

# SHAKEN UP

## MESSED UP PLANS



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Age 15-18 year olds



### SCRIPTURES

**Jeremiah 11:29**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

**Romans 8:28**

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

**Genesis 50:20**

"But God meant it unto good to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

## Did you know?



According to Stageoflife.com, 89% of teens enjoy school which is incredibly unfortunate since schools across America have shut their doors.



Another stat from them provided that "when asked the question, 'On a scale of 1-5 (1 being least important and 5 being most important) how important do you believe graduating from high school is in today's society?' 85% said '5'."

**In other words, graduating matters to you.**

## WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME?

You had different plans than your current reality. Plans that did not include COVID-19 disrupting your life. In fact, a lot of you have milestones just ahead whether that be a **driver's permit**, a **sports season** that could impact your future, a **prom**, or walking the stage on your **graduation night**. It's difficult to say this, but it feels as if your life has been placed on hold. That seems incredibly unfair. After all, there are some special moments that you have literally waited a lifetime to experience. There is an important connection here to a well-read story in the bible. Spend some time reacquainting yourself with Joseph in Genesis 37-50.

Like you, Joseph had plans and dreams. Except, he experienced quite a few unfair hardships that repeatedly occurred. Most popularly known, Joseph's cherished coat of many colors was robbed and destroyed. However, at the end of his long stream of emotionally challenging situations, he was quite blessed. Notice in Genesis 50:20, he clearly acknowledges that in his misfortunate, God used his life to **save the lives of countless people during a 7 year famine**. Saving lives sounds too familiar right now with COVID-19 being a very harsh reality.

### CHALLENGE

What was it about Joseph's spirit and heart that allowed him to take multiple bad situations and position himself to be elevated not only to leadership but also used of God? You might be thinking, "Look, I really just want to go to prom!" That's okay! But, I challenge you to explore what good thing God has in store for your generation during the moments that seem to be robbed from you and destroyed.

## WHERE DO I START?

Well, what do you notice about Joseph's spirit and heart? Which of these could help you?

### Godly Excellence

**Genesis 39:3**

"His master observed that the Lord made everything [Jospeh] was doing successful."

### Prayer

God, even when Jospeh was a slave in the home of Potiphar, he had an excellent spirit and did his best. You blessed him for it. God, give me strength to be like that. Bless my hands to do good during these upsetting times and make my generation successful.

### Perseverance

**Genesis 40:23**

"But the cupbearer did not remember Jospeh - he forgot him."

### Prayer

God, it is easy to feel forgotten right now. Help me to do as Jospeh did and remain true to who I am in you and believe that you have a plan and that you are working this all out. Help me to trust you and wait on your timing.

### Perspective

**Genesis 50:20**

"But God meant it unto good to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

### Prayer

God, help me to see beyond my own disappointment. Give me godly perspective and discernment to see what you are trying to do in the lives of others. Help me to see and accept my part in your plans.