

Detours

Lessons from Joseph
The Unpredictable Path
To Your Destiny

By Tony Evans

A Journalizing Study Guide
for Visionwriters



Visionwriters International, Incorporated

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A Journalizing Study Guide by Wilma Bartell to be used in conjunction with the Bible study book entitled “Detours: Lessons from Joseph: The Unpredictable Path to Your Destiny” by Tony Evans. Edited by Terry Cook.

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ORIENTATION - Detours

Welcome to Detours: Lessons from Joseph, The Unpredictable Path to Your Destiny, by Tony Evans. This study guide was designed for Visionwriters International, and is to be used as a supplemental guide to the Bible study book by Tony Evans, Detours: Lessons from Joseph, The Unpredictable Path to Your Destiny. You will need to purchase the Bible study book to participate in this class. The video from the corresponding Bible study is optional.

The Bible study book, Detours: Lessons from Joseph, The Unpredictable Path to Your Destiny, is written by Tony Evans and is published by LifeWay Press. You can purchase this Bible study book at www.tonyevans.org, www.lifeway.com, Amazon, or wherever you choose to purchase books. (Note: For this class, be sure to purchase the **Bible study book**, which may also be referred to as “**DVD companion guide**”, named Detours: Lessons from Joseph, The Unpredictable Path to Your Destiny, *not* the full-size book titled Detours: The Unpredictable Path to Your Destiny.)

This study guide is written specifically for use by visionwriters. (Visionwriters are those Bible students who have a desire to meditate on and to journalize the Word of God, in order to receive His vision for their lives. The word “journalize” may be found in the dictionary and its meaning is to enter notes or information in a journal or account book. For a review of how to journalize, please see the Appendix at the back of this study guide.) We believe the power of God is in His Word to us. Hebrews 4:12 (NIV) says:

“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”

And again, in Isaiah 55:10-11 (NIV), the Scripture says:

“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.”

As visionwriters, we believe the Word of God will do its work in each of our hearts if we are disciplined in our daily lives to spend quiet time with the Lord reading,

“Detours” Study Guide

questioning, and, most of all, listening to Father as He brings understanding and enlightenment to His Words. Psalm 62:5 (NKJV) says:

“My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.”

If you willingly become accountable to God through the class structure as explained in the following pages, He will bring the revelation which will transform your heart and life as you engage in the act of journalizing what you hear.

This is an eight-week course, including orientation and evaluation meetings. Each week you will be asked to read the specified daily reading assignment from the book, Detours: Lessons from Joseph, The Unpredictable Path to Your Destiny, by Tony Evans. Each week there are also daily scripture readings for journalizing. At the end of each week there is a page called Heartwork. These are questions for you to meditate upon and to answer from the heart as the Lord leads. Please bring your Heartwork and one journal to your weekly class, where you will hand them in to your Visionkeeper. Your papers will be prayerfully coached with encouragement and care. This is not a “graded” assignment!

This study, like other Visionwriters International studies, incorporates some important principles. We have found that our students benefit greatly as they practice discipline in completing the daily reading and journalizing assignments. As a visionwriter, you’ll find that being accountable to your Visionkeeper, in ways such as completing and handing in the Heartwork questions, as well as respecting the time schedule set for your class, also benefits you greatly. By practicing these disciplines you will experience a deeper, heartfelt relationship with God, as well as with your fellow classmates. As you and your fellow students commit to this high level of commitment and mutual respect, you’ll find a deep bonding of community that is not found elsewhere.

Welcome to this journey of discovery, as we learn to see God’s hand in the detours of life!

ORIENTATION

Reading Assignment

Please read the Introduction on page 5 and “Positive Interruptions” on page 14 of your study book, Detours: Lessons from Joseph, The Unpredictable Path to Your Destiny, by Tony Evans. (Note: Remember that the video to this series is optional, and not part of our Visionwriters International study guide assignments.)

May you truly be blessed as you hear God’s voice in this study.

Journalizing Assignment

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NKJV)

Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.

