

Betrayal, Desertion, and Imprisonment

*FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Part 16. In the "Genesis" Series of Matthew Rogers
Matthew Rogers Preaching
07-26-26*

Opening Prayer

- Thank God that what looks like disaster can be the doorway to His deliverance.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us see rejection, suffering, and delays through the lens of God's bigger purpose.

Ice Breaker

What's one time a plan of yours completely fell apart—and later you realized it actually led somewhere better than you expected?

Key Scripture

Genesis 39:2 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, serving in the household of his Egyptian master.

Sermon Summary

What looks like disaster is often the doorway to God's deliverance. In Joseph's story, betrayal by his brothers, false accusation in Potiphar's house, and being forgotten in prison were not the end—they were the very pathways God used to position him for greater purpose. Through rejection, righteous suffering, and delay, God was writing a bigger story that ultimately points us to Jesus, the true Door.

Discussion Point 1: Doorway Through Rejection

Scripture: Genesis 37:28 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

When Midianite traders passed by, they pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took Joseph to Egypt.

Point Summary:

Joseph's brothers hated him, threw him into a pit, and sold him into slavery. The rejection felt like the end of the story, yet every painful step moved him exactly where God intended. What looked like disaster was actually the doorway God was opening.

Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where have you felt the sting of rejection most deeply—family, friends, work, or elsewhere—and how did it shape you?
2. How does knowing that Jesus was also rejected by His own people change the way you process rejection in your life?

Discussion Point 2: Doorway Through Righteous Suffering

Scripture: Genesis 39:9 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

No one in this house is greater than I am. He has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. So how could I do this immense evil, and how could I sin against God?

Point Summary:

Joseph did the right thing and still ended up in prison. Obedience didn't bring immediate reward; it brought greater pain. Yet God was still with him, and the prison became the next doorway. Faithfulness is never wasted—even when it looks like it is.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever obeyed God and watched your situation get harder instead of better? What was that like?
2. What helps you keep trusting God when doing the right thing seems to cost you more than you expected?

Discussion Point 3: Doorway Through Delay

Scripture: Genesis 40:23 (CSB) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph; he forgot him.

Point Summary:

Joseph helped the cupbearer and asked only to be remembered. Instead he was forgotten for two more years. Delayed does not mean denied. God wasn't just preparing Joseph for freedom—He was preparing him for Pharaoh. Sometimes God's delays are His deliverances.

Discussion Questions:

1. Where in your life right now does it feel like God has forgotten or delayed you?
2. How does the repeated truth “the Lord was with Joseph” encourage you when the waiting feels endless?

Wrap-Up

Rejection, righteous suffering, and long delays marked Joseph's path, yet each one was a doorway God was opening. The same is true for us. What looks like disaster is often the doorway to God's deliverance. And the greatest Door of all is Jesus Himself, who said, "I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved" (**John 10:9, CSB**).

Challenge

This week, identify one area of rejection, suffering, or delay in your life. Write it down and intentionally pray: "Lord, what if this isn't the whole story? Show me the doorway You're opening." Then share that prayer with one person in this group for accountability.

Closing Prayer

- Thank Jesus that He is the Door and that we are chosen, adopted, loved, and accepted in Him.
- Ask God to help us trust Him in the pits, the prisons, and the waiting seasons.
- Pray for anyone in the group currently walking through rejection, hardship, or delay.

Handout

BETRAYAL, DESERTION, AND IMPRISONMENT *Life Group Handout – Genesis 37, 39 & 40*

The Big Idea: What looks like disaster is often the _____ to God's deliverance.

Three Doorways God Opened for Joseph

1. Through _____ (Genesis 37)
 - What happened: _____
 - Gospel connection: Jesus was also _____ by His own.
2. Through _____ Suffering (Genesis 39)
 - What happened: _____
 - Truth to remember: Faithfulness is never _____.
3. Through _____ (Genesis 40)
 - What happened: _____
 - Truth to remember: Delayed does not mean _____.

Personal Reflection One place I currently feel rejected, suffering, or delayed:

A gospel truth I need to preach to myself this week:

Memory Verse Genesis 39:2 (CSB) – The Lord was with Joseph...