



Joseph Saved His Family

Bible Passage: Genesis 42–46; 50

Memory Verse: ⁴“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.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

There You Are!

What You Need: large blanket or sheet

What You Do:

- Form 2 teams of kids.
- If your kids do not know each other well, review names before playing.
- Instruct players to sit with their team, several feet away from the other team.
- Choose 2 volunteers to hold a blanket between the 2 teams so players cannot see the other team.
- For each round, one player from each team will sit behind the blanket.
- Count down from 3, then the volunteers drop the blanket.
- The first player to shout out the name of the other player wins the round.
- Award a point for each correct identification.
- Play multiple rounds as time allows.
- You can also play as categories- Ask kids to tell each other a favorite food, game, sport, person at the beginning. When the blanket drops they have to say the other person’s favorite of the day.

What You Say “It is so much fun to get to know our friends in a different way when we are in small group. In our stories we will talk about someone who wanted to be remembered and went through some really tough stuff to live out God’s plan. Let’s get ready for large group so we can see what happens.”

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD’S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today’s Passage– 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



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January 20, 2019
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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.***

CONTEXT

The land of Egypt enjoyed seven years of plenty before a famine struck, just as Pharaoh had dreamed. During that time, Joseph gathered all the excess food and stored it in the cities. The famine was severe in every land, so Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to everyone who needed it.

Jacob and his family lived in Canaan, and Jacob sent his sons to Egypt for grain. Jacob still felt the sting of losing Joseph. He did not allow his youngest son, Benjamin, to go for fear of losing him too. But Joseph wasn't dead. He was in Egypt and had been elevated to a position of authority. As his sons headed to Egypt, Jacob had no idea that the journey would lead to a family reunion.

Although Joseph recognized his brothers immediately, they did not recognize him. When Joseph finally revealed his identity to his brothers, they must have been in awe that the brother they sold into slavery was now a powerful leader in Egypt! Would Joseph use his authority to rescue his family from the famine? Or would he avenge his brothers' evil against him?

What Joseph's brothers intended for harm, God intended for good. Joseph invited his family to come to Egypt where they could thrive. God clearly used Joseph to provide for Jacob's family and establish a remnant. As Jacob made his way to Egypt, God spoke to him in a vision and repeated the promise He first made to Abraham: "I will make you into a great nation" (Gen. 46:3).

Joseph and his father's family stayed in Egypt. Before he died, Joseph reminded his brothers of God's promise to their family. (See Gen. 50:24.) Despite Egyptian oppression, Jacob's descendants multiplied. God kept His promise, and through the nation of Israel and the tribe of Joseph's brother Judah, God worked out His plan to provide His Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem people from sin.

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- God allowed Joseph to be sold into slavery and put into prison so that Joseph could save His family.
- God can always be trusted because He is always working according to His plan.
- **BL:** Because nothing is too hard for God, we can know that His timing for our lives is best.
- No matter what you are going through. God is with you!
- One of the best prayers that you can pray is to ask God to show you how you can follow Him, obey Him, and depend upon Him – no matter what.

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

1. **Did Joseph's brothers recognize him when they saw him?** (*no, Gen 42:8*)
2. **What did Joseph accuse his brothers of being?** (*spies, Gen 42:9-12*)
3. **What was God's plan for Joseph all along?** (*to save Jacob's family from the famine, Gen 45:4-8*)
4. **Joseph said that what his brothers planned for harm, God planned for good. What does this mean?** (*guide 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.*)
5. **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.*



6. **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.

Activity: Coin Snatch

What You Need: plastic coins

What You Do:

- Invite kids to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Choose one kid to sit in the center of the circle and give him the plastic coin.
- He will close his eyes and place the coin on the ground behind him.
- While his eyes are closed, silently designate a child to sneak forward and take the coin.
- Then the child in the middle will open his eyes and try to guess who took the coin.
- Play multiple times, allowing others kids to be the kid in the middle.

What You Say "In our story today, we heard about a time Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy grain. They did not recognize Joseph. What do you think Joseph did when he saw his brothers? Did it surprise you to know he gave them their money back with the grain? What would you do? Would you be able to see a bigger picture and see that God is working things out for Joseph and his family? **BL- Because nothing is too hard for God, we can know his timing is best in our lives.**

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Crazy Stand Ups Categories List

What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse as a group together out loud a few times.
- Then tell the group you are going to call out some categories.
- If the kids fit in the that category they all stand up and say the verse together.
- You can use these categories or make up your own. (See if kids remember categories from your social time together.)
 - **Stand up if for are a girl/boy**
 - **Stand up if you do not share your bedroom**
 - **Stand up if you are wearing sandals/boots/tennis shoes**
 - **Stand up if you had pancakes/cereal/eggs/waffles/donuts for breakfast**
 - **Stand up if you ride a bike/skateboard/roller skates**
 - **Stand up if you have any brothers/sisters**
 - **Stand up if you are the oldest/youngest in your family**
 - **Stand up if you hate spinach/zucchini/Brussel sprouts/bean**
 - **Stand up if you are wearing red/yellow/blue/pink**
 - **Stand up if you own a dog/cat/goat/lizard**
 - **Stand up if your birthday is in January/June/November**
 - **Stand up if you can fold your tongue in half**
 - **Stand up if your eyes are brown/blue**
 - **Stand up if you took a vacation**
 - **Stand up if you love God**



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What You Say "It is so fun to get to know our friends and learn our memory verse together. Next time you can help me come up with a category to use in our game. Our Memory Verse reminds us that God has always had a plan and that Jesus is that plan. We can trust God because He can do anything."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"God, thank you for saving people. WE know we don't deserve Your love, but we praise You for loving us anyway. Help us love you and obey Your commands. Amen.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents Joseph and his brothers. What was God doing? . **BL- Because nothing is too hard for God, we can know his timing is best in our lives.**