Introduction: In a fallen world “the rock” of evil, injustice, and betrayal will happen to all of us sooner or later.

- “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.”
  
  Peter – 1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)

- “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.”
  
  Paul – 2 Timothy 3:12,13 (NIV)

- Who has wounded, betrayed, abused, abandoned, forsaken, forgotten, lied to, or hurt you more than anyone else?

Question: How do you overcome the evil aimed at you?
1. Joseph’s journey ________________ how to overcome the evil aimed at you.

   - God sovereignly allowed Joseph to be . . .

     1. Born in a __________________ family. Genesis 37
     2. __________________________ by his siblings. Genesis 37
     3. __________________________ to a foreign land. Genesis 37
     4. Sold into __________________________. Genesis 39
     5. _______________ _______________ of rape. Genesis 39
     6. Sent to __________________________ unjustly. Genesis 39
     7. __________________________ by a “friend.” Genesis 40

   - Joseph’s response to evil circumstances . . .

     1. He ________________ – he learned and adapted.
     2. He ________________ – he used his gifts where he was.
     3. He ________________ – he refused to “bail out” on God’s agenda for his life.
     4. He ________________ – on God’s time and place.
     5. He ________________ – he faced his issues and forgave others for theirs.
2. Joseph’s secret to overcoming evil involved something he __________________, something he __________________, and something he __________________ to do.

- **What he knew:** Nothing comes into our lives by accident. It is either decreed or allowed by an all-wise, sovereign God for our good.  
  (Genesis 45:5-8)
  
  ➢ Application: I am never a __________________!  
  (see Romans 8:28-29)

- **What he did:** He blessed those who cursed him.  
  (Genesis 45:9-13)
  (see Romans 12:14, 21)
  
  ➢ Application: I will do __________________ to those who hurt me, in a safe and appropriate way.  
  (see Matthew 5:43-48)

- **What he refused to do:** Take revenge.  
  (Genesis 50:15-21)
  (see Romans 12:17-21)
  
  ➢ Application: I will choose to __________________ (release) those who hurt me from the retribution they deserve because Christ has done that for me.  
  (see Matthew 6:14-15)
Question: How do you overcome the evil aimed at you?

1. Choose to ________________ the person(s) who have hurt you.

   Forgive ➔ Forgiving ➔ Forgiven
   Choice ➔ Process ➔ Resolution

2. Begin ________________ daily for God to bless the person(s) who hurt you (30 days).

3. Do one act of ________________ this week for the person(s) who hurt you (if possible and if appropriate).