

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

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GEORGE HAS MADE SOME CRITICAL MISTAKES RECENTLY AND AS A RESULT HE STARTS TO FEEL LIKE HE DOESN'T WANT TO LIVE. THE ANGEL CLARENCE GIVES HIM WHAT HE REQUESTED AND MORE. HE GETS TO SEE WHAT LIFE IS LIKE IF HIS LIFE DOESN'T EXIST.

1. The **PAST** is different and his brother is dead.
2. The **PRESENT** is different and the city and his family are in disarray.
 - YOUR LIFE MAY NOT SEEM LIKE A WONDERFUL LIFE UNTIL YOU STEP OUT OF IT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!

Psalms 139:13-18

Psalms 139:13 - You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

Psalms 139:14 - Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.

Psalms 139:15 - You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

Psalms 139:16 - You saw me before I was born.
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.
Every moment was laid out
before a single day had passed.

Psalms 139:17 - How precious are your thoughts about me, O God.
They cannot be numbered!

Psalms 139:18 - I can't even count them;
they outnumber the grains of sand!
And when I wake up,
you are still with me!

- THE MOVIE OF YOUR LIFE IS LIKE MOVIES AT THE THEATER. THEY AREN'T FOR EVERYONE! SOME PEOPLE LOVE A MOVIE THAT OTHERS HATE.

INTRO - PARTS OF EVERY STORY

BEGINNING - WE ALL START SOMEWHERE

CHALLENGES - SHAPED YOUR FAITH

VILLAINS - MANY HAVE HURT YOU

HEROES - MANY HAVE HELPED YOU

ENDING- YOUR LIFE HAS A GOOD ENDING

1. LEARN HOW TO BE OK WITH YOUR STORY

- **WHEN WE FAIL IS WHEN WE START QUESTIONING OUR VALUE**

Genesis 39:20 - So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained. :21 But the lord was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the lord made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden.

- **NO STORY CAN BE PROMOTED UNTIL THE STAR GETS BEHIND IT**

Genesis 40:14 And please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place.15 For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I'm here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it."

- **THE STORY WAS NOT WRITTEN BY YOU**

*Psalms 139:16 You saw me before I was born.
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.*

2. THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO NEED YOUR STORY

- **IF JOSEPH'S STORY HAD NOT TAKEN HIM TO EGYPT FAMINE WOULD HAVE DESTROYED EGYPT AND THE WORLD**

- **GOD CONNECTS PEOPLE WHO NEED YOU**

- **YOU HAVE TO BE YOU TO REACH THEM**

- **SEE THE CONVERGENCE IN YOUR STORY**

Genesis 41:14 Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:15 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it."

Genesis 41:16 "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."

3. LEARN HOW TO TELL YOUR STORY.

- **TELL YOUR STORY WITHOUT REGRETS**

Genesis 45:5 But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.

- **TELL YOUR STORY WITHOUT FEAR**

- TELL YOUR STORY WITHOUT GUILT

*Genesis 41:51 Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family."
52 Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."*

Reflection/Study:

1. Take some time and meditate on the **uniqueness** of your story and how it can help others.
2. Why is it so important to not be ashamed/guilty of your story or past failures?
3. What have you learned from previous chapters of your life that will help you in your next chapter?
4. **Remember:** Your story has a good ending!

Memory Verse:

Psalms 139:14 - Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.