

Calling

Calling

Three coordinates to triangulate your calling

First coordinate: Story

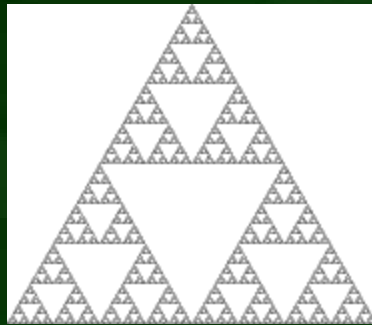
Second coordinate: Desire

Third coordinate: Journey

Calling

First Coordinate: STORY

Your story is both part of the
Big Story and its microcosm.



Calling

First Coordinate: STORY

Your story is both part of the Big Story and its microcosm.

The Big Story gives context for interpretation

Interpretation determines orientation

Orientation is everything in your journey

Calling

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was pasturing the flock with his brothers. He was a boy with the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives. And Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. **3** Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his sons, because he was the son of his old age. And he made him a robe of many colors. **4** But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peacefully to him.

(Genesis 37:2-4)

Calling

5 Now Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more. 6 He said to them, “Hear this dream that I have dreamed: 7 Behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and behold, my sheaf arose and stood upright. And behold, your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf.” 8 His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Or are you indeed to rule over us?” So they hated him even more for his dreams and for his words.

9 Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, “Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” 10 But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, “What is this dream that you have dreamed? Shall I and your mother and your brothers indeed come to bow ourselves to the ground before you?” 11 And his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the saying in mind.

(Genesis 37:5-11)

Calling

12 Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem.

13 And Israel said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." And he said to him, "Here I am."

14 So he said to him, "Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock, and bring me word." So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem...

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

18 They saw him from afar, and before he came near to them they

conspired against him to kill him. **19** They said to one another, "Here

comes this dreamer. **20** Come now, let us kill him and throw him into

one of the pits. Then we will say that a fierce animal has devoured him, and we will see what will become of his dreams."

(Genesis 37:12-14, 17-20)

Calling

Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there. **2** The Lord was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master. **3** His master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord caused all that he did to succeed in his hands. **4** So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had. **5** From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had, in house and field. **6** So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate.

(Genesis 39:1-6)

Calling

19 As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, “This is the way your servant treated me,” his anger was kindled. **20** And Joseph’s master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison. **21** But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. **22** And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. **23** The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph’s charge, because the Lord was with him. And whatever he did, the Lord made it succeed.

(Genesis 39:19-23)

Calling

12 Then Joseph said to him, “This is its interpretation: the three branches are three days. **13** In three days Pharaoh will lift up your head and restore you to your office, and you shall place Pharaoh’s cup in his hand as formerly, when you were his cupbearer. **14** Only remember me, when it is well with you, and please do me the kindness to mention me to Pharaoh, and so get me out of this house. **15** For I was indeed stolen out of the land of the Hebrews, and here also I have done nothing that they should put me into the pit.”

(Genesis 40:12-15)

Calling

14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. **15** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” **16** Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

(Genesis 41:14-16)

Calling

37 This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. **38** And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?” **39** Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. **40** You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.” **41** And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” **42** Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck. **43** And he made him ride in his second chariot. And they called out before him, “Bow the knee!” Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt. **44** Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I am Pharaoh, and without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”

(Genesis 41:37-44)

Calling

51 Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.” **52** The name of the second he called Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

(Genesis 41:51-52)

Calling

3 And 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.

4 So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, please.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. **5** And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. **6** For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. **7** And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. **8** So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

(Genesis 45:3-8)

Calling

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

(Genesis 50:20)

HOMEWORK

1. Lord, help me remember, when have I felt most like myself?
2. What do I have in abundance?
3. Is there one thing I could drop right now?
4. Remembering what has brought you life, what has come against you in that?
5. When was the last time you found yourself in a situation that you didn't know what to do? What was your reaction? Why?
6. Think through your story, through the decades of your life. What are the systems I've built to deal with life?
7. How have I been interpreting my life? What have I misinterpreted in my life?