



## Align Your Life.

*“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.”*

*Joseph | Genesis 50:20 (NLT)*

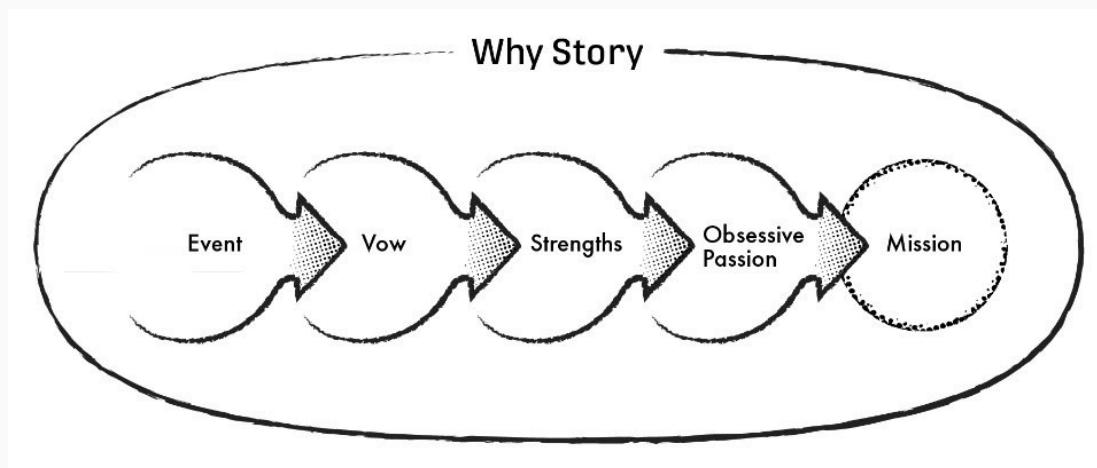
Context changes everything. Remember that little baby? How could he have known he was born behind enemy lines, that kingdom’s ruler prowling about, focused on carving a path of destruction around and even through his life? How could he have not received some life-altering wounds? Could he have forecasted that in his future, having met God, he would find himself standing at a major life crossroads? Bitterness, revenge, or escape to the left; forgiveness, Mission, and healing to the right? What path would he choose? What would be the story of his life?

Joseph was born into a sin-filled family; who isn’t? The favored son of Jacob and a bit arrogant, his brothers hated him. While on his way to check on their status tending the flocks, Joseph’s brothers hatched a plot to kill him. Having second thoughts, they threw him into a pit and

ultimately sold him into slavery. Can you imagine?

Fast forward a number of years and we find Joseph in command of Egypt, ranked just below Pharaoh. The brothers come begging for food and end up face to face with him. At this point, Joseph's travails, including time in prison, had led him to meet God. Intimacy restored, he was not the same Joseph as he was years before and his brothers failed to recognize him. After imposing a series of tests on them, Joseph reveals himself. His brother's hearts must have fallen deep into their stomachs right then. Think of their guilt feelings! But Joseph turns the entire drama around. Choosing the path of forgiveness, he transforms his woundedness into his Mission. His epic Why Story comes full circle; his family is reconciled by a love never experienced before.

*Reflect:* **Wounded likewise, I stand at the same crossroads. What path will I choose?**



Envision the components of Joseph's Why Story and how they parallel yours. Deeply impactful Events (or periods of life), the consequence of sin, start a chain reaction. Imagine the hurt Joseph felt as he lay in that pit, betrayed and abandoned. Though unspoken, what might his response have been? Call this his Vow. Immediately ingrained deep

within, his life forms influenced by it. Responding protectively by exerting his strengths and skills to fulfill his Vow, what did he become exceptionally good at? Call this his Obsessive Passion.

Not to be confused with one's passion, which can simply be an emotional escape, an Obsessive Passion is something you just can't seem to stop doing as you subconsciously work to avert a similar hurt or event. Relentless focus and activity bring relief and, as we see in Joseph's case, when used to help others, exercising our Obsessive Passion provides a sense of fulfillment and healing.

Now, his brothers standing before him, Joseph finds himself at the crossroads. What will he do? Looking with the eyes of the Lord, he sees his Mission before him. He decides to channel his Obsessive Passion into saving the lives of others, starting with reconciling his family. In the process, God intervenes and heals those deep wounds of his. Magical!

*Consider: **My Mission is the crux of my epic Why Story.***

Determining your Why Story requires a deeper understanding of its components so you can search your life for them and receive your Mission, the powerful assignment Jesus has for you.

**Event:** A deeply impactful, adverse, life-altering time or season of life. A consequence of sin, an Event will seem "not right" in some way. It may present as a positive as it contrasts against something adverse. (E.g., a city dweller attending a wilderness camp might be deeply impacted by the pristine beauty.) Events will usually be tied to a particular person or situation, health issue or trauma, a loved one's experiences, or even world events. Remember, Events can be a one-time occurrence, stretched over a stage of life, or even the confluence

of several less impactful events.

