



A Six-Week Consideration  
of

# Finding and Following God's Will for My Life

Week 3  
*Inconceivable*

## Week Three

*We stated from the beginning of the series that we would use the Old Testament story of Joseph as a grid through which to process our understanding of finding and following God's will in our own lives. This week we finally get to that.*

*We are left with a host of unanswered questions about what made Joseph the kind of person he was. His older brothers were not nearly the pliable vessels for God's use as Joseph. Despite our questions, we do know that God spoke to him. He did it in dreams. And God spoke of things yet to come.*

*Several things are important to note concerning Joseph's dreams:*

- To Joseph, they were clear, certain, and worth holding on to.*
- To others, they were inconceivable, annoying, and could be conveniently eliminated.*
- To God, they were a promise to Joseph and nothing would stand in the way of their ultimate fulfillment.*

*So, God knew the plans he had for Joseph. Even the plans for his hard-hearted, slow-learning siblings. Nevertheless, there were dark days when Joseph could not see anything of what God was up to.*

*This week, our readings and reflections are all taken from the lyrics of Babbie Mason's powerful song "Trust His Heart" which we used in the message on Sunday.*

*We can, in hindsight, trace the hand of God in the life of Joseph. We see his plan from the pasture to the promise; from the pit to Potiphar's place; from the prison to Pharaoh's palace. We are able to see God at work in every step from the worst of nightmares to the pentacle of power and the fulfillment of God's promises.*

*Ah, but in our lives – we so often remain in the dark. We aren't Joseph. We aren't the dreamer. Be encouraged! God has a plan and he is at work even when we think it "inconceivable."*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping underline.

# *Some General Observations*

There will be study resources produced each week during this series. You may download a copy of the materials from our website or pick up printed copies on Sundays.

Each week's resources will include three components:

- An outline designed to aid in taking notes to help you grasp the main points of the message. (If you miss a Sunday, we encourage you to listen to the message online.)
- A daily devotional guide for your personal reflections on some of the key passages presented in the Sunday message
- A discussion prompt to help prepare you to share your experiences in small group interactions.

The author of Hebrews wrote: *"We have much to say about this, but it is hard to make it clear to you because **you no longer try to understand.**"* We all learn in different ways. But the desire to "try to understand" is a key element in our growth and progress.

The value of the exercise for you will be in direct proportion to the time and effort that you put into it. Just going through the motions is not likely to be of any benefit to anyone. Opening your heart to allow God to speak to you, through His Word, by His Spirit, and in the honest sharing with other believers promises a significant return on the investment of your time and attention.

This material is available online at:

[www.monmouthchurch.org](http://www.monmouthchurch.org)



# DAILY DEVOTIONALS

## *Monday*

All things work for our good / Though sometimes we can't / See how they could /  
Struggles that break our hearts in two / Some-times blind us to the truth

Our Father knows what's best for us / His ways are not our own/ So when you  
your pathway grows dim / And you just can't see Him / Remember you're never  
alone

### **Ask Yourself:**

1. What has been my experience with questioning how God could possibly work "this situation" for good?
2. Has my pain ever blinded me from seeing God's truth?
3. Do I actually believe that the Father knows what's best for me? And is actively working for my good?
4. What do I hold on to when I cannot see God?

### **Pray**

*Dear God,*

*I enjoy reading the story of Joseph. It's quite another thing to embrace it as instructive for my own life. I don't like thinking the fulfilment of your promises may be far out of my range of sight. Help me to trust when I cannot see. In Jesus' name, Amen*

## Tuesday

God is too wise to be mistaken  
God is too good to be unkind  
When you don't see His plan  
When you can't trace His hand  
Trust His heart

### Ask Yourself

1. What keeps me from believing God is too wise to be mistaken?
2. What keeps me from trusting that God is too good to be unkind?
3. Are there times in my life when I don't understand? When I can't trace his hand?
4. What does it mean to me, personally, to trust God's heart?

### Pray

*Dear Lord,*

*I want to believe these affirmations about your character. I want to believe in your infinite wisdom, your essential goodness, and your abiding presence. But sometimes it feels like too much of a reach. Help me to be able to see beyond my immediate context and limited perspective and learn to trust your heart.  
In Jesus' name, Amen*

# Wednesday

He sees the master plan  
He holds the future in His hand  
So don't live as those who have no hope  
All our hope is found in Him

## Ask Yourself

1. Do I believe God has a master plan? How detailed is it?
2. Is trusting God for my future a struggle for me? Why?
3. Do I sometimes live and think as those who have no hope?
4. To what degree am I willing to rest my hope in his plans instead of my plans?

## Pray

*Dear Father,*

*I think I am okay with you having a master plan for the world you created. And I can see that you are in no rush for it to all unfold. But when it comes to my own life, I'm not so certain there is a plan. It doesn't feel like it. But if there is, you are going to have to teach me to see it and to have the Spirit given patience to wait for it. I can't do it.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen*

## Thursday

We see the present clearly  
But He sees the first and the last  
And like a tapestry He's weaving you and me  
To someday be just like Him

### Ask Yourself:

1. How does my point of reference differ from God's?
2. What would it take for me to live based on his perspective not mine?
3. How do I feel about the imagery of God weaving a tapestry? Is that helpful to me?
4. So, what is it that God is actually working towards?

