

## Joseph (Part 2)- Genesis 42, 50

### THE POINT

Focus:

- God can bring good out of horrible situations.
- God can bring reconciliation.

Application:

- We can ask God for reconciliation and forgiveness.
- We can trust God even in difficult circumstances.

Last Week:

2 Weeks Ago:

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### HEART CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

#### MATERIALS:

- none
- Optional: "God is With Me" luggage tag from last week

**Content:** Follow-up on the luggage tag activity from last week. Where did they choose to attach it? Did any of them use it as a reminder to pray this week? Did they face any difficult issues? How have they seen God with them at home, in school, or in the community this week? The story is longer this week, so use this as a short opportunity to follow-up, build class community, and raise awareness of God's presence in the everyday.

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## STORY CONNECTION (10-12 MINUTES)

### MATERIALS:

- Printed illustrations of this story (available online) and/or blank paper
- coloring materials
- Optional: Clipboards for each child

### Instructions:

This is a long story even with some major parts cut out and summarized! Encourage families in your congregation to read the whole story together to get all the details- either in the actual Scripture text or with a good children's Bible.

Explain to the children that it's a long story, so they're going to work on coloring an illustration of the story while you read aloud. You can pause every once in awhile to talk about what's happening, let them ask questions, or offer explanation.

Some children might be interested in drawing their own version of the story instead of using an illustration; encourage this!

*Have the children sit in a circle for the story This helps include children who might feel shy, and it helps each child feel equally engaged. It reassures children that they are seen and welcome in the community.*

*This lesson has some summarized parts for length and content. If you're in a context where the idea of brothers threatening Joseph's life is too graphic, you could say "hurt him badly" or "injure him". This obviously doesn't express the fulness of the text, but it may make the text appropriate for children until they have the emotional resources to handle it. For other children, the abstract idea of death isn't scary because it doesn't feel permanent.*

Genesis 42:1-8; 45:1-9; 50:19-21

**Earlier, we learned about when he was sold to the traders and sent to Egypt. God is with us even in hard times! God did many miracles in Joseph's life, even though things weren't always easy for him. First, he worked in a house. Then, he someone lied about him, and he ended up in jail! But God did a big miracle, and Joseph was released from jail to work for Pharaoh- the king of Egypt! Where our story starts today, a famine has come, and not enough food is growing for everyone to have enough to eat. Jacob and his 11 other sons and their families are very, very hungry!**

Jacob found out that there was grain in Egypt. So he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at one another?" 2 He continued, "I've heard there's grain in Egypt. Go down there. Buy some for us. Then we'll live and not die."

3 So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain there. 4 But Jacob didn't send Joseph's brother Benjamin with them. He was afraid Benjamin might be harmed. 5 Israel's sons were among the people who went to buy grain. There wasn't enough food in the land of Canaan.

6 Joseph was the governor of the land. He was the one who sold grain to all its people. When Joseph's brothers arrived, they bowed down to him with their faces to the ground. 7 As soon as Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them. But he pretended to be a stranger. He spoke to them in a mean way. "Where do you come from?" he asked.

"From the land of Canaan," they replied. "We've come to buy food."

8 Joseph recognized his brothers, but they didn't recognize him. 9 Then Joseph remembered his dreams about them. So he said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see the places where our land isn't guarded very well."

**Joseph began to test his brothers, but kept his identity a secret. They didn't know he was really their brother! He had grown up and used a new name now. Joseph was seeing if they had changed from many years before when they had hurt him. He wanted to see if they would stand up for Benjamin, his youngest brother. They passed the test! He saw how much they loved each other, Benjamin, and their father!**

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*(continued)*

*Genesis 45: 1-9*

Joseph couldn't control himself anymore in front of all his attendants. He cried out, "Have everyone leave me!" So there wasn't anyone with Joseph when he told his brothers who he was. 2 He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him. Everyone in Pharaoh's house heard about it.

3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?" But his brothers weren't able to answer him. They were too afraid of him.

4 Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." So they did. Then he said, "I am your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold into Egypt. 5 But don't be upset. And don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me ahead of you to save many lives. 6 For two years now, there hasn't been enough food in the land. And for the next five years, people won't be plowing or gathering crops. 7 But God sent me ahead of you to keep some of you alive on earth. He sent me here to save your lives by an act of mighty power.

8 "So then, it wasn't you who sent me here. It was God. He made me like a father to Pharaoh. He made me master of Pharaoh's entire house. God made me ruler of the whole land of Egypt. 9 Now hurry back to my father. Say to him, 'Your son Joseph says, "God has made me master of the whole land of Egypt. Come down to me. Don't waste any time.

*Genesis 50:19-21*

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Do you think I'm God? 20 You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good. He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives. 21 So then, don't be afraid. I'll provide for you and your children." He calmed their fears. And he spoke in a kind way to them.

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## WONDER CONNECTION (3-5 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: None.

I wonder what Joseph thought about at the bottom of that well.

I wonder if Joseph prayed to God.

I wonder how God will make it work out for good.

What do you wonder?

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## SPIRIT CONNECTION (7-10 MINUTES)

MATERIALS: Coloring supplies: paper, crayons, pencils, hard drawing surfaces (floor, clipboard, or a table).

**Take a few minutes to talk quietly with the Lord while you draw, write, or just think inside your heard. Talk with God about the story today. This is a quiet time for you to spend with the Lord, not with your neighbor or anyone else.**