



STUDY GUIDE:

June 22, 2025

Message Series:

Into the Wild

Message Title:

Darkness Doesn't Win

Teaching Pastor:

Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

Rapid-fire choices—have everyone vote by raising hands:

- Beach or mountains?
- Ice cream or popsicles?
- Sunrise or sunset?
- Pool party or backyard BBQ?

Pray:

Heavenly Father, we praise You because You are worthy of all praise. Everything that exists has been made by Your hands and for Your glory. We admit that we don't always acknowledge Your sovereignty in our lives and we often try to do things our way, but we thank You that You have made a way through Your Son, Jesus, to be made right with You. Help us to draw close to You and open our hearts to hear from You, and then give us an obedient spirit to align our will with Your good and perfect will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Get Started: (40 min.)

- Is there a historical or personal tragedy that has deeply affected you and changed your perspective? Why do you think this question was posed?
- Have you ever felt left out, misunderstood, or treated unfairly by someone close to you? How did that affect your relationship?

Read Genesis 37:1-10.

- What can we learn from Joseph's dreams and the way he shared them with others?

Read Genesis 37:12-35.

"Whether we are victims of evil intent or innocent bystanders caught in the storm or sufferers of tragic loss, what we need to know is this: How am I supposed to respond? For the many who are here today thinking, 'Well I'm not in the middle of a tragedy right now. What does this have to do with me?' - if that's you, the BEST time to think of your response is now. Before the storm comes with its deluge of emotions and the earth moving beneath your feet. Now is the time to prepare your soul, so that you can emerge stronger, even though the journey will still be painful." - Pastor Brian Hughes

- How do you think God *wants* you to respond to tragedy?
- What are some things that can you do to "prepare your soul" for the storms of life?
- Has there been a situation where something negative led to positive outcomes that could not have been foreseen?

Reflect and Commit: (30 min.)

Read Genesis 50:15-21.

*"This is one verse that every follower of Jesus should memorize, hang on your wall and engrave into your soul. **Genesis 50:20 'What you meant for evil, God used for good.'** Because it embodies the essence of what we believe and it has major implications about our response to injustice and tragedy and evil in our lives." - Pastor Brian Hughes*

- How hard is it to believe that God can bring good out of bad situations in your life?

Read Luke 23:34 and 1 Peter 2:22-23.

- What was Jesus' response to the injustice committed against Him?
- How was His response similar or different to Joseph's?
- How was "what was intended for evil" ultimately "used for good" in the case of Jesus?

"So, whatever you are facing or about to face, you can be sure of this: The power of God working in your life will overcome the power of evil pushing against you, if you will stand firm against it. No matter what, what the enemy means for evil, God will use it for something good. It's not just a song we sing, it's a truth we live. No matter what, God takes what the enemy meant for evil and he makes something good come out of it. That's a promise for all of us. If you're in the wilderness today, you can claim it, know it, believe it. God is bigger than whatever awful thing is around you or happening to you. He takes what the enemy meant for evil and he turns it for good." - Pastor Brian Hughes

Gather prayer requests. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Lord God, help us keep our eyes fixed on You, especially when jealousy or comparison tries to distract us. Remind us that Your plans are good, even when our situations feel impossible or unfair. Strengthen our trust in You when the way forward feels dark or uncertain. We believe that in the end, darkness does not win—because You already have. It's in the name of Jesus that we pray, Amen.