**Vow:** A person's unspoken response to an Event. May sound like "I'm never going to live my life like that!" or "I'll prove that's not true!" or "This is how things should be!"

**Obsessive Passion:** Something a person just can't seem to stop doing. An Obsessive Passion is developed as one attempts to effect his Vow by applying his strengths, gifts and abilities. Created by God, we each respond to our Vow through our unique personalities. No two people will work to fulfill their Vow in the same way.

**Mission:** A Kingdom assignment from Jesus himself that you will carry out behind enemy lines; an adventure fraught with danger. Uniquely designed, trained, and gifted, you are the one perfectly suited to do it. Not to be confused with your Purpose (the reason you exist), your Mission is the assignment to fulfill while behind enemy lines. Once in Heaven, your Mission will be over—Mission completed—while your Purpose will continue throughout eternity. Your God-given Mission will be bold, active, concise, and focused on changing lives (starting with your own.). A concise phrase (seven words or less) with deep meaning that describes what you go out to do all day, every day. Your Mission acts as a plumb line as you make decisions affecting the direction of your life.

**Why Story:** The epic story, packed with passion, that leads to and powers your Mission and the reason you pursue it. Vulnerably expressed, your Why Story will open the hearts of those you serve. Sharing it will generate trust, emotional connection, and inspiration. To advance your Mission, you'll need to become comfortable telling it, working it into conversations without awkwardness. Tell it often!

**Consider: I must shift my perspective to that of the spiritual realm to receive my Mission.**

Encountering his brothers, Joseph's emotional reaction makes it clear that he was a changed man. He was now seeing the world through God's eyes. How could he have responded any differently?

*Then Joseph looked at his brother Benjamin, the son of his own mother. "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" Joseph asked. "May God be gracious to you, my son." Then Joseph hurried from the room because he was overcome with emotion for his brother. He went into his private room, where he broke down and wept. (Genesis 43:29-30)*

What lens are you looking through as you view the world behind enemy lines? Where will you channel your Obsessive Passion? What has the Lord prepared you for?

It's time to discern your Mission, the aligning path for your life. An aligned life is powerful, fulfilling and clarifying. It captures the essence of why you are here behind enemy lines. Your Mission will be inspired by God, focused on serving others, positive, active and exceptionally concise—the goal is seven words or fewer. Intentional focus on it will bring power, direction, and the ability to know when to say yes and when no. As you learn to lead your life with your Mission, you'll find yourself pursuing it more and more—all day, every day—because it will become part of who you are.

Since your Mission will be God-inspired, you must engage Him in a deeply intimate spiritual process. Create space for this. Allow yourself to think big; anything is possible for God! Consider the development of your Mission as if you are cooking a broth. After creating your first

draft, begin the process of “cooking it down” to achieve its deeper and deeper essence. Continue to refine it as you pursue it over a number of years.

*Imagine: My passion-filled Why Story opening people’s lives to my Mission.*

A strange thing happens when you vulnerably share your Why Story. Though difficult, passionately exposing yourself through your Why Story in a well-structured way acts like a boomerang. As you connect emotionally with others, an immediate trust comes, the result of your authenticity. In this environment you are able to advance your Mission. Yet, as He did with Joseph, God turns everything back to bring fulfillment and healing in you!

*"Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, "My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness." So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me." The Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 12:8-9)*

The Apostle Paul knew this so well that he learned to boast about his weaknesses. By doing so, Christ worked through and in him. Amazing! Likewise, you must become adept at engaging people vulnerably with your Why Story. It’s time to pull all the pieces together into a punchy and powerful story.

A powerful Why Story . . .

- Is an **emotional** (visual, smells, sounds) but concise story of the scene and circumstances surrounding your Event. Omit unnecessary or confusing details.
- Provides **humanizing** descriptions of the main characters.
- Describes the **problem** or catalyst. What was the triggering event?

- Shares the **outcome** at the time. What was your Vow?
- Captures your **Obsessive Passion**. What did you become particularly good at in response?
- Vulnerably concludes with the **missional impact it has had on you**. End your story with “and that why I (insert Mission statement).”
- Can be shared in less than one minute.

Why Story and Mission determined, what's left to do? Put them into action...

## Align Your Life!

Go off the grid and ask these questions:

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### Coach's Questions

- A deeply spiritual process, how will I engage the Lord to determine my Why Story and Mission?
- Who can help me with this?
- How will I begin to align my life with my Mission?

## Spirit Talk

Post this where you will see it regularly.

### Align My Life.

*"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen."*

*The Apostle Peter | 1 Peter 4:10-11 (NLT)*



## Don't know your Mission?

Get started by using our 40-day self guided devotional - Mobilize Your Mission.

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