



*Tracing the
Hand of God*

in the Life of Joseph

Guest Speaker
Sharon Kotecki

Saving Grace Bible Church
2023 Women's Conference

Sharon Kotecki

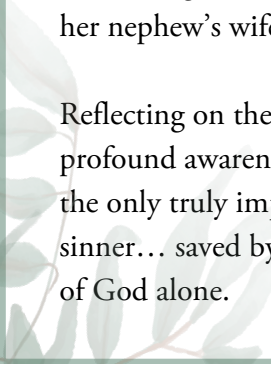


Sharon taught elementary grades in Florida, Bermuda, Germany, and Italy with her husband, Bob. They both completed their master's degrees while they were in Germany. They returned to the States in 1975 & settled in Jupiter, where they raised their three sons.

Sharon was raised in a doctrinally sound Methodist and a Baptist church and professed Christ at 14, however, her life did not reflect a true believer. Her "decision to accept Christ" wasn't assurance of her salvation at all. In 1988, the Lord graciously revealed her lack of commitment to Him, that she hadn't entrusted her soul to Christ Jesus. She started attending Bible Study Fellowship where, in the Word of God, the Lord showed Sharon her need of true confession, repentance & commitment to Christ Jesus, His Word and Him alone. She went on to teach BSF for 16 years.

Sharon and Bob joined GIBC in 1996. The Lord took her husband, Bob, to be with Him 7 years ago, along with her sister 3 months later, both with cancer. Sharon's nephew was with her sister every day as she dealt with brain cancer and he is now facing the same in his wife, who is pregnant with their third child due in May. (They will then have 3 children age 5 & under.) She is heartbroken to face cancer again with her nephew's wife and also her cousin who has mesothelioma.

Reflecting on the providential details in her life has brought a profound awareness that the LORD GOD alone is to be praised and the only truly important thing in her bio is this: Sharon Kotecki is a sinner... saved by grace alone, through faith alone, based on the Word of God alone.




Schedule



Friday, March 24

- 6:15 pm** | **Check - In**
Rise Roasters Pour Over Coffee
- 7:00 pm** | **Session #1**
Genesis 37-50
- 8:30 pm** | **Dessert Fellowship**

Saturday, March 25

- 8:00 am** | **Check - In/ Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00 am** | **Session #2 - "The Injustice Of It All"**
Genesis 39-43
- 10:15 am** | **Break**
- 10:45 am** | **Session #3 - "We Say Goodbye to Joseph"**
Genesis 44-50
- 12:00 pm** | **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm** | **Q & A**
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Session 1



Hymn: "I Know Whom I Have Believed"

Main Principle: Though the wicked may prosper for a time, the righteous trust the sovereign hand of God and maintain integrity.

Main Doctrine: The sovereignty and the providence of God - Joseph's life takes him from the pit to the prison to the palace. God used Joseph, the rejected son of the family of God, to save and reconcile the covenant family.

I. The Providence of God

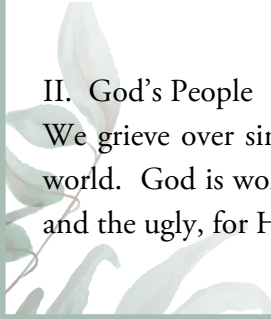
A. Principles

B. Romans 8:28 - "And we know."

C. In the life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50).

II. God's People

We grieve over sin, disease, death, wickedness. We suffer in a fallen world. God is working through all of that, through the good, the bad and the ugly, for His purposes and for your sanctification.