Isaiah 55:1-3 (NIV)

LESSON 1 - The Purpose of Detours

Lesson 1, Day 1 - The Roundabout Way

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 15-18 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

“And I have promised to bring you up out of your misery in Egypt into the land of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites--a land flowing with milk and honey. The elders of Israel will listen to you. Then you and the elders are to go to the king of Egypt and say to him, ‘The Lord, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us. Let us take a three day journey into the wilderness to offer sacrifices to the Lord our God.’”

Exodus 3:17-18 (NIV)

For the revelation awaits an appointed time, it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.

Habakkuk 2:3 (NIV)

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he will do this.

Psalm 37:5 (NIV)

LESSON 1 - The Purpose of Detours

Lesson 1, Day 2 - The Importance of Development

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 19-23 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him.

Psalm 62:1 (NIV)

*I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched.
My eyes fail, looking for my God.*

Psalm 69:3 (NIV)

Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:3-5 (NIV)

LESSON 1 - The Purpose of Detours

Lesson 1, Day 3 - Introducing Joseph and His Brothers

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 24-28 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.

Genesis 37:3 (NIV)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

James 1:2-4 (NIV)

LESSON 1 - The Purpose of Detours

Lesson 1, Day 4 - The Lord Was with Joseph

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 29-33 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him success in everything he did, Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph’s care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate. Now Joseph was well-built and handsome.

Genesis 39:2-6 (NIV)

The Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.

Genesis 39:21-23 (NIV)

LESSON 1 - The Purpose of Detours

Lesson 1, Day 5 - What Detours Are

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 34-37 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

Now Elisha had said to the woman whose son he had restored to life, "Go away with your family and stay for a while wherever you can, because the Lord has decreed a famine in the land that will last seven years." The woman proceeded to do as the man of God said. She and her family went away and stayed in the land of the Philistines seven years. At the end of the seven years she came back from the land of the Philistines and went to appeal to the king for her house and land. The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, and had said, "Tell me about all the great things Elisha has done." Just as Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, the woman whose son Elisha had brought back to life came to appeal to the king for her house and land. Gehazi said, "This is the woman, my lord the king, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life." The king asked the woman about it, and she told him. Then he assigned an official to her case and said to him, "Give back everything that belonged to her, including all the income from her land from the day she left the country until now."

2 Kings 8:1-6 (NIV)

LESSON 1 - Heartwork

Please answer the following questions. Use 8 ½ by 11 paper; your answers may be handwritten or typed. Include your name, the lesson number and today’s date, then proceed through the following questions with your personal, heartfelt responses.

Each week you will submit your heartwork to the facilitator of your local or online class, which will be returned to you the following week with encouraging feedback from your coach. During class, as you share your Heartwork, your journal and your thoughts and insights, you will be a valuable source of inspiration to your classmates.

Putting It All Together

1. Read Habakkuk 2:3. What are you to do when you face a “delay” in the direction or vision that God has given you? What are some spiritual benefits you may gain from a detour in your spiritual life?
2. How is faith developed during our time of spiritual detours? Refer to Romans 5:3-5.
3. What is the purpose of the detours in our life, as seen in James 1:2-4? Name a way you have seen the Lord work behind the scenes to bring about His good while you have been in a “waiting pattern”.
4. Please review your week’s journals and choose one to submit, along with your Heartwork questions, to your class facilitator.

LESSON 2 - The Proof of Detours

Lesson 2, Day 1 - Suffering for Doing Right

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 43-46 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

Indeed all who delight in piety and are determined to live a devoted and godly life in Christ Jesus will meet with persecution [will be made to suffer because of their religious stand].

2 Timothy 3:12 (AMPC)

There's no particular virtue in accepting punishment that you well deserve. But if you're treated badly for good behavior and continue in spite of it to be a good servant, that is what counts with God.

1 Peter 2:20 (MSG)

And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—for all God gives to his Son Jesus is now ours too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

Romans 8:17 (TLB)

LESSON 2 - The Proof of Detours

Lesson 2, Day 2 - You Are Not Alone

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 48-51 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

Suddenly King Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in alarm and said, “Didn’t we throw three men, bound hand and foot, into the fire?” “That’s right, O king,” they said. “But look!” he said. “I see four men, walking around freely in the fire, completely unharmed! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!” Nebuchadnezzar went to the door of the roaring furnace and called in, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the High God, come out here!” Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego walked out of the fire.

