

SERMON NOTES:



September 27, 2026

Wisdom in the story you're in
GENESIS 1-11, 37-39 (JOSEPH PART 2)

Pastor Mick Spann

1. Scripture is forming us, not just informing us

- The Bible tells real stories—but its purpose is more than giving us information.
- Scripture is designed to transform us.
- Biblical wisdom teaches us how to live faithfully when we don't know what happens next.
- The question isn't only "What happened?" but "What is God teaching?"
- Wisdom is learning to live according to the grain of God's good creation.

2. Learn to recognise the biblical "melodies"

Genesis repeatedly moves through a pattern:

- Creation & Blessing — God brings order, life and flourishing.
- Test & Folly — humanity is given an opportunity to trust God.
- De-Creation — rebellion brings chaos, death, fracture and exile.
- Re-Creation & Blessing — God preserves and restores.

3. Joseph is living this ancient story in a new setting

- Joseph's brothers repeat the pattern of Genesis 3: jealousy, grasping, deception and exile.
- Joseph faces his own "forbidden tree" moment with Potiphar's wife.
- Joseph receives fragments, not the whole plan. Yet he chooses integrity and faithfulness (even without knowing how the story will end).

4. Faithfulness requires trust

- God doesn't explain everything to Joseph.
- Joseph must repeatedly discern how to live wisely.
- Biblical wisdom isn't blind obedience, it is learning to trust God's wisdom, goodness and intentions.
- We are living the same ancient story in a new context.

A way of reading scripture

NOTICE — What is happening?

- Who are the key players?
- What are they doing and why?
- What does this tell me about how the characters understand God?

REMEMBER — Where have I seen this pattern before?

- What is similar?
- What is different?
- How did people respond?

DISCERN — What is the wise and faithful response?

- Who is acting wisely?
- What did they learn?
- What does God reveal about himself?

GROW — What is God forming in me?

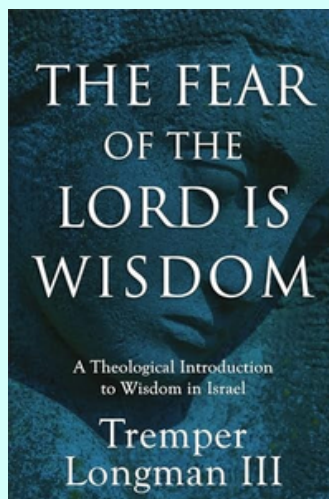
- What “melody” is playing in my life?
- What is the test?
- What pattern am I tempted to repeat?
- What would faithfulness look like here?
- What kind of person am I becoming?

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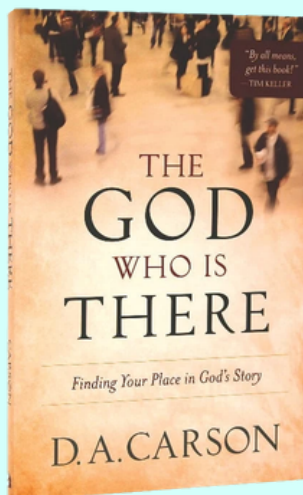
Resources that Mick found helpful in the development of this message:



Joseph
Genesis 37:2-50:26
Dr. Tim Mackie



The Fear of the Lord
is Wisdom
Tremper Longman III



The God
Who Is There
D.A. Carson



HOME GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Proverbs 1:1–7 and Psalm 111:10.

1. According to these passages, what is the beginning of wisdom?
2. Why might wisdom require trust rather than simply possessing information?
3. If God knows the whole story and we don't, how should that change the way we make decisions?

Pick two or more of these accounts and identify their similarities and differences.

Adam and Eve - Genesis 1:26-31 and 3:1-13

Cain and Abel - Genesis 4:1-17

Noah - Genesis 6:9 - 8:22

Abraham and Hagar - Genesis 15:1-6; 16:1-10; 21:1-20

Abraham and Isaac - Genesis 22:1-18

Jacob and Esau - Genesis 27:1-46 - 28:1-9

Jospeh's Brothers - Genesis 37

Joseph and Pilates Wife - Genesis 39

Movement			
Identify God's good intention			
Identify the Human opportunity/test			
What was the Human response?			
What were the consequences?			
What was God's response?			

Discuss

- What patterns do you see repeating?
 - What has changed between characters?
 - How has sin affected not only humanity's relationship with God, but relationships between people?
 - What does Joseph know about God that enables him to say “no” even when obedience appears likely to cost him?
 - Why might Genesis deliberately keep repeating similar patterns?
- Read James 1:2–5...