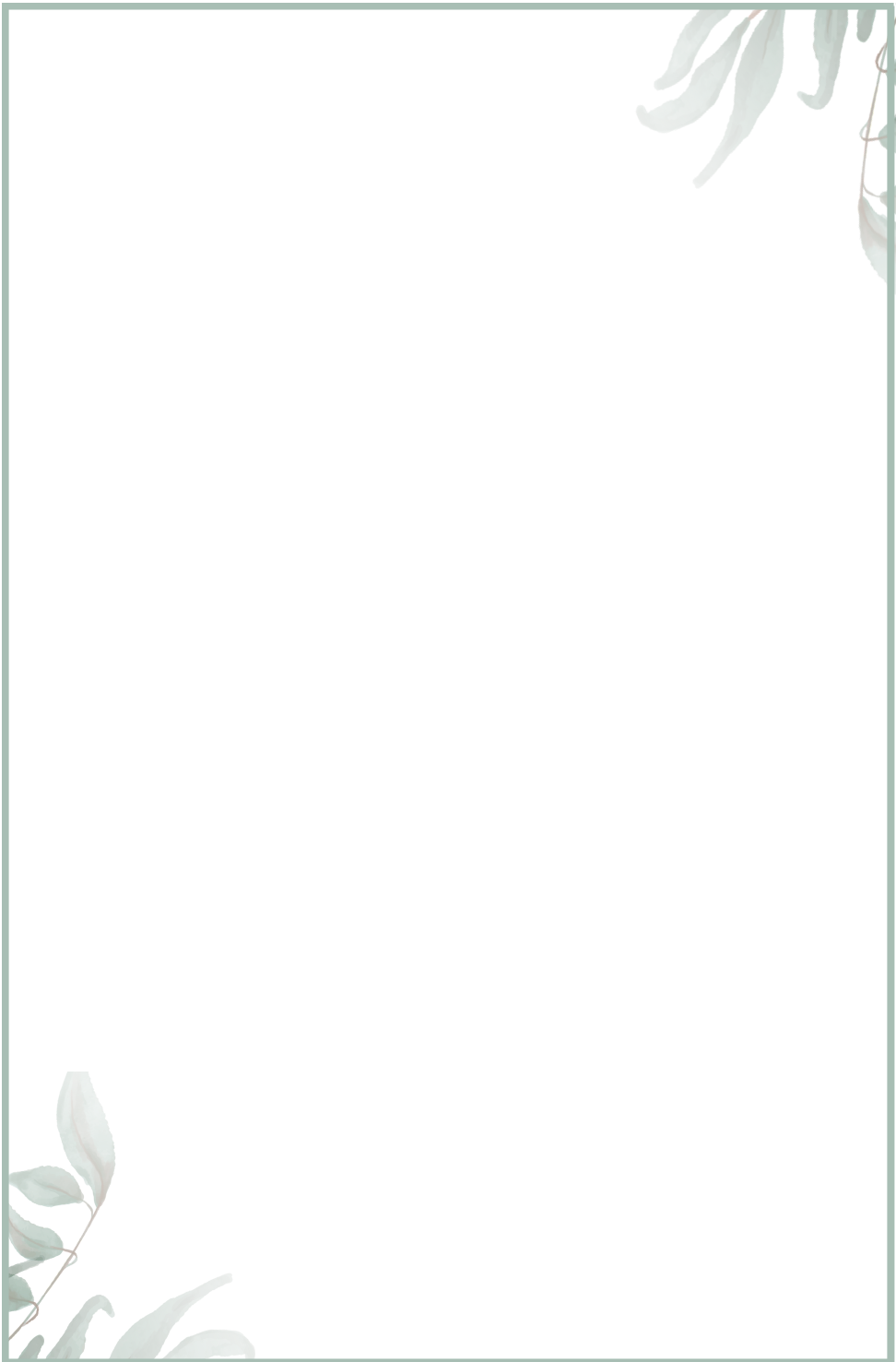


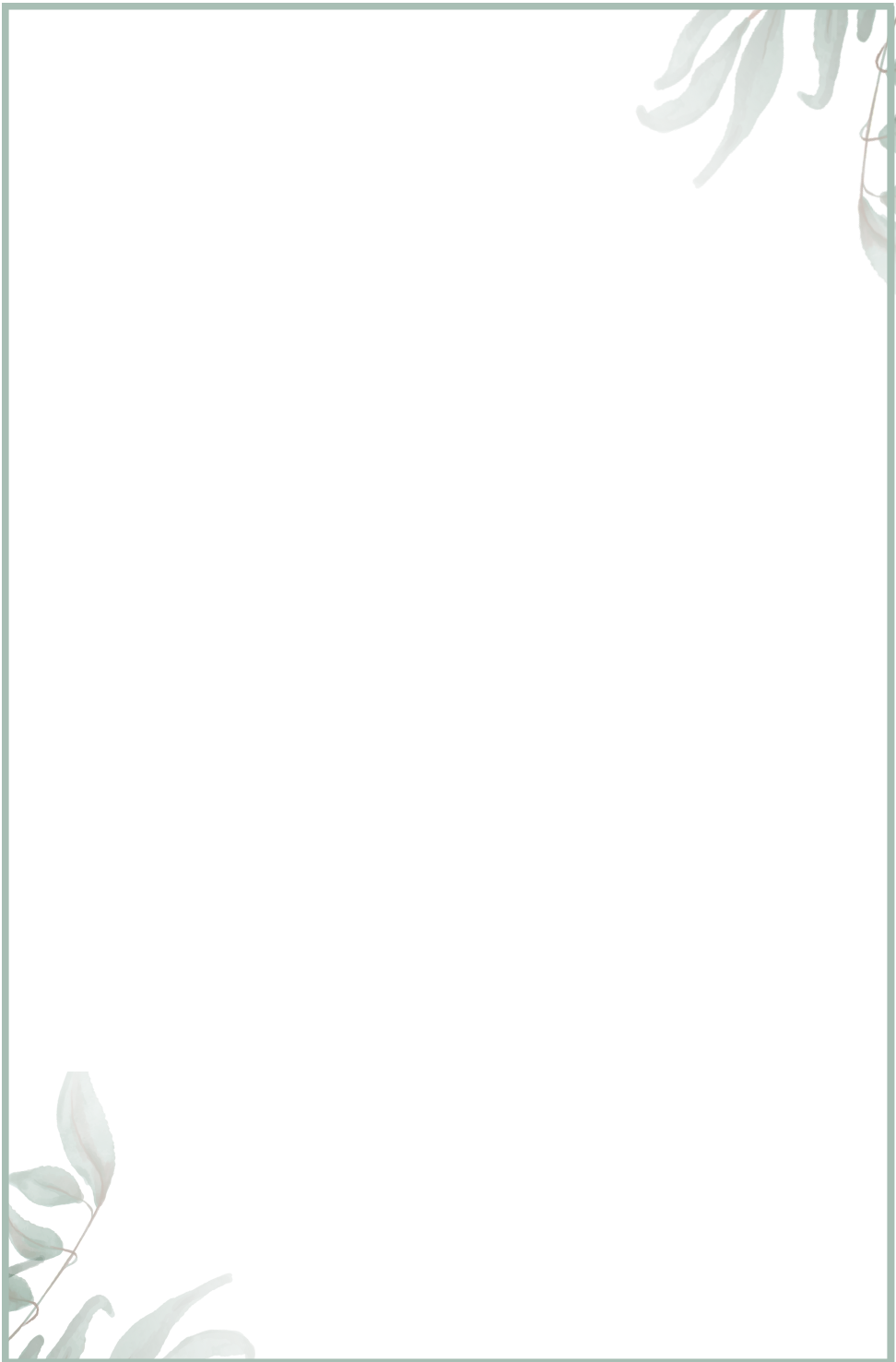
III. Joseph's History

- Happy, favored young man (v. 37:1-2).
- Hated kid (v. 37:3-11).
- Harassed to point of death (v. 37:12-27).
- Heartache of Jacob (v.37:29-35).
- Hardship for Joseph begins (v. 37:28, 36).