Daniel 3:24-25 (MSG)

“In solemn truth I tell you, anyone believing in me shall do the same miracles I have done, and even greater ones, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask him for anything, using my name, and I will do it, for this will bring praise to the Father because of what I, the Son, will do for you.”

John 14:13 (TLB)

LESSON 2 - The Proof of Detours

Lesson 2, Day 3 - Twice is a Charm

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 52-54 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

It is the same with my word.

I send it out, and it always produces fruit.

It will accomplish all I want it to,

and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

Isaiah 55:11 (NLT)

And we are witnesses of these things, and the Holy Spirit is also, Whom God has bestowed on those who obey Him.

Acts 5:32 (AMPC)

LESSON 2 - The Proof of Detours

Lesson 2, Day 4 - Surprise!

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 55-58 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

Then Abraham looked up and saw a ram caught by its horns in a thicket. So he took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering in place of his son.

Genesis 22:13 (NLT)

The head cupbearer then spoke up and said to Pharaoh, “I just now remembered something—I’m sorry, I should have told you this long ago. Once when Pharaoh got angry with his servants, he locked me and the head baker in the house of the captain of the guard. We both had dreams on the same night, each dream with its own meaning. It so happened that there was a young Hebrew slave there with us; he belonged to the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams and he interpreted them for us, each dream separately. Things turned out just as he interpreted. I was returned to my position and the head baker was impaled.”

Pharaoh at once sent for Joseph. They brought him on the run from the jail cell. He cut his hair, put on clean clothes, and came to Pharaoh.

Genesis 41:9-14 (MSG)

LESSON 2 - The Proof of Detours

Lesson 2, Day 5 - God Can Work It Out

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 59-61 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together for good, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfill his designed purpose.

Romans 8:28 (TPT)

Then Pharaoh sent word and called for Joseph, and they hurriedly brought him out of the dungeon; and when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came to Pharaoh. Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, but no one can interpret it; and I have heard it said about you, that when you hear a dream you can interpret it." Joseph then answered Pharaoh, saying, "It has nothing to do with me; God will give Pharaoh an answer for his own good."

Genesis 41:14-16 (NASB)

LESSON 2 - Heartwork

Please answer the following questions. Use 8 ½ by 11 paper; your answers may be handwritten or typed. Include your name, the lesson number and today’s date, then proceed through the following questions with your personal, heartfelt responses.

Each week you will submit your heartwork to the facilitator of your local or online class, which will be returned to you the following week with encouraging feedback from your coach. During class, as you share your Heartwork, your journal and your thoughts and insights, you will be a valuable source of inspiration to your classmates.

Putting It All Together

1. Explain how obedience is based on internal faith rather than on external circumstances and/or consequences. Refer to John 14:15 and Luke 6:46.

2. Consider and write why it is important to have two or three witnesses confirm guidance and decisions in your life. Refer to 2 Corinthians 13:1 and Acts 5:32.

3. Why is obedience important in taking us from our detours to our destination? Can you reflect on times in your life where you can see where your obedience in the detours prepared you for the destination God had prepared for you?

4. Please review your week’s journals and choose one to submit along with your Heartwork questions to your class facilitator.

LESSON 3 - The Patience of Detours

Lesson 3, Day 1 - Waiting Well

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 67-69 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

*Wait for the Lord;
Be strong and let your heart take courage;
Yes, wait for the Lord.*

Psalm 27:14 (NASB)

*The Lord is good to those who depend on him,
to those who search for him.
So it is good to wait quietly
for salvation from the Lord.*

Lamentations 3:25-26 (NLT)

I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

Psalm 130:5-6 (NIV)

LESSON 3 - The Patience of Detours

Lesson 3, Day 2 - When God Tarries

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 70-74 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

We honor them as our heroes because they remained faithful even while enduring great sufferings. And you have heard of all that Job went through and we can now see that the Lord ultimately treated him with wonderful kindness, revealing how tenderhearted he really is!

