

# FINISH STRONG

Life can rob us of our dreams and our tenacity to chase after them. But God can give us revitalized strength to keep going, to push through and to finish strong.

## **Genesis 39:2-6**

<sup>2-6</sup> As it turned out, God was with Joseph and things went very well with him. He ended up living in the home of his Egyptian master. His master recognized that God was with him, saw that God was working for good in everything he did. He became very fond of Joseph and made him his personal aide. He put him in charge of all his personal affairs, turning everything over to him. From that moment on, God blessed the home of the Egyptian – all because of Joseph.

## **Thinking Points**

1. As we near the end of the year, do you find yourself feeling burnt out? What are some dreams you had for yourself that seem to be fading?
2. **Don't give up on your dream even if it didn't start off well.** Dreams that come from God are dreams that will come to fruition, no matter what.
3. **Don't give up on your dream even if your family doesn't support it.** Read Genesis 39:2-6. God was with Joseph. God is with you. If God wants to make something happen, He will support you and make that dream happen, regardless of the amount of people involved.
4. **Don't give up on your dream even if your journey is full of surprises.** Even when life makes no sense to you, it makes sense to God.

5. **Don't give up on your dream even if it takes a long time to be realized.** We never know what God's timetable looks like, nor why it looks the way it does. But whether we see it or not, there is a reason for the delay or the detour, that is more significant than we realize in the moment.

**Like Joseph, perhaps we feel stuck in a season of challenges. Stuck in the dark, with no end in sight. But the season doesn't need to be wasted! They are opportunities for significance and growth for us. We can choose to leave these seasons stronger and wiser, in deeper connection with God.**

## **NEXT STEPS**

**1**

**Develop yourself during the dark times.** Read Genesis 45:4-8. Joseph could easily have become bitter and resentful towards those who wronged him, and even towards God. Instead, he chose to acknowledge that the reason for his suffering might be bigger than himself, and he chose to fix his eyes on God and look for the blessing in his situation.

**2**

**Know that God can see the big picture, even if you can't yet.** Don't give up on the hope that God can do something incredible through your dream, no matter what it may be. God can see the big picture - He can see the beauty and significance that awaits you on the other side of this dark season.

**3**

**Realise that self-promotion can never replace divine promotion.** Joseph was promoted because God was with him. He couldn't have saved Egypt in his own strength. Like Joseph, we need God in every season.

**4**

**Know that when your dream is realized, it will be sweeter than you could ever imagine.** God's dreams for us are so much bigger than ours. God is for you. God has more in store for you.

### **Genesis 39:2-6**

<sup>4-8</sup> "Come closer to me," Joseph said to his brothers. They came closer. "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt. But don't feel badly, don't blame yourself for selling me. God was behind it. God sent me here ahead of you to save lives. There has been a famine in the land now for two years; the famine will continue for five more years - neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me on ahead to pave the way and make sure there was a remnant in the land, to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance. So you see, it wasn't you who sent me here but God."