SERMON – **Heroes of the Faith - Joseph.** Gen 37, 45:1-15, 50:18-21

**Faith for God’s unseen purposes comes from trusting in God’s unchanging promises.**

The story of Joseph Genesis Chp 37-50 ( See back)

**1. The Doctrine of Providence. Heb 1:3, Eph 1:11**

*“God is continually involved with all created things in such a way that he cooperates with created things in every action: 1.) directing their distinctive properties to cause them to act as they do… 2) and directs them to fulfill his purposes.” Grudem, Bible Doctrine p 142*

**2. The Doctrine of God’s sovereignty.**

Ps 103:19 *The Lord is enthroned in the heavens and his kingdom rules over all.*

**a. God is perfectly wise. Rom 16:27**

**b. God is all-powerful. Jer 32:17 Gen 18:14**

**c. God is completely good. Ps 119:68**

**DISCUSSION**

1. Why is it so important to understand that God is completely good and not evil in any respect?
2. Why is it so important to understand that God has complete control over all things good and all things evil?
3. If God has perfect knowledge about everything, and is powerful over everything, why is it important to know He is loving, good and wise?
4. What other examples in the bible can you think of where God is in complete control?
5. How can we see hardship, pain and suffering both as something that is bad and as something that, while not good, can be seen as good?
6. In what ways has the story of Joseph been an encouragement to you?
7. What things can you do to grow in trusting God’s sovereignty and providence?

**FOR THE PARENTS:**

1. Talk about how God can take a bad situation and turn it into something good. Use Romans 8:28. Ask them for an example.
2. God wants them to know that He is always with them no matter what happens. Re tell the story that God was with Joseph and cared for him even when he was away from his family for 17 years (even when bad things happen! ).
3. Talk about Ps 103:19 at an age appropriate level (God is good and rules over everything!).