James 5:11 (TPT)

*But those who wait for Yahweh's grace
will experience divine strength.
They will rise up on soaring wings and fly like eagles,
run their race without growing weary,
and walk through life without giving up.*

Isaiah 40:31 (TPT)

LESSON 3 - The Patience of Detours

Lesson 3, Day 3 - Complaining Vs. Contentment

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 75-78 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

Many plans are in a man's mind, but it is the Lord's purpose for him that will stand.

Proverbs 19:21 (AMPC)

So be patient, brethren, [as you wait] till the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits expectantly for the precious harvest from the land. [See how] he keeps up his patient [vigil] over it until it receives the early and late rains. So you also must be patient. Establish your hearts [strengthen and confirm them in the final certainty], for the coming of the Lord is very near.

James 5:7-8 (AMPC)

Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed!

Philippians 2:14 (MSG)

LESSON 3 - The Patience of Detours

Lesson 3, Day 4 - Do What You Know

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 79-82 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

For the whole Law [concerning human relationships] is complied with in the one precept, You shall love your neighbor as [you do] yourself.

Galatians 5:14 (AMPC)

And he said, “The one who showed compassion to him.” Then Jesus said to him, “Go and do the same.”

Luke 10:37 (NASB)

Jesus replied, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:37-40 (NLT)

LESSON 3 - The Patience of Detours

Lesson 3, Day 5 - Time to Grow

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 83-85 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

Colossians 3:12 (MSG)

LESSON 3 - Heartwork

Please answer the following questions. Use 8 ½ by 11 paper; your answers may be handwritten or typed. Include your name, the lesson number and today’s date, then proceed through the following questions with your personal, heartfelt responses.

Each week you will submit your heartwork to the facilitator of your local or online class, which will be returned to you the following week with encouraging feedback from your coach. During class, as you share your Heartwork, your journal and your thoughts and insights, you will be a valuable source of inspiration to your classmates.

Putting It All Together

1. What does “waiting well” mean to you personally? Refer to Psalm 27:14 and Psalm 33:20-22.

2. Read Isaiah 40:31. List four truths that will happen if we wait patiently on the Lord. Expound on one of the truths and how you see its effects on your life this week.

3. Read Philippians 2:14 How have grumbling and complaining interfered with your “waiting well” this week?

4. Please review your week’s journals and choose one to submit along with your Heartwork questions to your class facilitator.

LESSON 4 - The Pardon of Detours

Lesson 4, Day 1 - The Weight of Yesterday

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 91-93 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

1 Corinthians 13:5 (AMPC)

*If you, Lord, kept a record of sins,
Lord, who could stand?*

Psalm 130:3 (NIV)

LESSON 4 - The Pardon of Detours

Lesson 4, Day 2 - The Leash of Resentment

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 94-97 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

... as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

Matthew 6:12 (NLT)

All praises belong to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he is the Father of tender mercy and the God of endless comfort.

2 Corinthians 1:3 (TPT)

Then Peter came up to Him and said, Lord, how many times may my brother sin against me and I forgive him and let it go? [As many as] up to seven times? Jesus answered him, I tell you, not up to seven times, but seventy times seven!

Matthew 18:21-22 (AMPC)

LESSON 4 - The Pardon of Detours

Lesson 4, Day 3 - Unilateral Forgiveness

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 96-101 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

And Jesus prayed, Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. And they divided His garments and distributed them by casting lots for them.

Luke 23:34 (AMPC)

Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

Matthew 5:11 (NASB)

Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. "I'll do the judging," says God. "I'll take care of it."

Romans 12:19 (MSG)

LESSON 4 - The Pardon of Detours

Lesson 4, Day 4 - Making Mountains Move

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 101`-105 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

And Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. Truly I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says is going to happen, it will be granted to him. Therefore, I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted to you.”

Mark 11:22-24 (NASB)

“Never criticize or condemn—or it will all come back on you. Go easy on others; then they will do the same for you. For if you give, you will get! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use to give—large or small—will be used to measure what is given back to you.”

Luke 6:37-38 (TLT)

LESSON 4 - The Pardon of Detours

Lesson 4, Day 5 - Transactional Forgiveness

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 106-109 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

“By this you will be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not leave this place unless your youngest brother comes here! Send one of you and have him get your brother, while you remain confined, so that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. But if not, by the life of Pharaoh, you are certainly spies!”

