

AMPED

DAY 1: HEAR

PRETEEN
GODTIMES

*Read Genesis 39:1-4.
Then read Genesis 39:19b-21.*

If anyone knew about ups and downs, it was Joseph. And let's be honest. There were some drops, lifts, corkscrews, and cobra rolls in there, too. Joseph's whole life was basically one giant roller coaster!

Look at those two verses from two different points in Joseph's journey. One was a high point. One was a *major* low. But there was one thing that stayed the same . . .

The Lord was with him.

God was with Joseph when things were going great. And God was with him when everything was falling apart. Through all the ups and downs and twists and turns, God never left him.

It's easy to feel like God is with you when things are going the way you want them to. The hard part is remembering that God is with you when things are tough. But that's when you need to remember it the most! God can help you persevere. He can help you trust. He's working in your life, whether you can see it or not.

Right now your life is probably full of some good things and some tough things. So what does that mean for you today? **How can you live like God is with you?**

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DAY 2: PRAY

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GODTIMES

"God, I don't understand . . ."

Have you ever started a prayer that way?

You can be honest with God. And honestly, there are things that happen in life that we just *can't* understand. We know God has a plan. But it's His plan, not ours. And we can only see the part that's right in front of us.

Esther went through a *lot* in her life. We can read the whole saga and see how God had a big plan all along—to give her the strength and courage she needed to save her people. But at any point along the way, it would have been tough for her to imagine the ending.

Talking to God . . . asking Him questions . . . that actually shows a lot of faith. It shows that you want to **live like God has a plan for you.** (And He totally does!)

Maybe you're in one of those moments when you can't see His plan. You just can't understand what He's up to. Talk to Him. Tell Him how you feel. He can take it . . . and He loves to hear from you!

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DAY 3: TALK

PRETEEN
GODTIMES

It feels good to “talk it out” with a friend. No matter what you’re going through—whether it’s something great or something difficult—it’s always better when you can talk about it with someone who cares.

Think about Jesus’ followers who were walking along the road to Emmaus. They were trying to wrap their minds around what had happened. After all that Jesus had done and all He claimed to be, He died. He left them. Wasn’t He supposed to set His people free? But then they had also heard Jesus’ tomb was empty. What did it all mean? Was Jesus really alive? Was He really who He said He was—God’s Son?

The disciples did what you probably do when you’re trying to make sense of something. They talked. They tried to understand everything they had heard and seen.

Here’s a question: who first told you about Jesus? Do you remember? Was it your parents? Did you hear about Him from a grandparent? From a friend? Or at church?

Maybe you could be that person for someone else. Maybe you could help another person “talk it out” if they’re wondering if the whole Jesus story is true. Or maybe you could encourage each other to trust God if things are tough right now. When you know for sure that Jesus is alive, you can face whatever is in your path with courage and confidence!

How can you live like Jesus is still at work in the world today?

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DAY 4: READ

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GODTIMES

Memory Verse: "I have come so that they may have life. I want them to have it in the fullest possible way." John 10:10b, NIV

Go ahead and write down some words that come to mind when you think of the word "fullest." How would you describe the fullest kind of life?

Here's how it's worded in some other translations. Jesus wants us to have THIS kind of life: **rich, satisfying, and abundant.**

Following Jesus is *never* boring. It's not something you'll ever regret. It's exciting! It's fulfilling. It gives you a new sense of purpose every morning.

Maybe the best part of all is knowing that Jesus wants something **FOR** you—not something **FROM** you. He wants you to have a great life, full of the most immense satisfaction that comes from knowing Him and following His example. He's calling you every day to live life to the fullest!

How can you live like people matter to God?

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DAY 5: LIVE

PRETEEN
GODTIMES

Have you ever been riding in the car and your mom or dad had to make a U-turn? They were probably pretty frustrated. I mean, it's a lot harder than it sounds. You have to wait for the next exit, or maybe you have to wait for oncoming traffic to pass before you can safely turn around. If you find yourself going the wrong way, though, it doesn't do you any good to just keep on going.

Paul found that out in a pretty dramatic way when he was quite literally blinded by the light. Jesus actually spoke to him, which sure got his attention! And Paul realized he had to make a U-turn. He realized that Jesus really was God's Son, and that changed everything! Paul knew he had to stop causing trouble for Christians, and instead he started to spend his life encouraging and supporting churches full of people who believed in Jesus.

Jesus gave Paul a brand-new mission: to share His story with others.

"I am sending you to them to open their eyes." (Acts 26:17b-18a, NIV)

In an instant, Paul changed the whole direction of his life—from following his own story to following God's story. He saw clearly that God had sent Jesus to die for the sins of the world. And he dedicated his life to sharing that story with everyone he could.

What about you? Are you going your way or God's way? When you focus your life on God, an amazing thing happens. Your way **becomes** God's way. You want the same things He wants. You live like you're part of a bigger story. And everything you do matters because you're doing it for Him!

How can you play a part in God's big story?

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