

Talmid Shorts

Dr. Eddie Idefonso, Pastor

Talmid תלמיד a Hebrew word that means “a true disciple who desires to be what the Rabbi Jesus is.”

“Whoever claims to live in Him must walk as Jesus did.” **1 John 2:6 (NIV)**

Mathētēs μαθητής a Greek word for disciple.

How God Works

Genesis 45:3-8

Genesis 45:3-8 (NASB)

³“Then Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Please come closer to me.” And they came closer. And he said, “I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

⁵Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

⁶For the famine *has been* in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.

⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance.”

⁸Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.”

God has been at work since verse one of the Bible, and He is still orchestrating events involving nations, families, and individuals. While He uniquely tailors His plan for individual lives, our Father wants all people to come to saving faith. And He works to conform every Christian to His Son’s image.

Transforming believers into reflections of Jesus is a long process of small changes, which means God’s work may at times seem slow to us. The Lord assured Abraham he’d be the father of nations, but he had to wait decades for the promised son ([Genesis 15:1-5](#)). Even though God was at work the entire time, Abraham must have wondered if the pledge had been forgotten. God’s patient timing lets Him coordinate every detail perfectly.

Believers like to share stories about the Lord’s dramatic intervention in their lives. Knowing that He provides, rescues, or heals is exciting and reassuring. But He also works in ways that may seem inconsequential. For example, upon arriving in Egypt, Joseph was just a menial servant in Potiphar’s household—yet this was his first step toward becoming the country’s second-in-command ([Genesis 39:1-4](#); [Genesis 41:41](#)). God has a purpose for everything that comes into our life—including friendships, jobs, situations, and conversations. Nothing is trivial.

If you want to experience God in action, you don’t have to wait for Him to do something big in your life. Be attentive, because every day is an opportunity to see Him at work. Get into His Word so you can understand how He has acted in the lives of others. Then watch for His involvement in your own.