**Finding Grace**

**Grace from the Patriarchs**

**Grace that Preserves**

2 acceptable attitudes toward God’s work in the midst of innocent suffering

**I. Embrace the fact that God’s sovereignty allows for innocent suffering**

A. Jacob’s favoritism partially resulted in Joseph’s brothers hating him

**Genesis 37:3** - *Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic. His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.*

1. the coat of many colors

2. position of power

**Genesis 37:14** - *Then he said to him, “Go now and see about the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flock, and bring word back to me.”*

B. Joseph’s dreams provided an occasion for the brother’s hatred to grow

**Genesis 37:8** - *Then his brothers said to him, “Are you actually going to reign over us? Or are you really going to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.*

**Genesis 37:11** - *His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.*

C. The man who found Joseph wandering in the fields

**Genesis 37:15-17** - *A man found him, and behold, he was wandering in the field; and the man asked him, “What are you looking for?” He said, “I am looking for my brothers; please tell me where they are pasturing the flock.” Then the man said, “They have moved from here; for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.*

D. Reuben’s plan backfires because he is AWOL when the traders come

**Genesis 37:25-28** - *Then they sat down to eat a meal. And as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing aromatic gum and balm and myrrh, on their way to bring them down to Egypt. Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him up and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. Thus they brought Joseph into Egypt.*

E. Potiphar’s wife refuses to take “no” for an answer

**Genesis 39:10,12** - *As she spoke to Joseph day after day, he did not listen to her to lie beside her or be with her…She caught him by his garment, saying, “Lie with me!” And he left his garment in her hand and fled, and went outside.*

F. Potiphar’s wife lies about him

**Genesis 39:17-19** - *Then she spoke to him with these words, “The Hebrew slave, whom you brought to us, came in to me to make sport of me; and as I raised my voice and screamed, he left his garment beside me and fled outside.” Now when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, “This is what your slave did to me,” his anger burned.*

**2 Corinthians 5:21** - *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

**1 Peter 3:18a** - *For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God…*

**II. Trust that God is present in the midst of innocent suffering**

**Hebrews 4:14-15** - *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

A. The Lord limited Joseph’s suffering according to His plan

B. God blesses the work of Joseph’s hands in Potiphar’s house

**Genesis 39:3** - *Now his master saw that the LORD was with him and how the LORD caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.*

**Genesis 39:6** - *So he left everything he owned in Joseph’s charge; and with him there he did not concern himself with anything except the food which he ate.*

C. God gives Joseph unusual spiritual strength

**Genesis 39:9** - *“There is no one greater in this house than I, and he has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?”*

D. Joseph is sent to prison rather than to the executioner

**Genesis 39:20** - *So Joseph’s master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail.*

E. God blesses Joseph in prison

**Genesis 39:21-23** - *But the LORD was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer. The chief jailer committed to Joseph’s charge all the prisoners who were in the jail; so that whatever was done there, he was responsible for it. The chief jailer did not supervise anything under Joseph’s charge because the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to prosper.*

**1 Peter 2:21-23** - *For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.*