Why does God allow tragedies in the life of Joseph?

- God is inscrutable - Romans 11:33-34; Isaiah 55:8-9; Proverbs 25:2; I Corinthians 2:11.
- Genesis 18:25 – “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”
- Deuteronomy 32:4; Job 1:21; Job 13:15; Mark 7:37; Job 5:9.
- Develop maturity - Romans 5:3-4 “Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character, hope.”





Session 2



Hymn: "Through It All"

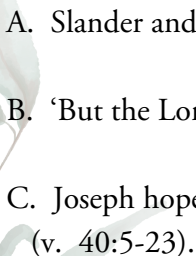
Main Principle: God is inscrutable (Romans 11:33) - God works through circumstances, events, people to accomplish His plan. Though the wicked may prosper for a time, the righteous trust the sovereign hand of God and maintain integrity (Colossians 3:23).


Examples - Daniel, David, Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Jesus, and Joseph.

I. Injustice (Genesis 39-40)

- A. Identity changed (v. 39:1-6).
- B. Increased blessing from the Lord and to others (v. 39:1-6).
- C. Integrity challenged (v. 39:6b-12a).
- D. Incorruptibility of Joseph (v. 39:8-12b, James 1:12).

II. Imprisonment of the innocent one (v. 39:19-40:23)

- A. Slander and lies (v. 39:19-20).
 - B. 'But the Lord' (v. 39:21-23).
 - C. Joseph hopes his wrongful imprisonment will be mentioned (v. 40:5-23).
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III. In the Household of the Pharaoh (Genesis 41)

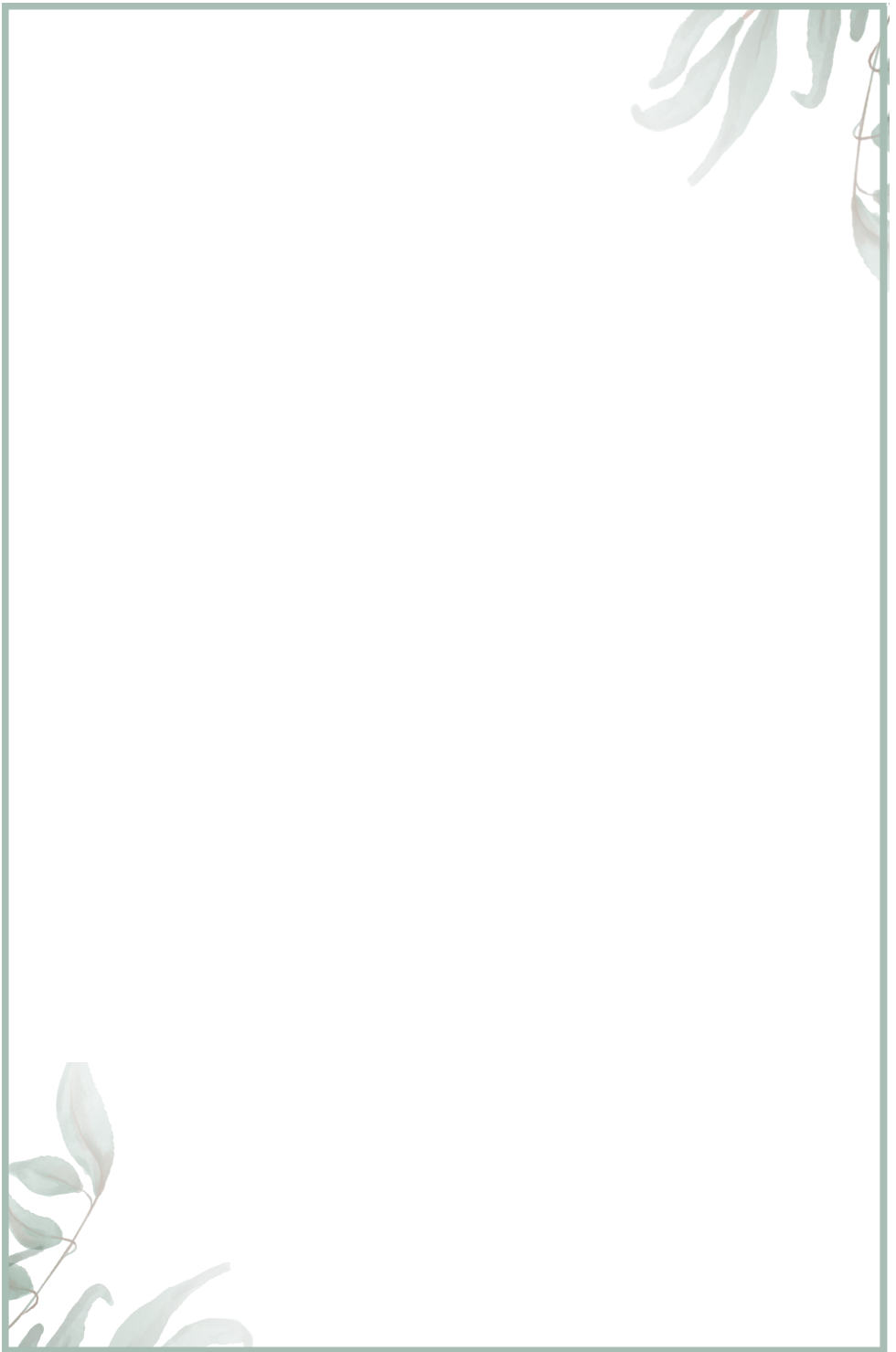
- A. Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams (v. 41:1-27).
- B. Joseph makes recommendations to Pharaoh (v. 41:28-36).
- C. Joseph exalted (v. 41:37-57).

