

Perspective

Challenge: In the 2017 NBA Finals, LeBron James was the first man to ever average a triple-double. In his 14th season at the age of 32, LeBron James averaged 33.6 points, 12.0 rebounds and 10.0 assists per game, and all it got him was a Game 4 victory in a 4-1 series loss to the Warriors Monday night at Oracle Arena. Any other season, those would have been Finals MVP numbers, and James likely would have added his fourth title in his eighth Finals appearance.

The previous year, James had led the Cavs' to a dramatic comeback from a 3-1 deficit to beat the Warriors for the title. The 2017 was a different story, as Kevin Durant joined the Warriors and topped the 30-point mark five times in the series to earn Finals MVP honors. All James could do was accept the loss gracefully and acknowledge Golden State as one of the greatest teams he had ever seen.

"I have no reason to put my head down," James said. "I have no reason to look back at what I could have done or shouldn't have done or what I could have done better for the team. I left everything I had out on the floor every single game for five games in the Finals, and you come up short."

"Golden State is a worthy opponent, obviously the best team in our league the last three years, the best team this year, and they showcased that throughout (their 16-1) postseason. We were another opponent in their way."

LeBron was able to maintain a proper perspective because he was able to step back and know he did everything he could have done to change the outcome.

Questions to consider:

Would you be willing to prepare for an opportunity that may possibly never happen?

When you've failed to reach your goal or been in a difficult situations, do you typically ask yourself the question, "is it controllable or uncontrollable?"

Did I do everything that I could?

What's going on: Joseph endured many difficult situations. His brothers planned to kill him, but sold him into slavery. As a slave, Joseph was faithful and upright in his master's house was falsely accused of attempted rape. He spent years in prison and was forgotten by a man he had helped, who could have pled his case with Pharaoh. Despite the hardships he faced, Joseph never grew bitter towards God or those who had wronged him. Joseph saw past the hurt, the dire circumstances and saw a hopeful future. Because of his faith, God elevated him to a position of leadership in Egypt only second to Pharaoh which allowed him to help save the nation of Egypt and his family from famine.

Game Time: Genesis 50:15-21

1. Did Joseph's brothers have a good reason to feel Joseph would get revenge?

2. What is forgiveness? When should you forgive others?
3. Why was Joseph able to forgive his brothers?

Key Verse: “you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.” Genesis 50:20

Anchor to remember:

- Be confident in the process and preparation and leave the results in God’s hands.