

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

God changed Jacob's name to Israel which means one who prevails with God.

Joseph was Israel's favorite son because he was born in his old age.

Joseph's brothers hated him because of it.

Fathers should show their approval and God's approval to every one of their sons (and daughters).

God wants to give His approval to you so that you can then give it to others.

Do you have a dream, a plan, or a goal?

God has a dream for each one of us.

Sometimes our dreams, plans and goals take the place of God's dreams, plans and goals for our lives.

God's plan is the best!

As we get older, life has a way of beating the dreams out of us.

Commit to the Lord whatever you do and He will establish your plans.

Let God adjust your plans and synchronize them with His.

Keys to the Kingdom of God:

1. The Kingdom of God is a matter of relationship.

There is no way into the Kingdom except through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

That involves spending time with Him, seeking Him, loving Him and knowing His love.

2. Out of that relationship comes righteousness.
3. Out of that righteousness comes obedience.
4. Out of obedience comes peace.
5. Out of peace comes joy.
6. Out of joy comes strength.

How do I seek first the Kingdom of God?

Seek Him first before you do anything else in your day.

Joseph had trauma in his life, but God is faithful to use even the trauma in your life for your good.

The Lord was with Joseph and prospered him even during those traumatic experiences.

Joseph showed concern over other people's problems while he was going through trauma.

When Joseph had the dreams at 17 years of age, he had no idea what he would have to go through to see them fulfilled.

Joseph was not bitter over his trauma.

God used those experiences to make Joseph into the man he needed to be.

Joseph learned to forgive injustice.

Joseph learned perseverance.

Joseph learned the lesson of hardship.

Joseph learned integrity.

Joseph learned faithfulness.

What has God put you in charge of?

What has He called you to be faithful with?

What are you supposed to be doing?

Do you need to commit yourself to God in your role as a spouse, parent, teacher, coach or friend?

God can show you how to disapprove of sin yet approve of a person, calling out those things in a person that He does approve of.

Joseph became a man of discernment.

Are you discerning what God is doing in your life right now to make you the man or woman that He wants you to be?

What is God teaching me or how is He equipping me?

How may God use this hardship, trial or problem as a blessing in my life and in the lives of others.

Remember that if you are born again the Lord is with you whether it feels like it or not and His stamp of approval is on you.

SCRIPTURE LIST

Genesis 37

Proverbs 16:3

Acts 2:17

Matthew 6:33

Romans 14:17

Genesis 39:21

Genesis 42:6-7

Genesis 45:4