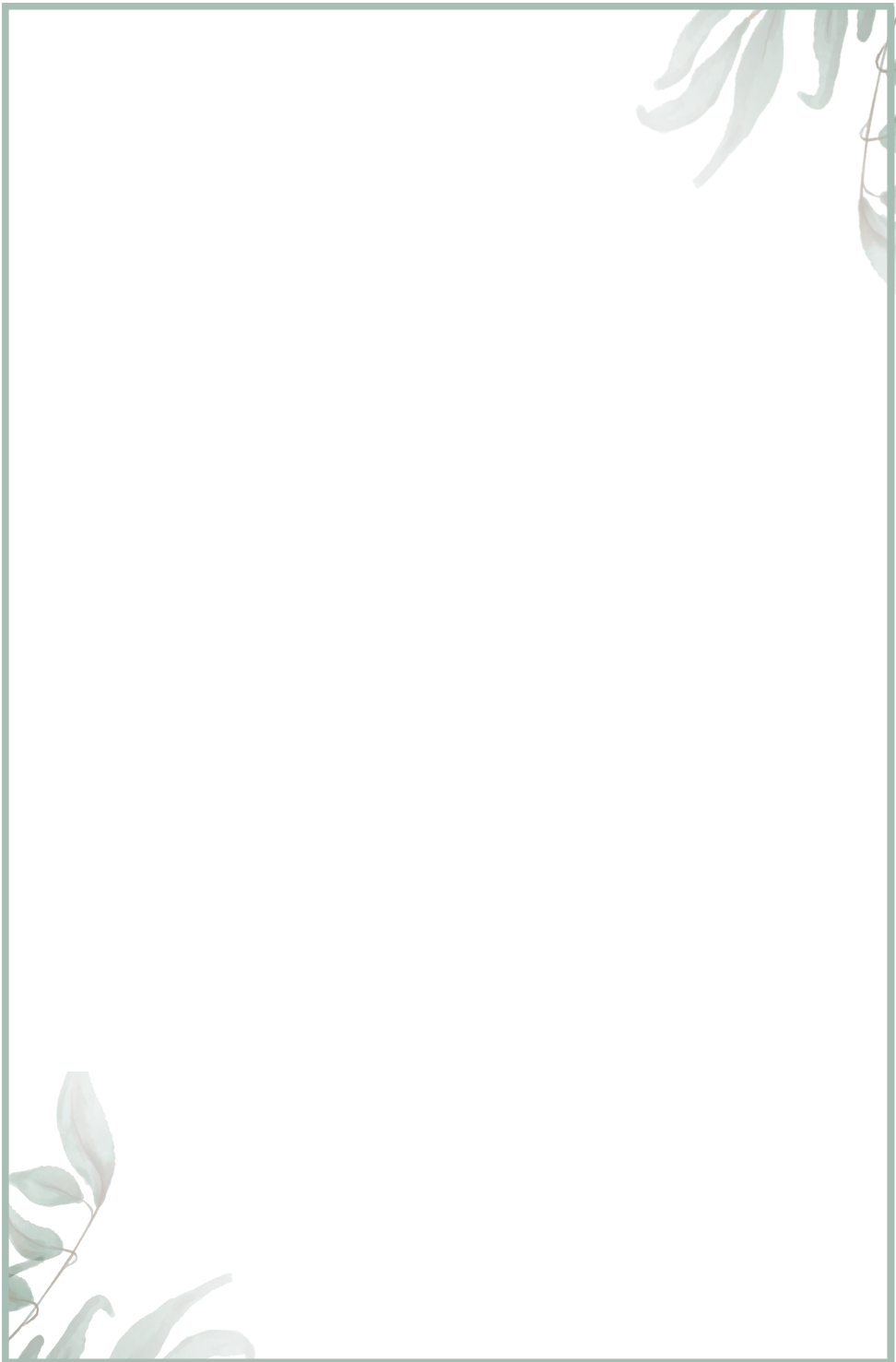
IV. Joseph & his Brothers (Genesis 42-44)

- A. Famine was a catastrophe in ancient times.
- B. Today we have a famine of the word of God (Hosea 4:6a).
- C. First journey to Egypt - ten brothers to Egypt accused of being spies, nine return (Genesis 42)
- D. Second journey to Egypt – ten Brothers to Egypt, eleven return (Genesis 43-44).

Principle: God blesses the one who trusts Him; whatever or whoever you hold dear has been lent to you by the Lord. Hold with an open hand, trusting that God knows what is best.







