



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 skills

What You Need: Bibles, Story Point Poster

What You Do:

- Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them use the table of contents to find Genesis 42–46; 50.
- Remind the kids that Genesis is the first book of the Bible and part of the Law, which is the first division of the Old Testament.
- Remind the kids why the Bible has large and small numbers, what those numbers represent (chapters and verses), and how they help us find specific parts of the Bible.

What You Say: God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant. A *remnant* is like a remainder. It is something leftover after something is removed. The famine could have caused the death of Jacob's family, but God saved them through Joseph. God saves us through Jesus.

2. Discussion Questions:



- **Did Joseph's brothers recognize him when they saw him?** (*no, Gen. 42:8*)
- **What did Joseph accuse his brothers of being?** (*spies, Gen 42:9-12*)
- **What was God's plan for Joseph all along?** (*to save Jacob's family from the famine, Gen. 45:4-8*)
- **Joseph said that what his brothers planned for harm, God planned for good. What does this mean?** *Guide the kids to discuss how some events of Joseph's life were difficult and sad, but God worked through them to protect His people from the coming famine.*
- **Can you think of other situations, in the Bible or in your life, where God used something hard to do something good?** *Allow kids to share their experiences. Remind them of stories like "Noah and the Ark" or "The Suffering of Job." Point them to the ultimate example of God's turning something sad into something good: Jesus' crucifixion.*
- **Do you think we will always see the outcome of God's working things for good?** *Guide kids to discuss that sometimes we will not get to see the bigger picture of good that God is working around us. Remind them that we can trust God even when we do not understand what He is doing in the world. He has promised to work things together for good, so we can rest in that promise even when we do not see it come true.*

3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, "Key Passage Flip Cards" printable, scissors, pencils

What You Do:

- Print the "Key Passage Flip Cards" printable double sided and cut them apart.
- Provide one flip card to each kid.
- Encourage the kids to fill in the blanks of each level before moving on to the next level.
- Kids should fold previous levels under to complete harder levels without peeking at completed levels.

What You Say • Our memory verse was written by the prophet Hosea. He lived many years after Joseph, but he wrote to remind the people of Israel that God had been with them since Egypt and only He could save them. Hosea's words also pointed forward to Jesus, God's Son, who is the only One who can save us from sin.

Pray and Dismiss

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

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages one to each kid.
- Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:
 - What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
 - What does this story teach me about myself?



Whom can I tell about this story?

- If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.
- Pray for your group.

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