



Joseph Saved His Family

Bible Passage: Genesis 42–46; 50

Memory Verse: “But I have been the LORD your God ever since you came out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me. **Hosea 13:4**

Bottom Line: Because nothing is too hard for God, we can know that His timing for our lives is best.

Big Picture Question: Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.

Christ Connection: *God sent Joseph to Egypt and blessed him so that he rose to a position of great authority. God used Joseph to help Joseph’s family and many others. When Jesus came to earth, He gave up His position of honor in heaven to be the Savior of the world.*

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways.

Say This:

We have been learning about what God does. Who remembers our big picture question? [Allow responses.] That’s exactly right. **Is there anything God cannot do?** And the answer is? [Allow responses.] Right again. **God can do all things according to His character.** In addition to being all-powerful, God is good. The things He does are all good things. Even if we don’t understand why He allows certain sad or hard times to come, we can trust that He is working through those difficult situations.

Two weeks ago we learned that **Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery.** While Joseph was in Egypt, **God gave Joseph power to understand dreams.** Joseph knew from Pharaoh’s dreams that there would be seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Pharaoh was so impressed by Joseph’s wisdom and understanding that he put Joseph in charge of all the planning to gather food during the years of plenty to prepare for the years of famine. Our story picks up in the middle of those years of famine. It’s called “Joseph Saved His Family.”

Watch Video- taken from Genesis 42-46; 50

When Joseph was a boy, he had two dreams that suggested he would rule over his family. Can anyone remember what happened in those two dreams? [Allow responses.] Yeah! Joseph dreamed that he and his brothers gathered grain, and that his brother’s bundles of grain all bowed down to his bundle of grain. He also dreamed that the sun, moon, and 11 stars all bowed to him. Now, many years later, Joseph was second-in-command over all of Egypt, and his brothers had come to bow before him and purchase grain! So let’s track God’s plan: God allowed Joseph to be sold as a slave. God blessed Joseph, and he became a trusted servant of Potiphar. When Potiphar’s wife lied about Joseph, Joseph ended up in prison. But God continued to bless Joseph, and soon he was in charge over the



prison. Then, after explaining the cupbearer's dream, Joseph had the chance to explain Pharaoh's dreams.

As a result of God's power, Joseph knew a terrible famine was coming after seven years of plenty. Pharaoh trusted Joseph and put him in power to plan for the famine. When the famine arrived, God used Joseph to keep Jacob and his family from starving! The hard things that happened to Joseph were part of God's plan. **God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.** A *remnant* is like a remainder, or what's left after something is removed. Many people probably died during the famine, but God saved Jacob and his family through Joseph. Joseph's brothers meant to harm Joseph, but God used it for good to save many people. ***Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to His character.***

Christ connection

God had a plan for Joseph's life. He allowed Joseph to suffer to rescue a whole nation. In a greater way, God planned for Jesus to suffer so that many—people from all nations—would be saved from sin.

Jesus is God the Son and the only person who ever lived without any sin at all. He did not deserve any suffering or punishment, but He took the punishment we deserve and died so we can have life with God. On the third day after His death, Jesus rose again to prove that He conquered death. Everyone who believes in Him will have eternal life.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review/Skills

What You Need: Story Point Poster, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute Bibles.
- Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Genesis 50.
- Remind kids that the Book of Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament Law—the first five books of the Bible.
- Challenge kids to recite the names of the first five books. (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*)
- Choose a volunteer to read aloud Genesis 50:19-21.

What You Say "Joseph was away from his family for years. He was a slave and spent time in prison before Pharaoh raised him to a position of authority.

By the time Joseph saw his brothers again, he realized that **God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.** When the famine came, Joseph was able to provide food for his family."



2. Discussion Questions:

1. **Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers?** *Point out that Joseph believed that God was in control and working out His plan to rescue His people even through the actions of Joseph's brothers.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 6:14-15.)
2. **What should we do if we have wronged someone?** *Guide kids to recognize the importance of being quick to admit when we are wrong and to apologize and seek forgiveness with others and with God.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 5:16.)
3. **How does God forgive us? How should we forgive others?** *Lead kids to conclude that God forgives our sins completely, not dealing with our sins as we deserve because Jesus took our punishment for sin. We should forgive others in the same way—completely and without holding a grudge.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 103:11-12.)

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, dry erase board, dry erase marker and eraser

What You Do:

- Write the first letter of each word in the memory verse on a chalkboard or dry erase board, drawing a short blank after each letter.
- Show the memory verse poster and invite kids to read Hosea 13:4 aloud once or twice.
- Then remove the memory verse poster.
- Challenge boys and girls to take turns saying the memory verse from memory, using the first letters as prompts.

What You Say • Even though Joseph's life in Egypt wasn't easy, he remembered who God is and trusted that God was with him. Memorizing Scripture helps us remember what is true about God and about ourselves. If you haven't yet memorized Hosea 13:4, keep working on it! We'll practice it again next week.

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
 - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
 - What does the story teach me about myself?
 - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
 - Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?



How does this story help me to live on mission better?

- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

What You Say: Pray, asking God to help kids forgive someone who has hurt them, or to forgive them for a time when they hurt someone else.

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.