Session 3



Hymn: "How Firm A Foundation"

I. Joseph watches for conviction and contrition in his brothers (Gen. 44).

A. Benjamin seized for theft of cup (v. 44:1-13).

B. Judah offers himself as a substitute (v. 44:14-34).

II. Brothers Reconcile (v. 45:1-15).

A. Joseph did not minimize sin, but rather he maximized God's grace.

B. Joseph is choosing to put the past behind him.

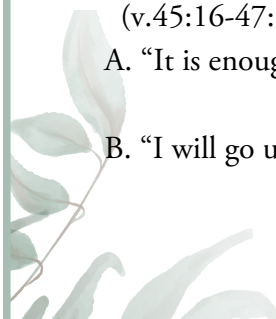
C. Joseph is more interested in reconciliation than condemnation.

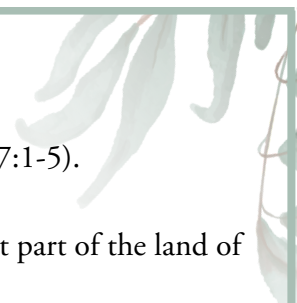
D. "My food is to do will of Him Who sent Me and to accomplish His work." (John 4:34)

III. Eleven brothers return to Jacob and escort the families to Goshen (v.45:16-47:12).

A. "It is enough"—Joseph is alive! (Genesis 45:28).

B. "I will go up and inform Pharaoh" (v. 46:31).





C. So Joseph went and informed Pharaoh (v. 47:1-5).

D. Jacob blessed Pharaoh and settled in the best part of the land of Rameses (v. 47:7-12).

IV. We say Goodbye to Jacob and Joseph (Genesis 47:13-50)

A. v. 47:13-22 - Joseph acquired all the land in Egypt for Pharaoh.

B. v. 47:23-26 - Joseph required one fifth of harvest the for Pharaoh.

C. v. 47:27-31 - Israel Settles in Goshen.

D. v. 48:1-28 - Jacob blesses Ephraim over Manasseh, the firstborn of Joseph.

E. v. 49:1-28 - Jacob blesses all his sons with a prophecy for each one regarding his future.

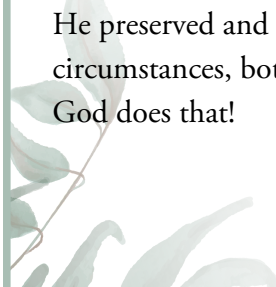
F. v. 49:29-33 - Jacob dies.

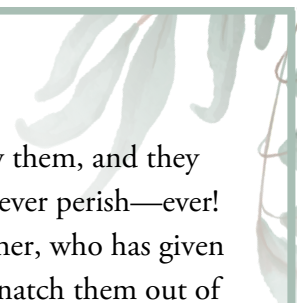
G. v. 50:1-14 - Jacob is embalmed 40 days, mourned 70 days, and taken to Canaan.

H. v. 50:15 - Joseph promised care, comfort and kindness to his brothers and died at 110 years old.

I. v. 50:15-26 - Before he died look how his life ends.


You can trace the hand of God all the way through the story of Joseph. He preserved and protected His people through the events, people, circumstances, both good and evil, to His purposed end. Amazing how God does that!