Genesis 42:15-16 (NASB)

Peter said, “Man, I don’t know what you’re talking about.” At that very moment, the last word hardly off his lips, a rooster crowed. Just then, the Master turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered what the Master had said to him: “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” He went out and cried and cried and cried.

Luke 22:62 (MSG)

LESSON 5 - The Promotion of Detours

Lesson 5, Day 1 - Disappointment to Promotion

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 115-118 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith.

Hebrews 11:7 (NLT)

*So God decreed a famine upon Canaan-land,
cutting off their food supply.
But he had already sent a man ahead of his people to Egypt;
it was Joseph, who was sold as a slave.
His feet were bruised by strong shackles
and his soul was held by iron.
God's promise to Joseph purged his character
until it was time for his dreams to come true.*

Psalms 105:16-19 (TPT)

LESSON 5 - The Promotion of Detours

Lesson 5, Day 2 - Spiritual Growth

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 119-122 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

Lean on, trust in, and be confident in the Lord with all your heart and mind and do not rely on your own insight or understanding.

Proverbs 3:5 (AMPC)

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of people, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, that is, Christ.

Ephesians 4:14-15 (NASB)

LESSON 5 - The Promotion of Detours

Lesson 5, Day 3 - Brokenness

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 123-126 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted;
he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.*

Psalm 34:18 (NLT)

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV)

But He said to me, My grace (My favor and loving-kindness and mercy) is enough for you [sufficient against any danger and enables you to bear the trouble manfully]; for My strength and power are made perfect (fulfilled and completed) and show themselves most effective in [your] weakness. Therefore, I will all the more gladly glory in my weaknesses and infirmities, that the strength and power of Christ (the Messiah) may rest (yes, may pitch a tent over and dwell) upon me!

2 Corinthians 12:9 (AMPC)

LESSON 5 - The Promotion of Detours

Lesson 5, Day 4 - God Provides the Exit

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 127-130 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12 (NLT)

Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer.

Romans 12:12 (AMPC)

“And those are the ones sown with seed on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much.”

Mark 4:20 (NASB)

LESSON 5 - The Promotion of Detours

Lesson 5, Day 5 - Fulfill Your Destiny

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 131-133 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

*And now, God, I'm left with one conclusion:
my only hope is to hope in you alone!*

Psalm 39:7 (TPT)

All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy.

Romans 8:24-25 (MSG)

LESSON 5 - Heartwork

Please answer the following questions. Use 8 ½ by 11 paper; your answers may be handwritten or typed. Include your name, the lesson number and today’s date, then proceed through the following questions with your personal, heartfelt responses.

Each week you will submit your heartwork to the facilitator of your local or online class, which will be returned to you the following week with encouraging feedback from your coach. During class, as you share your Heartwork, your journal and your thoughts and insights, you will be a valuable source of inspiration to your classmates.

Putting It All Together

1. In the story of Noah, what lessons can you derive about God’s perfect timing . . . not too soon and not too late? Refer to Hebrews 11:7. Consider God’s perfect timing in regard to your own waiting in your life.

2. How important is spiritual maturity in regard to the perfect timing of God in your life? Refer to Ephesians 4:14-15.

3. Read Romans 12:12. List the three parts of this verse. How do all three aspects weave together during a detour in your life?

4. Please review your week’s journals and choose one to submit along with your Heartwork questions to your class facilitator.

LESSON 6 - The Providence of Detours

Lesson 6, Day 1 - Luck of the Draw

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 139-142 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.

Ephesians 1:11 (MSG)

Many plans are in a man's mind, but it is the Lord's purpose for him that will stand.

Proverbs 19:21 (AMPC)

The warden of the prison did not supervise anything under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and, the Lord made whatever he did prosper.

Genesis 39:23 (NASB)

LESSON 6 - The Providence of Detours

Lesson 6, Day 2 - Oops, I Missed That One

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 143-146 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care.

Matthew 10:29 (NIV)

Who can command things to happen without the Lord’s permission?

Lamentations 3:37 (NLT)

Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!

