



Base Camp
OUTFITTING OUR FAITH

Steve "Opie" Thomas
Edgar Pierce

*Now these things happened to them as examples, and they were written as a warning to us...
1 Corinthians 10:11 HCSB*

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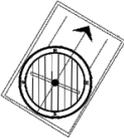
Base Camp

Base Camp “Outfitting our Faith” is a Bible Study built upon the events in the life of men from the Bible. These men, on the timeless pages of God’s Word, are given as examples and warnings to us. As we explore each Expedition, our goal is to flesh out the things that apply to us as men that will enhance our walk with God and help us on the journey of life.

Base Camp is the place, such as your Church or Bible study group where you, together with other men, learn how to meet the challenges of life. Each lesson is an Expedition that has several common elements running through every one.



Gearing Up- Here is where you will find the information that is needed as we begin to explore. Gearing Up is the place that will give us the basis for the study that lies ahead.



Getting Our Bearings- The Bible is the most important component of the study. In this section we will get the direction we need to head and be briefed with any important background information. The God Provided Scripture is called **GPS Location** and will be the focal text of the study.



Pursuing the Challenge- The main body of the lesson is like the day on the hunt. We have our gear ready, our bearings have told us where we are headed and now we are off on the pursuit of the challenge.



Packing out the Trophy- It’s time to reflect and access what we discovered that we need to pack out and take back to base camp with us?

It is time to get into Base Camp, get on the expeditions, pursue the challenges and find the trophies that will make us better men.

Welcome to Base Camp

Expeditions

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Joseph

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Zaccheus

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“Tough Times”

Gen 40:5-8; Gen 41:15-16

Gearing Up



When it comes to hunting or fishing, if I could have one question answered it would be this, “How close have I been?” How close have I been to harvesting the buck of a life time? How close have I been to catching the biggest largemouth bass of my dreams? How close was I to calling in a Gobbler with limb hanging spurs and a beard you could paint a fence with?

I have missed several opportunities to harvest or catch a trophy.

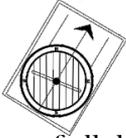
That question will probably never be answered. But I will guarantee you, that out of all the years of hunting and fishing, I have missed several opportunities to harvest or catch a trophy. I could have missed them by hours, minutes, seconds, yards, feet, or by inches! But certain circumstances caused me to give up or even not to go. It could have been the weather, my health, my strength, my patience, not enough time or I just didn’t have the faith in the spot? Whatever it may have been, I missed the chance because I either didn’t go or I gave up! “*When the times got tough, the tough didn’t keep going.*”

Now as we gear up on this expedition, let’s ask this question, “*How close have I been? How close was I to seeing a miracle? How close was I to God using me in a big way? How close was I to receiving a blessing?*” I wonder when we get to heaven will

we be able to look back on our past life and see the opportunities we missed? The opportunities missed were probably missed by 16-18 inches. That's the approximate distance between your brain and heart.

Joseph could have been "King of Tough Times."

When living a life for Christ, He never said it would be easy. And when tough times come, it's so easy to focus on the circumstances with our personal perspective and not the mind of Christ. And let's face it, we hate the tough times and we want life's journey to be a straight, smooth path! But in reality, it doesn't happen that way.



Getting Our Bearings

Out of all the characters in the Bible who faced tough times, Joseph could have been "King of Tough Times." If we go through a difficult time for one day, we feel it's the end of the world. Joseph spent most of his beginning life living in difficult circumstances. If it happened, it happened to Joseph. A dreamer and father's pet, Joseph was hated by his brothers, thrown in a pit, sold into slavery, moved to a foreign land, falsely accused of adultery, and thrown into prison (**Gen.37:1-36; 39:1-23**). Yet, Joseph remained faithful through every negative circumstance and received blessing after blessing. He could fall into cow manure and come out smelling like roses! Makes you want to punch him instead of studying him!

In this expedition we'll look at Joseph's life and the example he set when facing tough times! As we learn, we'll hopefully unpack spiritual truths that will help us not miss out on the blessings God has in store for us, especially during the tough times!

GPS Location (In Study Order)

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Genesis 40:5-8 The cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt, who were confined in the prison, each had a dream. Both had a dream on the same night, and each dream had its own meaning. 6 When Joseph came to them in the morning, he saw that they looked distraught. 7 So he asked Pharaoh's officers who were in custody with him in his master's house, "Why are your faces sad today?" 8 "We had dreams," they said to him, "but there is no one to interpret them." Then Joseph said to them, "Don't interpretations belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

Genesis 41:15-16 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said about you that you can hear a dream and interpret it." 16 "I am not able to," Joseph answered Pharaoh. "It is God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

Genesis 39:2-6 The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, serving in the household of his Egyptian master. 3 When his master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD made everything he did successful, 4 Joseph found favor in his master's sight and became his personal attendant. Potiphar also put him in charge of his household and placed all that he owned under his authority. 5 From the time that he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house because of Joseph. The LORD's blessing was on all that he owned, in his house and in his fields. 6 He left all that he owned under Joseph's authority; he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome.