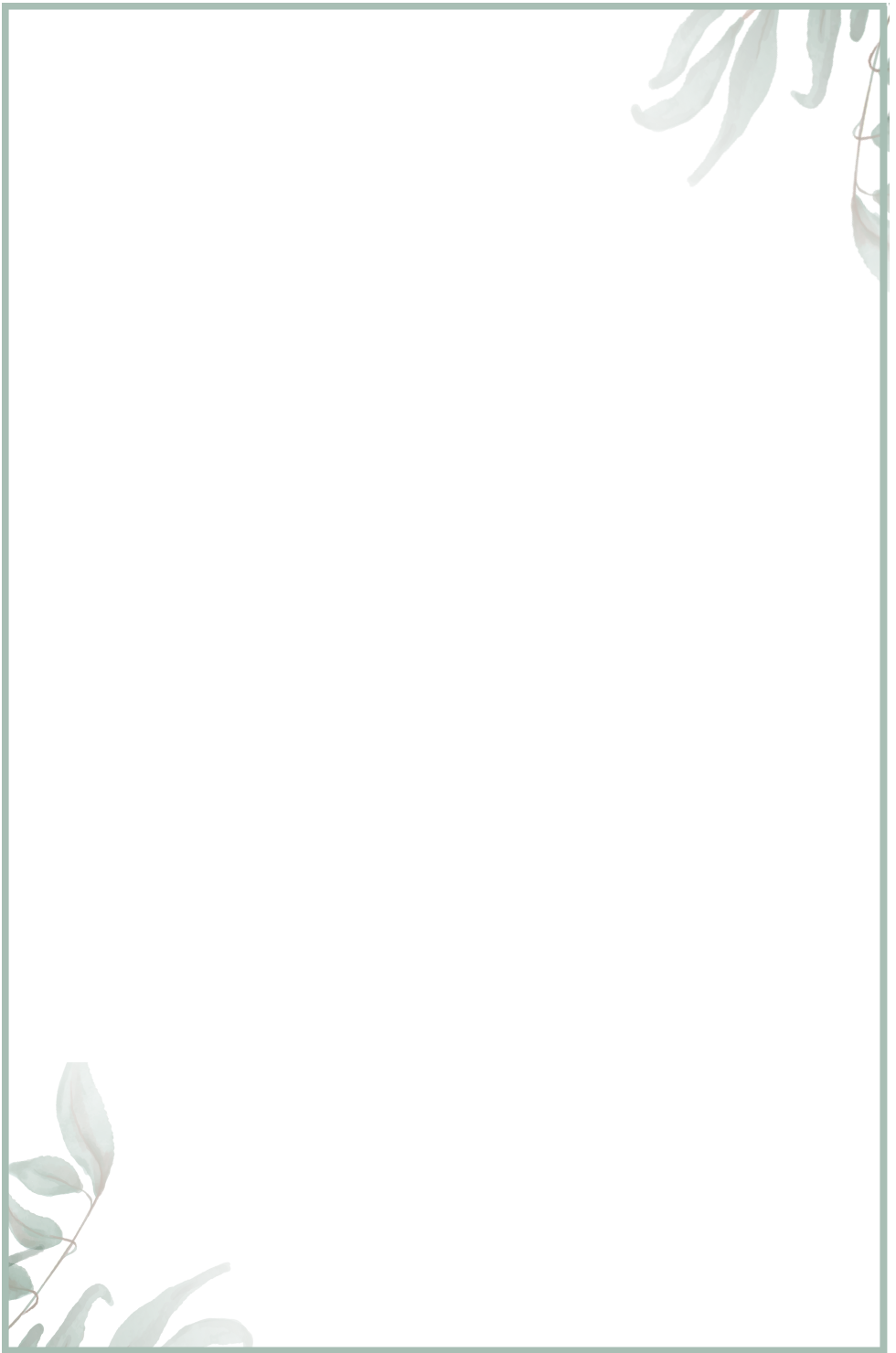


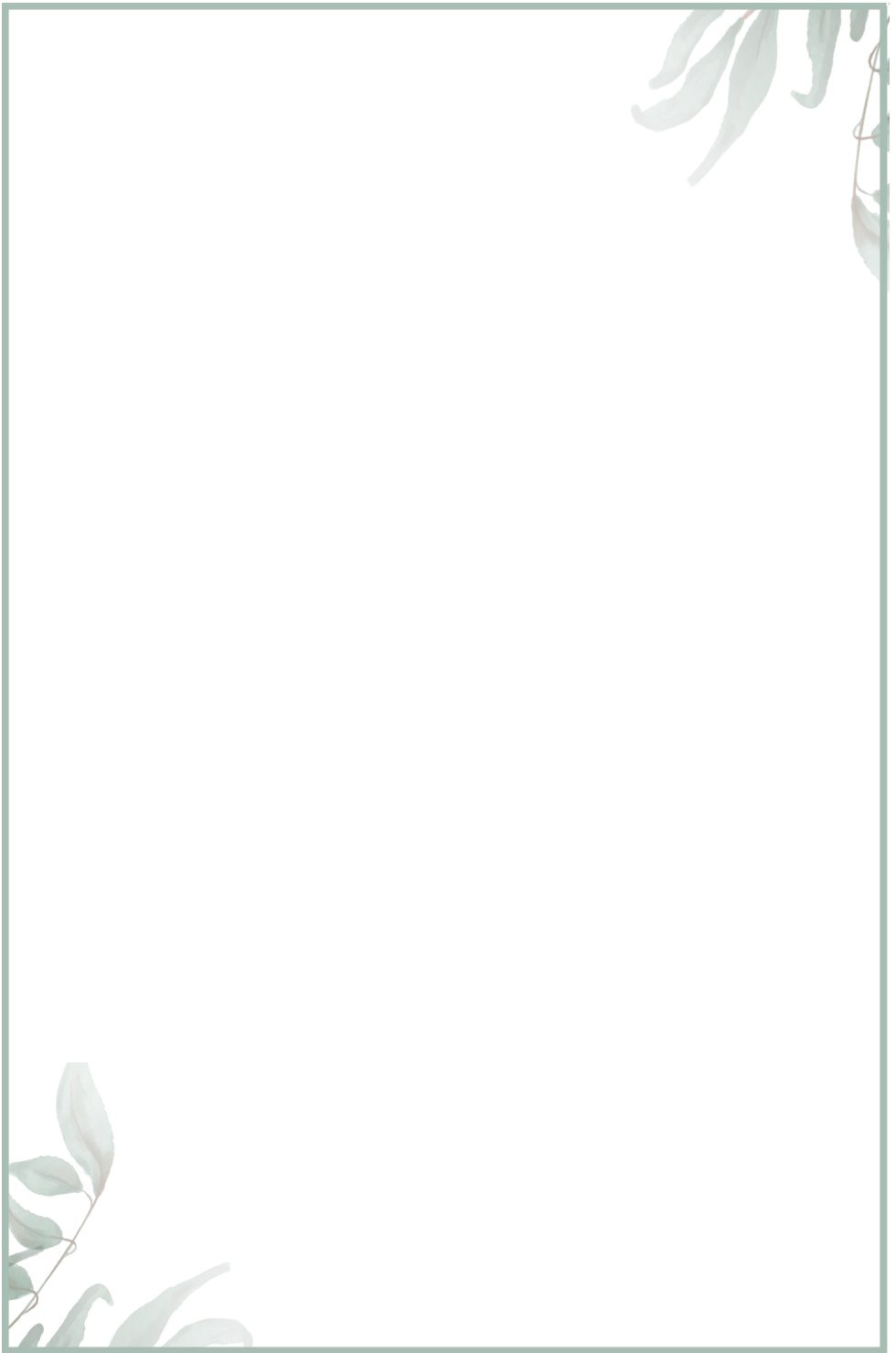


John 10:27-30 - “My sheep hear My voice, I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish—ever! No one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all. No one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

While God was working His plan throughout all circumstances, events, people, Joseph couldn’t see the end. He only knew this moment. He only knew to do the task laid before him every day with integrity, knowing that God was with him.