Romans 11:33 (MSG)

LESSON 6 - The Providence of Detours

Lesson 6, Day 3 - Connecting God To Everything

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 147-149 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

*The Lord works out everything to its proper end—
even the wicked for a day of disaster.*

Proverbs 16:4 (NIV)

*I create the light and make the darkness.
I send good times and bad times.
I, the Lord, am the one who does these things.*

Isaiah 45:7 (NLT)

Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s two dreams both mean the same thing. God is telling Pharaoh what he is going to do.”

Genesis 41:25 (MSG)

LESSON 6 - The Providence of Detours

Lesson 6, Day 4 - Opening Doors that Seemed Slammed Shut

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 150-153 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

If you bow low in God’s awesome presence, he will eventually exalt you as you leave the timing in his hands.

1 Peter 5:6 (TPT)

For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled (ranked below others who are honored or rewarded), and he who humbles himself (keeps a modest opinion of himself and behaves accordingly) will be exalted (elevated in rank).

Luke 14:11 (AMPC)

Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16 (NASB)

LESSON 6 - The Providence of Detours

Lesson 6, Day 5 - Arriving at Your Destination

Reading Assignment

Please read pages 154-157 in your study book.

Journalizing Assignment

For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

Philippians 2:13 (NLT)

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

So we are convinced that every detail of our lives is continually woven together for good, for we are his lovers who have been called to fulfill his designed purpose.

Romans 8:28 (TPT)

Evaluation

Please go to the Visionwriters International website at www.visionwriters.com and hover over the “Classes” tab, and then select “Student Evaluation” in order to enter your Evaluation answers electronically. Alternatively, if you do not have access to a computer, please answer the following questions on an 8½” x 11” sheet of paper and mail to: Visionwriters International, PO Box 22, Abilene, Kansas 67410. (Please include your name, the course taken, and your Visionkeeper’s name on your mail-in evaluation.)

1. How has your intimacy with God deepened as a result of journalizing throughout this course?
2. How has the discipline and accountability you experienced during this class enriched relationship and a sense of community?
3. What was the most life-changing revelation that you received during this course?
4. In what way was your Visionkeeper a blessing to you?
5. Are you anticipating taking another course with Visionwriters International?
6. Would you recommend this course to a friend? Why or why not?
7. Once you complete one Visionwriters International course you are invited to stay connected with us on Facebook. Would you like to be invited to join our private Facebook group?
8. If YES, what is your profile name on Facebook?

Appendix

Journalizing

“This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘Write in a book all the words I have spoken to you.’”

Jeremiah 30:2 (NIV)

We will be journalizing God’s Word on a daily basis during this study. As with other Visionwriters’ courses, gather together a pen and a notebook specifically for journalizing this particular course. After reading your assigned scriptures, listen to the inner voice as God speaks to you through your meditation of His Word. Christ wants to speak to you through your life as you practice the quietness of sitting before Him, reading His Word for yourself and giving ear to His inner small voice. In faith you will write the thoughts that come through your heart to your mind. By faith we listen and wait for Him to speak. And as He speaks we write His personal words to us.

If this concept appears difficult at first, start with praising Him and worshiping Him for who He is. Be ready to focus and expect to hear. Read His Word to you for the assigned day. Write your name, i.e. Dear, and make the Scripture personal by rewriting it with your name inserted. As you continue with this practice, over time you will discover God taking over and speaking to you personally beyond the specific words of the Scripture.

And write back to God. This is a two-way conversation between yourself and the Lord. He longs to hear us respond back to Him and takes joy in sharing Himself with us in this relationship.

Please note, journalizing is always done from meditating on the Word of God. At first you may not *feel* like what you are writing is coming from God. Rather, it may *feel* like it is coming from your own thoughts. But remember, this is a journey of faith; and by faith, keep picking up your pen and continue to write. He will

reveal Himself. He will confirm to you that it is He you are in relationship with and it is His personal words you are recording.

Delight yourself in the Lord as He takes you on His journey. Do not be afraid, only believe. The Lord has much to share with those who delight in Him in deep relationship. We have found there is an acceleration in heart/behavior change in those who journalize the Word of God. Our goal is to hear God's heart, and journalizing His Word helps us to listen clearly.

"All this," David said, "I have in writing as a result of the Lord's hand on me, and he enabled me to understand all the details of the plan."

1 Chronicles 28:19 (NIV)