



GATEWAY
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

“Seek First”

Randy Watson 1/23/22



TALK IT OVER

Discuss these questions with someone – maybe a family member, friend, or member of your LifeGroup. Use a communication method that works best for your situation.

Seeking God to Persevere

The Story of Joseph - Genesis 27-50

Bad things happen to good people - but God works things out for good for His people in the end - so *hang in there*

We all face seasons of struggles and pain, but what if we allowed God to turn them into a season of growth?

Gen 37 - Joseph's family had great *dysfunction*

A great promise from God can get help you
persevere through great troubles

Ch. 39 - A close look at moral integrity

Some sin is best overcome by running for your life. II Tim. 2:22

Gen 42 - God uses suffering and crisis to open hearts

You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result — the survival of many people. Gen 50:20

✓ **Don't give up hope. When we persevere, God will use our seasons of struggles to bring forth our greatest growth.**

1. Randy reminded us that “bad things happen to good people.” Why does God allow bad things to happen? What makes a thing “bad”? How can an eternal perspective help you to persevere in those moments and seasons?
2. All our heroes of the faith endured trial and tragedy (Joseph, and then read Paul’s testimony in **2 Corinthians 11:23-27**). What makes them worthy examples to follow? From Joseph, Paul, Peter, to John, and, of course, Jesus, what lessons can we learn and apply in our seasons of hardship?
3. What kept all those heroes of the faith going through their difficulties and suffering? What promise did they have to nurture their living hope? What promise do you have? How can that change your view of your suffering?
4. When suffering comes, what shortcuts are you most tempted to take to ease your suffering? **Read 2 Corinthians 4:1-18**. What does integrity in your faith look like in your season or struggle?

Pray: Take a moment to pray together for our community, our fellowship, one another, and church leaders as we seek to follow God’s leadership in this season of change.

January Memory Verse: Matthew 7:7-8

As you think about this memory verse, ask yourself these questions: What does it mean? What does it mean to us? What is God saying to us/me? How shall I live in light of this truth? How will I respond to what God has shown me?