Conference Take Aways

1. Have you given thought to your own memorial service? In what specific ways do you plan to honor God and your loved ones?
2. Memorize Genesis 50:19–20.
3. Do you suppose there were times when Joseph wondered what God was doing in his life? Have you asked God that question at times in your life?

Ask not: What is God doing TO me?

Ask: What is God doing FOR me?

God answers you in His Word:

I Thessalonians 4:3a

II Corinthians 12:9

Isaiah 64:8

Isaiah 40:29

Psalms 32:8

Isaiah 30:18

Isaiah 65:24

Proverbs 2:5

I Thessalonians 5:23

Romans 5:1-4

II Corinthians 4:16, 17

Genesis 50:20

I Peter 1:6-7

Deuteronomy 7:9

Isaiah 46:4

Philippians 4:7

Psalms 121:7, 8

John 17:17

Romans 8:29

What other verses tell you what God is doing?

4. Will you:

- Rest in providence/sovereignty of God?
- Trust in faithfulness of God/truth of His Word?
- Trust His providential Hand in your life?
- Exalt Jesus Christ with a life like His?
- Be content in whatever state God has you?
- Gain a grasp of the height of God's purposes?
- Trace the providence of God in your life?
- Know that God has marked you out to sing the Lord's song in a strange land?
- Know you are marked for eternity?

Which of these might you take for your personal goal?

5. Through it all, what have you learned?

Helpful audio resource:

Grace Immanuel Bible Church Website

Media → Genesis → Life of Joseph (Introduction/First part: Nov 15, 2015)

Pastor Jerry Wragg

<http://www.gibcjupiter.org/pages/sermons/detail/sermon/2582>

Through It All

I've had many tears and sorrows.
I've had questions for tomorrow.
There've been times I didn't know right from wrong.
But in every situation, God gave blessed consolation,
that my trials only come to make me strong.

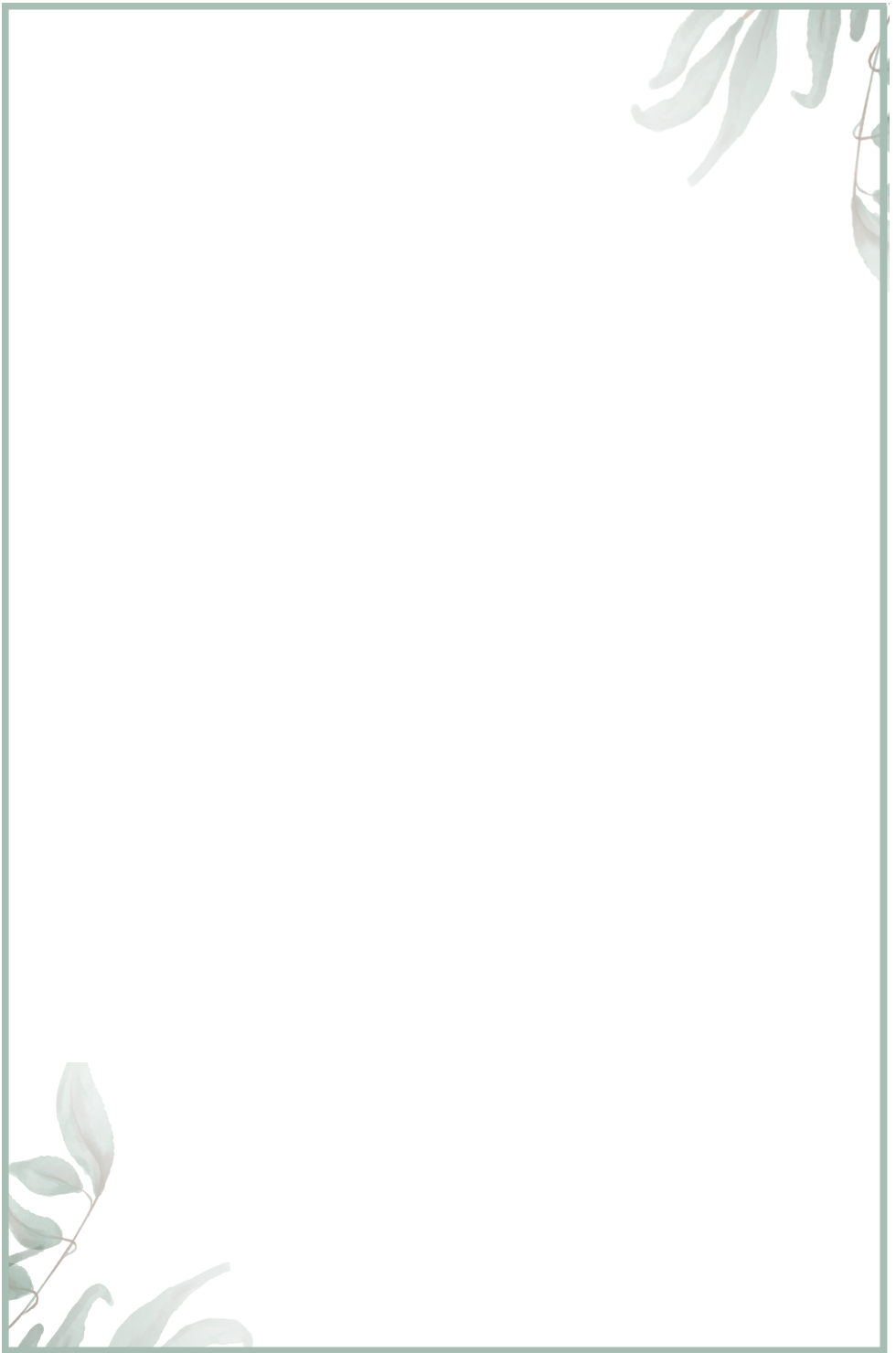
I've been a lot of places And I've seen so many faces,
but there've been times I've felt so all alone
But in that lonely hour, in that precious, lonely hour,
Jesus let me know I was His own

