

BEHIND THE SCENES // Week 4

INTRO // Hey Welcome to Faith Students! Tell the person next to you, so happy to see you.

HEART OF SERIES // It can sometimes leave us asking the tough moments of life, where is God? How is he moving? But that's the catch, we serve a God who often works behind the scenes to work all things together for good. Through this series, we will be walking through moments in the bible, when God works behind the scenes, works things together for good, and what we can take away from it.

ILLUSTRATION // Share a "this day can't get any worse... and it does" moment. (I'm sharing a day in middle school where everything seemed to go wrong. (it can be funny or serious)

- A lot of times we can find ourselves in what feels like the worst moments of our lives. Where is God in the midst of those moments? How is God working behind the scenes?

TENSION // How is God good when it feels like bad things are always happening?

Give Joseph's background before you read this.

- *Father's favorite, had a vision that his brothers would bow down to him, sold into slavery by brothers (they were haters), put in a place of power then falsely accused and thrown in jail. Joseph was released years later and placed second in the whole kingdom. There's a drought, brothers come for food (bow down to him), Joseph recognizes them and is upset but eventually forgives them and blesses them.*

SCRIPTURE // Genesis 50:19-21

But Joseph replied, "Do not be afraid. Am I in the place of God? As for you, what you intended against me for evil, God intended for good, in order to accomplish a day like this—to preserve the lives of many people. Therefore do not be afraid. I will provide for you and your little ones." So Joseph reassured his brothers and spoke kindly to them.

MAIN POINT // What the enemy intended for evil, God intended for good.

EMPHASIS 1 // The Enemy is Working

- **ILLUSTRATION // Tell a story of a hater in your life lol**
- **OBSERVATION //**
 - We see in the story of mankind there is a very real force of evil working behind the scenes. (We see from the beginning in Genesis 3 with Adam and Eve)
 - We have a BIG hater in our lives named Satan.
 - John 10:10 - The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.
 - John 8:44 - He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
 - Our enemy, Satan, is one of the greatest INFLUENCERS of all time.
 - He whispers lies, he slightly twists the truth, he makes us think that people are the enemy.
 - In the life of Joseph, Satan was working behind the scenes to destroy the vision God gave him.
- **APPLICATION //**
 - In our lives, Satan is working behind the scenes. He slowly tries to destroy you everyday by deceiving you everyday.
 - **Give detail to how Satan can destroy the life of a student everyday**

- **CHALLENGE //**
 - We must understand that people are not the enemy, God is not the enemy, Satan is our enemy.
 - Don't give Satan a foothold in your life. That means releasing anger, jealousy, greed, hate, and laziness. These are all ways Satan can get his foot in the door of our hearts..
 - Stay close to God, know your word, don't keep things in the dark.

EMPHASIS 2 // Man is Wayward (Broken and Far From God)

- **OBSERVATION //**
 - We see in verse 20 Joseph is talking to his brothers who sold him say "As for you, what you intended against me for evil"
 - Joseph brothers out of jealousy and hatred intended evil for their brother Joseph.
- **APPLICATION //**
 - In our lives, we know this far too well. People are sinners. They will fail and make mistakes. We will fail and make mistakes. We are broken and lost without God.
 - If we are not careful we can let our sinful nature take over and do foolish things.
 - Romans 3:11-13 - "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."
 - Also not only are we sinners, but because of the effects of sin and evil there are things like disease, brokenness, racism, pain, struggle, broken families, crime.
- **CHALLENGE //**
 - Change your perspective: God is not your enemy. People are not your enemy (though some people you may have to distance yourself from).
 - Love and forgive people through their brokenness just as Jesus has.
 - Text someone this week you may have to forgive.

EMPHASIS 3 // God is Winning (Already Won)

- **OBSERVATION //**
 - Vs 20 - As for you, what you intended against me for evil, God intended for good, in order to accomplish a day like this
 - Even through the enemy working, and man's brokenness, God still brought good out of Joseph's situation.
 - God knew what Joseph would have to endure but walked alongside him and brought him to the other side.
 - Joseph's response, even in the worst moments, was to trust and have confidence in a good God.
- **APPLICATION //**
 - In the same way we can be confident that God works all things for good.
 - Though the enemy is trying to destroy you, there are people that will come against you, God is so powerful and in control He still makes a way out of what looks like no way.
 - Maybe you are here today and you feel like God is not near in what seems like the worst moment of your life. But not only is He near, He's walking with you, He's in control, and He is working behind the scenes to turn all things for His good.
- **CHALLENGE //**
 - This week write down some areas that you are struggling to trust God in.
 - Pray through every point and ask God to strengthen your trust.
 - Connect with another student or leader to help pray and encourage you this week.

ALTARS WITH ACTION //

- Salvation
- Call that involves everyone