

November 28

In person for 3 & under

At home for 4 & up

GOD HAD A PLAN FOR JOSEPH (Genesis 37-50)

RECAP

Christ Connection

Preschool: Joseph's brothers hurt Joseph, but God had a good plan. God used Joseph's hurt to save His people from hunger. One day, people would hurt God's Son, Jesus. God's good plan was to use Jesus' death to save His people from sin.

Elementary: 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. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.

Key Passage Phrase:

The Lord is great. Psalm 135:5-6

PRESCHOOL REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **How many sons did Jacob have?** (*Jacob had twelve sons.*)
2. **Out of all the brothers, who did Jacob love the most?** (*Jacob loved Joseph the most.*)
3. **Who sold Joseph as a servant?** (*Joseph's brothers sold Joseph as a servant.*)
4. **Did Joseph do anything wrong to get put in jail?** (*No, Joseph did not do anything wrong to get put in jail.*)
5. **Who was saved from hunger by Joseph after he helped Egypt store grain?** (*Joseph's family was saved from hunger.*)
6. **Who is in control of everything?** God is in control of everything.

SAY Joseph's brothers thought they were in control when they sold Joseph as a servant. Yet God was in control, and used their bad plans to do something very good. God saved Joseph's family through the brothers' bad plan. Years later, others would have a very bad plan to kill Jesus. Jesus died on a cross even though He did nothing wrong. Because He died in our place and rose again, we are able to be saved from sin. Let's sing praises to Him!

ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **How did Joseph react to the difficult circumstances he faced?** *Explain that we don't know all of Joseph's thoughts and actions, but the Bible doesn't record any instance of Joseph turning away from God. His faith in God seems to lead him to trust in God no matter what. The difficulties even increased his faith in God. Joseph declared to his brothers that he believed God was using the evil they did to bring about something good. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 5:3-5.)*
2. **If you were Joseph, would you get revenge on your brothers or show them mercy? Why?**
Encourage kids to consider why they feel or think the way they do. What do they believe about God or themselves that leads them to seek revenge? What do they believe that leads them to show mercy? Point out that our sinful nature seeks revenge, but God can change our hearts to want to show mercy like He has shown us mercy through Jesus. We can forgive others and even repay them with good. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Pet. 3:9.)
3. **Does God always reveal the way He uses evil or suffering for His good plan?**

Kids may recognize evil and suffering in the world that seemingly has no purpose or good outcome. Remind kids that injustice, disease, natural disasters, and much more exist because creation is fallen. We can trust that no suffering is meaningless. We can fight for justice, peace, and truth, knowing that God is good and in control. The Bible says one day, Jesus will return and make everything right. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 16:33.)

THE GOSPEL PROJECT @HOME

FAMILY WORSHIP

Consider doing this during a designated time each week or before/after a meal together:

Read all or parts of Genesis 37–50 from the Bible, talk about the scripture, pray and do the fun activity or family serve project this week.

The movie *Despicable Me* introduces the villain Gru, who is on a mission to shrink and steal the moon. Gru's despicable plan includes stealing a shrink ray by adopting three orphans and using them to sneak into the base where the ray is kept. But Gru's plan backfires as he falls in love with the three girls who have joined his family. Gru's plan actually led to a happy ending and a happy family.

The story of Joseph is not exactly like *Despicable Me*, but the whole episode does end with a happy ending and a happy family. After Joseph is placed in charge of the food supplies in Egypt, his brothers came to buy food so that they could survive. Because Pharaoh had placed Joseph in charge, Joseph was able to save the lives of his family and all the people of Israel. Even though the story began with an evil plan, God used Joseph to save his entire family from a famine.

After the family had settled safely in Egypt, Joseph told his brothers, "You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people." (Genesis 50:20). Joseph's life points us to Jesus as the greater rescuer. Jesus was hated by others. He was treated unfairly. He was punished for sins He did not commit. But every event of Jesus' life—even His death—was part of God's plan to save people from their sin. For those who believe in Jesus, His story has the happiest ending of all.

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.

***Pray:** God, thank You that we can trust You in every situation—good and bad. We know that You are always in control and nothing can stop You from doing what You have planned. Thank You for using Jesus' death to bring forgiveness and eternal life to all who believe.*

FAMILY PRAYER

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?

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 cupbearer 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.

Supplies: bread mix or other ingredients

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.

Supplies: collected food items