

>>> COMMUNITY KIDS <<<

GOD HAD A PLAN FOR JOSEPH

Genesis 37-50



FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- **Mornings:** Ask God to help you trust Him in every situation you face today. How can God's goodness help us to trust Him even in difficult times?
- **Evenings:** Ask God to use your life to glorify Him and to help others know Jesus. How does Joseph's story help us to trust God with the future? How will you remember that God has a plan even when things seem to go wrong?

>>> MAIN IDEAS:

CHRIST CONNECTION

THIS IS THE BIG IDEA OF HOW THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STORY
POINTS TO JESUS:

GOD HAD A PLAN FOR JOSEPH'S LIFE. HE ALLOWED JOSEPH TO SUFFER IN ORDER TO RESCUE A WHOLE NATION. GOD PLANNED FOR JESUS TO SUFFER SO THAT MANY—PEOPLE FROM ALL NATIONS—WOULD BE SAVED.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is in control of
everything?

God is in control of
everything in heaven
and on earth. Nothing is
outside of God's good plan.

>>> CONTINUE THE STORY AT HOME

GENESIS 37-50

Dear Families,

The story of Joseph is packed full of moments that resonate with us. Maybe you were the favorite child or the favorite child's sibling. Some people resonate with being cast away from family or being undeservingly welcomed into a new family. Some resonate with finding favor with an enemy or showing favor to an enemy. In Joseph's story, we can see ourselves and our need for Jesus in so many ways.

On at least four occasions in Joseph's journey, others gave him tremendous blessings. **Though Joseph lost some of these earthly treasures, he remained faithful to the Lord.** We normally focus on Joseph's adversity, but we can't miss that both the lows and highs of Joseph's life were also marked by God's blessing through others.

First, Joseph's father blessed him with a beautiful multi-colored robe as a representation of his favored status. This tangible symbol was taken from him when his brothers sold him into slavery. *Yet Joseph remained faithful.*

Next, Potiphar blessed Joseph by making him overseer of his entire household. The role lent itself to all the tangible and monetary things anyone could want. But when Joseph fled from the advance of Potiphar's wife, it was all taken from him. *Yet Joseph remained faithful.*

Third, the prison warden blessed Joseph by making him overseer over the entire prison. Yet, even when the cup bearer and baker forgot about him, *Joseph remained faithful.* Finally, Pharaoh blessed Joseph by placing him as second in command over all of Egypt, putting Joseph in a position to save his family from famine.

Joseph refused to let the evil actions of others steal his faith. When he had the chance to take away from others who had taken from him, Joseph showed generosity instead.

We experience various common grace blessings from the Lord every day. These blessings can tempt us to worship the gift rather than the Giver. **Like Joseph, we must remain steadfast under trial and faithful to the Lord. In famine and in plenty, blessed be the name of the Lord. He is good and in control.**

FAMILY ACTIVITIES<<<

For Fun: Bake bread or a similar treat (brownies, cinnamon rolls) together as a family. Give each family member a job like measuring, mixing, kneading, or shaping the dough. Talk about the cup bearer and baker that Joseph met in prison. Discuss how God used them in His plan. Then, discuss how God might use your family to help others know Jesus and believe in Him. Enjoy the bread or treat you have made as the happy ending of your hard work.

To Serve: Gather food to donate to a food pantry or make a monetary donation to a food bank. As you plan or organize your donations, talk about what it would be like not to have enough food. Discuss the emotions or fears Joseph's brothers were likely facing. Help your kids see that God used their hunger to bring them to Egypt, which ultimately led to their salvation from the famine. Talk with your kids about how your family can provide for others' needs as a way to help them feel the love of Jesus and hear more about Him.



UNIT MEMORY VERSE:

For I know that the Lord is
great; our Lord is greater
than all gods. The Lord does
whatever he pleases in heaven
and on earth, in the seas and
all the depths.

Psalms 135:5-6