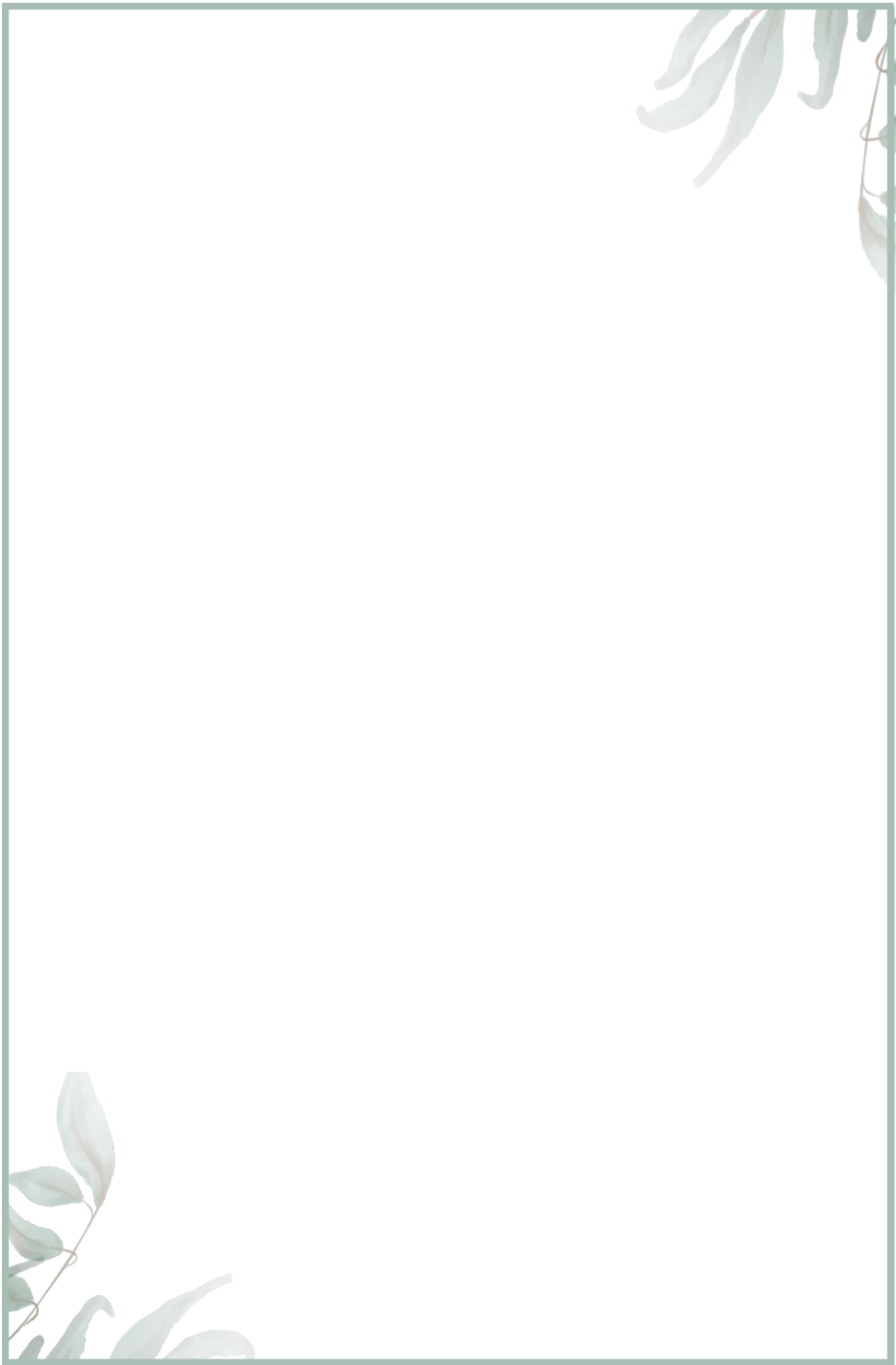
Through it all. Through it all.
I've learned to trust in Jesus.
I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all. Through it all.
I've learned to depend upon His Word

So I thank God for the mountains. And I thank Him for the valleys.
I thank Him for the storms He's brought me through.
'Cause if I never had a problem
I wouldn't know that He could solve them.
I wouldn't know what faith in His Word could do.

Through it all. Through it all.
I've learned to trust in Jesus.
I've learned to trust in God.
Through it all. Through it all.
I've learned to depend upon His Word
Yes, I've learned to depend upon His Word
I've learned to depend upon His Word

Written by: Andrae Edward Crouch
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