

LESSON SIX
DATE 29 August

GOD IS WITH JOSEPH

We jump to the true story of Joseph for the next 4 weeks. Joseph lives through some very hard times... but he also knows God's promise and blessing. God can be trusted!

Joseph famously said to his brothers who had mistreated him:

"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them. [Genesis 50:19-21]



Joseph is confident of God's promise to be with him and bless him.

Activity & Intro

MEMORY VERSE WALKING TRAIL: One or two family members go for a walk and write phrases of the memory verse on pavements in chalk with an arrow directing to next phrase. Each phrase might be 50~100m apart. Other family members follow behind finding and reading the words:

And we know // that God // causes everything to // work together // for the good // of those who // love God and // are called according // to his purpose // for them. //
Romans 8:28

Video #1

Memory verse song and dance (Romans 8:28)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gxHngRbkkGqU>

Take your family dance party or competition from last week to Level 2. Change the playback speed of the video in YouTube settings and follow the actions.

Video #2

Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39-41) [start at 03:36]

<https://youtu.be/u6l4BrlsM4w?t=216>

Discussion Questions

1. What is one thing you liked in today's videos? [Everyone to share]
2. Why was Joseph in Egypt? [Consider reasons from perspective of different characters, including God]
3. Why was Joseph successful? [Accept answers]
4. Read Genesis 50:19-21. What did Joseph know about God? [Use these answers as ideas for prayer together]

Activity

Host your own press conference interview with Joseph using this roleplay script. You can include dress-ups, props and other family members as audience. Even make a video or audio recording.

Role-play script

Interviewer: *[Speaking to the camera]* Welcome to the program. Today we bring you the amazing story of the Hebrew named Joseph. Joseph rose from slavery to being in charge of Potiphar's property. Now he is in prison.

[Speaking to Joseph] Joseph, welcome to the program. Well, things have taken a turn for the worse for you lately. Do you think things could get much worse?

Joseph: Well, no, perhaps not. Things don't seem to be going my way at present.

Interviewer: Just to fill in the details of your story and to let the viewers know, how was it that you came to be living in Egypt in the first place?

Joseph: It is a bit of a long and a sad story. I am the second youngest of 12 brothers.

Interviewer: Goodness me! You must have had a very busy household – your poor mother.

Joseph: Yes, it is a big family. We didn't all have the same mother though. I have 10 half-brothers.

My father, Jacob, always favoured me because I am the first son of his favourite wife. I wasn't born until he was very old.

I came to be living in Egypt because my brothers sold me for 20 shekels of silver. The merchants I was sold to brought me here to Egypt where I was placed into the service of my master, Potiphar.

Interviewer: Your own brothers sold you! That's terrible! Why did they do that? Didn't they love you as a brother? What did they have against you?

Joseph: Well, as I said, I was a bit of a favourite with my father. I used to wear a fancy coat that he gave me. I think they were jealous of the fact that he loved me so much. I have to admit that I probably didn't help things very much in the way I behaved.

Interviewer: Oh yes? What do you mean?

Joseph: Well, I guess I was always telling on them to my father. They were often doing the wrong thing and I would tell Dad and get them into trouble. I also had some dreams that seemed to suggest that one-day the whole family would bow down before me – and I used to boast about that in front of the others.

Interviewer: Yes, I'd agree that perhaps wasn't the smartest behaviour. It does seem a bit extreme to sell you off though. What do you think your father thinks of all this?

Joseph: It is extreme, although at one stage I thought they were going to kill me. My brother Judah suggested that they sell me instead. There's no way they would have told my father. He would go crazy. They must have made up a story that I had been killed. I know my father must be devastated.

Interviewer: So, you came to Egypt as a slave. I've heard rumours that for a little while things here in Egypt were going well for you?

Joseph: That's correct. I was a slave of Potiphar, who is in charge of the palace guard. I worked hard for him and he came to trust me. He put me in charge of his house and all his property.

Interviewer: That is a high position for someone who had been sold off as a slave. Why do you think things went so well for you?

Joseph: Well, this may not make sense to you or your viewers [or listeners], but I put it down to the God of my father, Jacob; his father, Isaac; and his father, Abraham. He was with me and he made things work out the way they did.

Interviewer: *[Raising eyebrows in disbelief]* So, some Hebrew God had a hand in controlling things here in Egypt, did he? Well, he seems to have deserted you now Joseph.

Joseph: No, I don't believe he has. He still loves and cares for me, despite how things might look.

Interviewer: I'd agree that things don't look so good for you. You are in prison after all. You've come crashing down from a high position in Egypt. Where did things go wrong for you?

Joseph: Potiphar had trusted me with all of his possessions. I was his favoured servant. Things went wrong when his wife took a liking to me. She wanted me to love her, but of course she was already married so I wasn't about to agree to that. The problem came when she realised that I wasn't interested in her. She was angry with me, so she told Potiphar that I had attacked her. Unfortunately he believed her lies and had me thrown into prison.

Interviewer: Well, you must feel like abandoning that God of yours now. It doesn't look like he cares too much about you after all.

Joseph: No. It has been pretty awful at times, I must admit. I sometimes felt like maybe God had forgotten me. But I know he hasn't. I know he still cares for me. Even here in prison things have gone well. The jailor trusts me and I am pretty much in charge of the other prisoners. The Lord hasn't forgotten me.

Interviewer: *(Cynically)* Well, you stick to that theory Joseph. We might check up on you in a few months to see how things are progressing for you. In the meantime, good luck for your life in prison.

That's all for tonight's program. We'll be back at the same time tomorrow night when we look at the king's personal chef who is in a lot of trouble. It looks as though he is to have his head cut off! That story and more when we return tomorrow. For now though, it is good night.