

**Life Group Questions**  
For the sermon on October 20, 2019

**Get-To-Know-Me Question:**

When was a time in your life in which *nothing* went according to plan?

**Into-the-Bible Questions:**

Read **Genesis 37: 1-4, 23-28.**

1. This text begins the story of Joseph, the son of Jacob. In these opening verses, how is Joseph treated by his brothers?

Through a series of adventures and coincidences, Joseph is brought before the Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to interpret his troubling dream. God reveals to Joseph the meaning: Egypt would face seven years of “great plenty,” followed by seven years of famine.

Read **Genesis 40: 34-43.**

2. How does Pharaoh respond to Joseph’s interpretation of his dream?
3. How was God working behind the scenes up to this point in the story?

Later, during the years of famine, Joseph’s brothers come before him to ask for food. They do not recognize him as they interact with him, until he finally reveals himself.

Read **Genesis 45: 1-8**

4. Who does Joseph claim sent him to Egypt?
5. In what ways was God working in the story? What events were initially thought to be “bad,” but turned out to be good?

## **Let's Go Deeper:**

*Recap Esther 5:*

*As the villainous Haman left Esther's first banquet, he stumbles across Mordecai. Because Mordecai still refuses to bow to Haman (the same act that caused Haman to seek the destructions of the Jews in the kingdom), Haman is furious, and takes advice to have a gallows (a tall pole used for capital punishment) built to punish Mordecai.*

Read **Esther 6**

1. Between the two banquets called by Esther (the first in chapter 5, and the second in chapter 7), we see a series of strange coincidences: King Ahasuerus, unable to sleep, asks that the book of records be read to him. The king happens to learn that Mordecai's noble actions at the end of chapter 2 were never recognized. The next morning, as Haman arrives to ask for Mordecai's death, he unknowingly sets the stage for a celebration honoring Mordecai. These coincidences are central to the author of the book of Esther; rather than tell us outright what God is doing, we as readers are invited to look for God's activity in the story. How is God showing up in the story up to this point?
2. When have you looked back on a moment in your life and recognized that God was working all along?
3. Why does it seem easier to see God's activity as we look *back* on past events or circumstances? Where do you think God might be working in your life right now?
4. Three weeks ago, we highlighted spiritual practices such as Study of Scripture, Prayer, Fasting, Meditation, and Acts of Mercy. These practices help center us amidst our busy lives, and also root us in our identity in Christ. Last week, we shared a time that in which we engaged in a spiritual practice, and it changed a circumstance or situation. How do engaging in spiritual practices help us recognize God's activity in our *current* circumstances?