



## MOVING THAT MOUNTAIN OF THE PAST

**Matthew 17:20 (NLT)** "You don't have enough faith," Jesus told them. "I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

A mountain moving faith is the idea that God would act that powerfully on our behalf strikes most of us as too good to be true.

### A Special Secret in the Life of JOSEPH...

He could have gone negative but he did not...Genesis 37-47.

**Genesis 37:2 (NLT)** This is the account of Jacob and his family. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks. He worked for his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.

**Genesis 37:5-7 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup> One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. <sup>6</sup> "Listen to this dream," he said. <sup>7</sup> "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!"

**Genesis 37:25 (NLT)** Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders taking a load of gum, balm, and aromatic resin from Gilead down to Egypt.

**Genesis 39:2 (NLT)** The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.

**Genesis 39:21 (NLT)** <sup>21</sup> 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.

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

## Before the Years of Famine Came...

**Genesis 41:50-52 (NLT)** <sup>50</sup> During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphara, the priest of On. <sup>51</sup> Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family." <sup>52</sup> Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."

- God made Joseph FORGET all the evil that had been done to him. He took the sting out and no more bitterness.
- God can make you forget. He does not obliterate the events, but He can deliver you from the PARALYSIS of the PAST.
- These ugly memories are like CHAINS preventing our faith from growing. The grace of God can overcome their power to haunt you.
- FRUITFUL in the land of grief.

**"Faith grows best on cloudy days."  
—Jim Cymbala**

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## scriptures that relate

Monday: Genesis 37-38

Wednesday: Genesis 41-42

Friday: Genesis 44-45

Tuesday: Genesis 39-40

Thursday: Genesis 43

Saturday: Genesis 46-47

## small groups—talk it over

1. What are those mountain like obstacles that we need to move by applying faith to?
2. What was the key to Joseph's positivity?
3. Where would you ask God to take the sting out of a situation?
4. Has your faith grown more on cloudy days?
5. Do you believe God can set you free?

## nikki nielsen prayer requests

**Monday:** Pray for an awareness of God's leading as my team plans future weekend services.

**Tuesday:** Pray that our congregation will spend time with Jesus during the week.

**Wednesday:** Pray that more musicians will join our congregation so that our team can grow.

**Thursday:** Pray for good health for our weekend volunteers.

**Friday:** Pray for a good day of rest.

**Saturday:** Pray that our congregation is aware of the Holy Spirit's presence during our services.

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