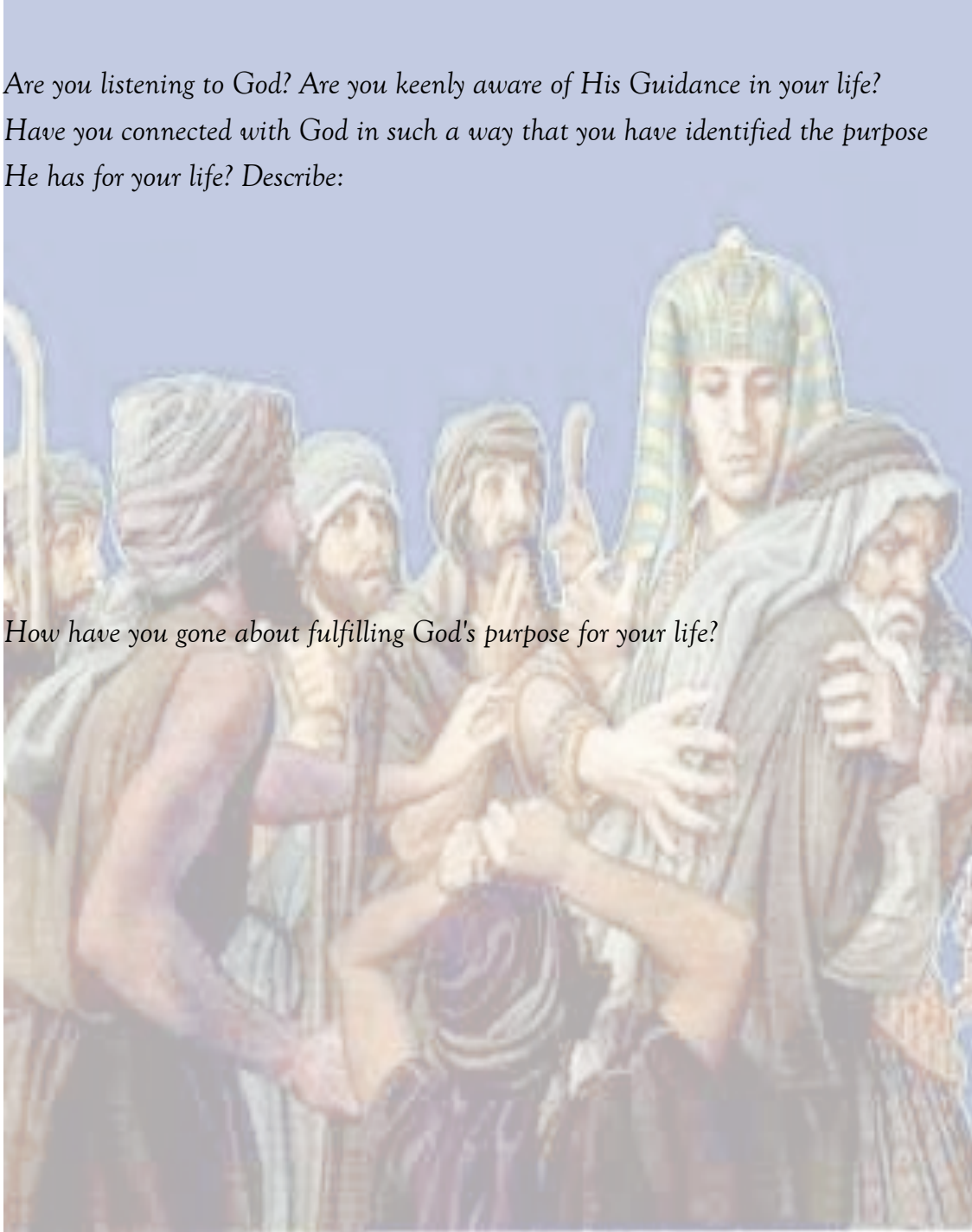
Take away: Mastering challenges and overcoming the bondage of fear, anger, and unforgiveness, among others, means standing strong in knowing that you are a precious child of God that is continuously being made greater and greater in every moment for a divine purpose.

Devotional

Genesis 43-46

*Are you listening to God? Are you keenly aware of His Guidance in your life?
Have you connected with God in such a way that you have identified the purpose
He has for your life? Describe:*

How have you gone about fulfilling God's purpose for your life?



Devotional

How have feelings like anger, fear, bitterness, powerlessness, inadequacy, and unforgiveness, impacted your life?

Knowing who you are in Christ and knowing God's love for you, allows you to master and overcome challenges. How do you stand strong in knowing that you are a precious child of God and how is this truth expressed in your life?