Genesis 39:20-23 and had him thrown into prison, where the king's prisoners were confined. So Joseph was there in prison. 21 But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him. He granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. 22 The warden put all the prisoners who were in the prison under Joseph's authority, and he was responsible for everything that

was done there. 23 The warden did not bother with anything under Joseph's authority, because the LORD was with him, and the LORD made everything that he did successful.

Pursuing the Challenge



As we pursue our walk with Christ, understand God knows everything we need. “We know what we want, but He knows all that we need.” And if you’re like me, you want life’s road to be easy with limited struggles. But God has reasons for our tough times.

God’s purpose in our lives is to bring Him all the glory that He deserves.

Reason One: Divine Purpose

Question: *What is the difference*

between purpose and plan? What is God’s purpose in our lives? God has the same purpose for our lives as He had in Joseph’s life. God has purpose for everything that happens. Everything that occurred to Joseph was for reason. As we see the story unfold, Joseph went through what he did and people were saved, including Joseph and his family. *But was this the purpose?* No. This was just part of the magnificent sovereign plan that God had for Joseph. *What was God’s purpose for all that happened in this story?* Read **Gen 40:5-8; Gen 41:15-16.**

Glory was given to God for giving the power to interpret dreams. God’s purpose in our lives is to bring him all the glory that he deserves. **Isaiah 43:7** says, **everyone called by My name and created for My glory. I have formed him; indeed, I have made him.** That’s totally why we were created! It’s to bring God glory. And when His people get to know him and make him known, it brings Him the glory He so much deserves! Joseph would have never gotten to know God the way he did if he would have never gone through the tough times. And through them, he brought glory to God for others to see and set an

example for us to follow. Joseph brought glory to God in everything he did.

Life is not about you! It's not about your comfort and

**Life is about His
glory!**

happiness. Life is about His glory! When we are going through tough times, they have their purpose; to know God and to make Him known. That brings Him glory!

Reason Two: Divine Provision

As we read earlier, if it happened, it happened to Joseph. He's sold into slavery, falsely accused, and thrown into prison. But every time something crazy happened God blessed him! Not only did God bless Joseph, but He blessed those around Joseph. Read **Gen 39:2-6, 20-23**. God provided his safety and met his needs. All through the Bible, we find God providing for those he loves. And here Joseph sees the right hand of God providing, especially, in difficult circumstances. When He calls, sends, or uses you, He will provide for you. **Matthew 6:33** says, **"Seek first the Kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you."** It's important to focus on pleasing the King. And know that as you focus on Him, through prayer and the studying of His Word and focus on His work around you, God will provide your every need, especially through the tough times.

Reason Three: Divine Presence

"The Lord was with Joseph....." Gen.39:1a. "But the Lord was with Joseph there....." Gen. 39:21a. There is no verse or verses that can be so reassuring to a believer. The same promise of affirmation can be held close to our hearts. Read **Psalm 139:7-10**. He is omnipresent (everywhere). The Creator of the universe is with us. When He allows the tough times to come upon us, His presence is with us. He promises to **"never forsake us and leave us and to be our help in times of trouble."** **Hebrews 13:5-6**. We can stand with confidence knowing the Almighty Creator loves us and promises us He is with us at all times. We can understand that all situations in our lives are an

opportunity to see and feel His presence in ways hard to imagine. **How does knowing this encourage you?**

Packing out the Trophy



Let's ask a "what if question." *What if Joseph would have given up?* _____

What could have been some of the consequences for that action? _____

Have you ever given up? _____

Are you going through tough times, now? _____

How can God use this through these three reasons we studied?

No doubt, no one has to like the tough times that come on our life's expeditions. I will guarantee that Joseph would have rather been somewhere else than in a pit, at Potiphar's place, or in Pharaoh's prison. It's important to remember that God is in total control and He is good! Remember, the Sovereign, Creator of the universe, wants to use you to fulfill His purpose. His amazing, unfailing love will meet your every need. His Almighty presence goes with you everywhere you go. Don't give up! You could miss the blessing of a life time!



What trophy are you packing out of this lesson?

Thanks for Previewing Base Camp