

WEEK 5: WE HAVE GOOD NEWS!

Over the last four weeks, we've followed Joseph through some incredible highs and lows. His life changed in ways he never could have predicted, and for years he couldn't see where his story was going.

But Joseph's story isn't ultimately the good news.

Our greatest reason for hope isn't that every hard circumstance will eventually turn around. Our hope is Jesus—and what God has already done for us through Him.

So for our final week, we're going to celebrate.

Because no matter what season we're in, we have good news.

LET'S GET STARTED — GOOD NEWS!

1. What's some good news you've received—big or small—that you couldn't wait to tell someone else?

VIEW

Watch the Week 5 video together.

VIDEO NOTES

DISCUSS

READ ALOUD

Over the past few weeks, we've seen where Joseph's story eventually led. Before we move on, let's look back at the moment when his life took an unexpected turn—from prisoner to one of the most powerful leaders in Egypt.

GENESIS 41:39–43 NLT

³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. ⁴⁰ You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours.”

⁴¹ Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt.” ⁴² Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph’s finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck. ⁴³ Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, “Kneel down!” So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt.

2. Look at everything that changes for Joseph in these verses. Which detail stands out to you most?

3. Think back to where Joseph’s story began—with his brothers throwing him into a pit and selling him into slavery. What makes this moment so remarkable?

Joseph experienced an incredible change in circumstances. But not every painful situation will turn around this dramatically in our lifetime.

The Bible gives us an even greater reason to celebrate—one that doesn’t depend on our circumstances.

LOOK TO JESUS

READ ALOUD

Paul writes to Christians in Ephesus about what God has done for those who belong to Jesus. Just before these verses, Paul describes humanity’s condition apart from God.

Then he writes:

EPHESIANS 2:4–10 NLT

⁴ But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, ⁵ that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!) ⁶ For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. ⁷ So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of

his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus.

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. ¹⁰ For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

4. Read through these verses again and underline everything they say God has done for us. What stands out to you?

5. Look specifically at verses 8–9. What do they say about how salvation is received? What part do our own accomplishments or good works play in earning it?

6. Why is grace such good news? How is receiving a gift different from trying to earn something from God?

READ ALOUD

Luke 15 opens with people gathering around Jesus as He teaches. What happens next leads Him to tell a story about a shepherd and a lost sheep.

LUKE 15:1–7 NLT

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. ² This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

³ So Jesus told them this story: ⁴ “If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵ And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶ When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven't strayed away!

7. What do you notice about the contrast between the Pharisees' response to sinners and the response Jesus describes in His story?

8. What does the shepherd's determination to find the one lost sheep reveal about God's heart toward people who are far from Him?

9. Jesus ends the story with joy and celebration. What does that tell us about how God views repentance and salvation—and why is that such good news?

LOOK CLOSER

READ ALOUD

Peter writes to Christians who are living far from home and facing an uncertain future. Near the beginning of his letter, he reminds them what they have because of Jesus.

1 PETER 1:3–5 NLT

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, ⁴ and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. ⁵ And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

10. What reasons for hope do you find in these verses? Which of them depend on our present circumstances going well?

11. How does Jesus' resurrection give us hope that can carry us through both good seasons and hard ones?

ONE MORE REASON TO CELEBRATE

READ ALOUD

Near the end of the Bible, John records a vision of what is still to come. Revelation 21 describes a new heaven and new earth and what life with God will ultimately be like.

REVELATION 21:1–5 NLT

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. ⁴ He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

⁵ And the one sitting on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new!" And then he said to me, "Write this down, for what I tell you is trustworthy and true."

As a group, read the passage once more slowly.

This time, call out what the passage says will **be gone** and what it says will **be true** when God makes everything new.

APPLY IT

Over the past five weeks, we've seen that we can:

Trust God when we don't understand.
Keep going when life gets hard.
Remember that God is with us.
Trust Him to redeem what is broken.
Hold onto the good news we have in Jesus.

Take a minute and finish these statements:

Because of Jesus, I can celebrate that...

Something about God that I want to remember from this study is...

Something I'm thankful to God for today is...

Someone I would love to see experience this good news is ...

PRAY

End your final week together by celebrating what God has done. Take a few minutes to thank Him for who He is, for the good news of Jesus, and for the hope you have because of Him. Then pray for the people you named who need to experience that good news.