### FAITH SERIES

## JOSEPH

#### Hebrews 11:22 NIV

"By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones."

#### Who is Joe? (Genesis 37-50)

- Youngest (and favorite) son of Jacob/Israel
- Was known as the "dreamer"
- Sold into slavery in Egypt
- Became the well-respected attendant of Potiphar
- Imprisoned for years after being falsely accused of trying to sleep with Potiphar's wife
- Interprets the dreams of the chief cupbearer and the baker while in prison
- Pharaoh asks Joseph to interpret his dream
- Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge of Egypt
- Reunites with his brothers during the famine
- Sees his father, Jacob/Israel, before he passes
- Dies in Egypt at the age of 110

#### Hebrews 11:22 NIV

"By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the Israelites' exodus from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones."

#### Genesis 50:24-26 NIV

"Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt."

## Dreamers of Faith or Dreamers of Ambition?

#### The Dreamer of Ambition

Genesis 37:5-10 NIV

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said. Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

#### The Dreamer of Ambition

Ambition - a strong desire to do or to achieve success, typically requiring determination and hard work.

#### The Dreamer of Ambition

James 4:13-17 NIV

Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil. If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

# Dreams fueled by selfish ambition become **DELUSIONS**

Genesis 50:24-26 NIV

"Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But *God* will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place." So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt."

- 1) Are we mindful of God's faithful promises?
- 2) Are we confident of God's faithful promises?
- 3) When we go through an "Exodus" season, will we inspire others through our faith? Will we BE inspired by others' faith?

Genesis 50:19-21

But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Dreamer of Faith knows that God's intent for **GOOD** will always overcome!