### Pray

*Dear God,*

*I don't want to just sing some hopeful song. I want to know and believe the truth which you reveal. If there is anything about this song that is pointing me in any direction other than your direction, help me to see it and resist it. But if it resonates with your truth, help me to sing it and live it with a joyful heart.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen*

## Friday

He alone is faithful and true  
He alone knows what is best for you

God is too wise to be mistaken  
God is too good to be unkind  
So when you don't understand  
When you don't see His plan  
When you can't trace His hand  
Trust His heart

### Ask Yourself:

1. Can I find any evidence in my own life experience to suggest that God is faithful and true?
2. Do I ever resist the notion that God alone knows what is best for me? When?
3. Is there anything in going on in my life right now where I'd have to say, "I just don't understand"?
4. What will it take on my part, right now to trust his heart?

### Pray

*Dear Lord,*

*I would like to be the kind of person who is confident enough in you that I could sing this song no matter what kind of hardship I am facing. I want to do more than sing it or say it. I want to live believing it and doing it. Help me.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen*



# Saturday

Read – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

<sup>16</sup>Rejoice always, <sup>17</sup>pray continually, <sup>18</sup>give thanks in all circumstances, for **this is God's will for you** in Christ Jesus.

<sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit; <sup>20</sup>do not treat prophecies with contempt <sup>21</sup>but test them all; hold on to what is good; <sup>22</sup>reject every kind of evil.

## Ask Yourself

1. After a week of reflecting on song lyrics, how does it feel to be back to meditating on a passage of Scripture?
2. This text gives a very simple expression of what the will of God is for our lives. How am I doing with this?
3. Could I imagine myself being obedient to God's will in these ways if I were in Joseph's circumstances?
4. What do I think "*not quenching the Spirit*" has to do with "*God's will for you*"?

## Pray

*Dear Lord,*

*It is not hard to rejoice and give thanks when things are going my way. And, it comes almost instinctively to pray when circumstances are not going well for me. But this passage turns my easy notions upside down. How Lord, do I do this all the time and in every circumstance? Help me not to quench your enabling Spirit.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen*

# *Prep for Sunday*

Read – Genesis 39 and 40

*Last Sunday we left Joseph in a very low place in his young life. He is alienated from his grieving father, abused by his hateful brothers, bought and sold as a marketable commodity, and ready to begin his life as a slave in an important man's household. We'd think that things have to get better soon. But they don't. They go from bad to worse. Take note of what impact all this has on Joseph during the season of his discomfort and disappointment.*

## Some ABC's to Prepare for Sunday

Ask God to give you a desire to do his will.

Be still and meditate on what you have already heard.

Confess any known sins to God.

Don't be listening to judge others.

Eagerly welcome the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Find some specific thing to immediately apply to your life.

Go and do it!

## Pray

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you for the hope and encouragement your word has been giving to my life. But here we go again. Another two chapters about Joseph that raise many more questions than answers. From dreams to disaster. What are you doing in his life? What am I supposed to do with his story? How does it relate me? Open my heart. I want to learn. Teach me to trust you in the dark as Joseph did.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen*

## *My Small Group Experience*

**Remember:** The purpose of this small group experience is to build community.

- We do this as we seek to encourage and build each other up
- We undermine this when we only talk ourselves up and when we put others down.
- Our aim is for each to become more like Jesus.
- Let's protect one another with confidentiality.

### **Share Something –**

Tell the group something about your week that will give them a glimpse inside your life.

*Listen carefully and prayerfully to what others share.*

1. When and how did you first become consciously aware of the story of Joseph?
2. Joseph's story is written against the backdrop of a very dysfunctional family. Share something about your family of origin that is "thankfully not as bad" as his.
3. What, to you, seems to be the most painful part of Joseph's story to this point.

4. Have you ever gone through something in your life that had you seriously questioning whether there is a God, and if there is, could he really be both wise and good?
  
5. Was there anything in this week's message that was a particularly helpful insight for you?
  
6. How have the devotional reflections gone for you this week? What role did the song, "Trust His Heart" have?
  
7. What are some of the hard questions you are asking yourself right now?

Share one way the Group can pray for you this week?

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It was the assurance of a holy God to his unholy people that he had a plan for them. It was not a plan of unconditional reward. It was a plan to teach, nurture, train, and develop his people into a community that reflect his heart, his values, and his character.

During this Lenten season we are using the Word of God to re-examine our expectations and perceptions regarding the will of God for our lives.

God has a plan. It is much bigger than me and my wants and desires. So, we pray, *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* But do we even know what we are asking?

This week we turn our attention to the well-loved story of Joseph in the very first book of the Bible.

In Joseph's painful saga we learn important lessons of what it means to trust God to be at work in and on our lives even in those times when we cannot see what he is doing.

**Monmouth Church of Christ**

312 Hance Ave

Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

[www.monmouthchurch.org](http://www.monmouthchurch.org)