

Heroes of the Faith, Foreshadows of Christ: Joseph and Samson

Session 1

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George Murphy

Be Strong and Courageous

Key Scripture for this Year

Be strong and courageous and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God is with you.

First Chronicles 28:20

Session Goals

Recognize aspects in each character's life that foreshadow the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Review key highlights of each character's life that are pertinent to the lesson.

Examine each character's reaction to specific challenges he faced in his life so that we can gain guidance in our own walk with the Lord

Consider selected questions in group discussion to deepen personal growth and insight

Key Scriptures for these Lessons

Hebrews 11:22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the exodus of the sons of Israel, and gave orders concerning his bones.

Hebrews 11: 32-34 And what more shall I say? For time will fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, 33 who by faith conquered kingdoms, performed acts of righteousness, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

Key Scriptures for these Lessons

Genesis 50:19-21 But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to keep many people alive.

Judges 13:5 For behold, you will conceive and give birth to a son, and no razor shall come upon his head, for the boy shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb; and he will begin to save Israel from the hands of the Philistines.”

Judges 16:28 Then Samson called to the Lord and said, “Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me just this time, O God, that I may at once take vengeance on the Philistines for my two eyes.”

Key Scriptures for these Lessons

1st Peter 4:8 Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.

Philippians 1: 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work among you will complete it by the day of Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

General Points of Comparison

Joseph and Samson have the following aspects of their lives that foreshadow aspects of Christ's life and ministry:

They have an origin story.

They have a supernatural birth.

They have a ministry that involves deliverance. They exercised unique gifts that were tailored to their ministry.

They were betrayed by someone that was close to them.



Specific Points of Comparison Joseph

The life of Joseph appears to foreshadow specific aspects of the life and ministry of Christ, some which have been fulfilled in His first coming and some that will be fulfilled at His second coming.

Jacob sent Joseph, his favored son, to survey the work they were doing with the flocks and this could be viewed as a type and shadow of God the Father sending his favored son Jesus to the nation of Israel.



Specific Points of Comparison Joseph

Joseph's rejection by his brothers and later acceptance and restoration to his brothers foreshadows Christ's rejection by the Jews at his first coming and His later acceptance by the Jews as their Messiah at His second coming.

Joseph was placed in the pit by his brothers who intended to kill him but then he was lifted from the pit and sold into slavery. This could be a foreshadow of the death and resurrection of Christ.

Specific Points of Comparison Joseph

Joseph's ascension to the Throne of Egypt sitting at right hand of pharaoh as the vizier of Egypt seems to foreshadow the rule of Christ sitting at the right hand of God and exercising dominion over the millennial Kingdom and ultimately the whole universe.



Specific Points of Comparison Samson

As with Joseph, certain aspects of Samson's life foreshadow the life and ministry of Christ

Like Christ and John the Baptist, Samson's birth was foretold to his mother by an angelic visitor, most likely in his case a theophany.

Only Samson and John the Baptist were specifically designated by God to be Nazirites from birth, while Jesus was born as the prophesized Messiah for the Jews. But Samson was set apart from birth just as Christ was for His specific ministry of deliverance. Judges 13: 5 states that Sampson would begin the delivery of Israel from the Philistines ,who are a type and shadow of the oppression of sin. Jesus Christ would complete the delivery of Israel and all mankind from sin by his death on the cross.



Specific Points of Comparison Samson

Both Samson and Jesus were killed by their enemies. For Samson this was the completion of his deliverance ministry, but Christ would complete his deliverance of mankind with his death and his resurrection from the grave.

Samson's unique gift from God for the deliverance of the Israelites was his physical strength. But this strength was supernatural in origin. Jesus manifested supernatural wisdom, supernatural healing, miraculous power over the natural elements and power over death itself.

Points to look for in the video

Who did Joseph need to forgive?

Forgiveness is not the same as _____, or
_____, or _____.

How does Joseph protect the dignity and the reputations of his brothers?

How is Jesus reflected in this chapter of Joseph's story?



Discussion Questions

An important question for personal reflection is do you have a list of people that you need to forgive? This could include people or relatives that have already passed away. What is preventing you from doing this ?

Do you believe the illustration of the kinked garden hose is it an accurate reflection of the movement of God's grace and power in your life if you have not forgiven someone? Why or why not?

Have you been in the position of Joseph's brothers, having offended someone or betrayed someone and then have been forgiven? What impact did that have on your life?

Joseph suffered great loss early in his life and then went through many trials. Do you think that his experience prepared him to be able to forgive his brothers as he did? Have you experienced situations that are similar to what he experienced?