

Situation & Response	Joseph	The Israelites
<p style="text-align: center;">Situation/Scripture</p> <p>Prov 10:28 The hope of the righteous is gladness, but the expectation of the wicked perishes.</p>	<p>Suffering, deprivation</p> <p>God's favor and provision</p> <p>His hope was based on God's promise to him.</p> <p>For much of his life, his circumstances did not appear to line up with God's promises; things were not like they once were or how he would have liked them to be.</p>	<p>Suffering, deprivation</p> <p>God's favor and provision</p> <p>Their expectations were based on their own desires.</p> <p>For much of their lives their expectations were not fulfilled; things were not like they once were or how they would have liked them to be.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Response/Scriptures</p> <p>Heb 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.</p> <p>Rom 4:20-21 yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully assured that what He had promised, He was able also to perform.</p> <p>Heb 3:15 while it is said, "Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked me."</p>	<p>He responded righteously in faith. (He received God's favor and provision and continued to trust Him even while living in the deprivation of slavery and imprisonment for many years.) He saw God as a rewarder of those who seek Him.</p> <p>He was fully convinced that what God had promised, He was able to perform.</p> <p>He heard God's voice, responding with a soft heart.</p> <p>He was used to save an entire nation and beyond.</p>	<p>They responded wickedly with complaints and rebellion. (They didn't notice His favor and provision, demanding meat even after receiving manna and water.) They saw God as One who brought them out into the desert only so He could destroy them. (See Deut. 1:26-27.)</p> <p>They wavered in unbelief. (See Numbers 14:11.)</p> <p>They heard God's voice and hardened their hearts.</p> <p>Many were destroyed; they failed to enter His rest.</p>

Homework Assignment¹

1. Read Genesis 37-50 to understand the story of Joseph. Read Exodus 14-17 and Numbers 11 to understand the story of the Israelites.
2. List any ways in which your present suffering resembles the things that Joseph and/or the Israelites suffered.
3. Describe your response to your suffering as compared to Joseph and the Israelites.
4. Compare and contrast the results which Joseph and the Israelites experienced because of how they responded to their suffering.
5. Describe anything you would like to change in your response to your own suffering.

Other Homework Assignment Ideas Perspective on Suffering 1 Corinthians 10:1-14

See also 1 Cor 10:13, Romans 5:1-11; 8:18-39; James 1:2-27, 1 Peter 1:1-2:3; Deut 8.

1. Describe the hardship these people are enduring.
2. Identify common sinful reactions to life's hardships.

¹ Colleen Stortvedt, *On the Road to Freedom* (Kearney, Nebraska: Morill Publishing, 2010), 215.

3. Look at how Christ is present to bless in the midst of temptation.
Use biblical narratives that emphasize seeing God in your situation:
Ex 13-14, Numbers 11, Numbers 20, 1 Sam 17.

Focus on whether people forget or remember the Lord. Ask the following questions:

1. What difficulty are they facing?
2. What do the people in the situation think about what is going on?
3. What are they feeling?
4. How do they react?
5. What do they want?
6. What is God doing?
7. What are the indicators of God's involvement in the situation?
8. How would the people in the situation have behaved differently if they had "seen God" in the situation?

Study people in Scripture who became discouraged:

- Elijah in 1 Kings 19
- Samuel in 1 Samuel 8
- Moses in Numbers 11.

Focus on three questions:

1. What was the cause of discouragement?
2. What was God's response to the person's discouragement?
3. What was the solution to discouragement?

Suffering – Topical Study

Read the verses and list possible answers to the following questions.

- 2 Thess 1:4-8
- 2 Cor 1:8-9
- 2 Cor 4:7-11
- 2 Cor 12:10
- 2 Cor 7:5-7
- Romans 8:35
- 1 Pet 2:18-21
- Ps 66:8-12
- Job 1:6-12

What is considered suffering?

- 2 Thess 1:3-5
- 1 Thess 1:6-7
- Phil 1:29-30
- 2 Tim 3:12
- 2 Cor 4:11
- John 15:18-21
- 1 Pet 2:21-24
- Heb 5:8
- 1 Peter 4:2
- 1 Peter 4:14
- 1 Pet 4:12
- James 1:2-4
- Rom 5:1-5
- Rom 8:28

What are God's purposes for suffering?

- 2 Thess 1:4
- 1 Thess 1:6
- 2 Cor 4:7
- 2 Cor 12:9-10
- 1 Peter 2:18-24
- 1 Peter 4:16
- 1 Peter 4:19
- 1 Peter 3:14-17
- 1 Pet 4:12-14
- Job 1:20-22
- Job 6:10
- Job 42:10
- Rom 5:2
- James 1:5-8
- Heb 12:1-3
- John 14:1
- Psalm 37:39-40
- Is 26:3-4
- Prov 18:10
- Ps 20:7
- Ps 46:10
- Phil 3:8-10
- 2 Sam 22:1-4
- Psalm 119:50
- 2 Cor 2:14
- 1 John 5:4-5
- 2 Chron 20:2-12
- 2 Chron 20:13-19
- Joshua 1:7-9
- 2 Cor 4:16-18
- 2 Cor 10:5
- Col 3:1-2
- Phil 4:8
- Heb 4:16 – Draw near (as a continual habit) with confidence to the throne of grace.

How are we to respond to suffering?

- 2 Thess 1:6-10
- 1 Pet 3:16
- 1 Thess 1:6-7
- 1 Thess 3:4
- John 15:18-21
- Acts 9:15-16
- 2 Cor 1:8-9
- 2 Cor 4:7-11
- 2 Cor 7:5-7
- Romans 8:35-39
- Matt 5:11-12
- Rom 8:18
- Ps 66:8-12
- 1 Cor 10:13
- Heb 2:18, 4:15
- Heb 12:1-13
- Ps 37:39-40
- Is 26:3-4
- Is 14:24,27
- Ps 138:8
- Ps 139:1-6
- Rom 3:37
- Jude 24
- John 16:33
- Heb 4:16 – When we come to Him we'll receive mercy and grace to help in time of need.

What can help in the midst of suffering?

- 2 Thess 1:3,4
- Ps 20:1,5,7

How can we respond to others who are suffering?