Bible Stories for Adults
Joseph Forgives His Brothers
Genesis 42 - 50

Opening

Gathering: Tell of how God has used turned bad experiences in your life to His good.

Today’s Focus: To recognize that God can use even the evil things in life to accomplish His good.

Key Verses:

It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. … It was not you who sent me here, but God. Genesis 45:5, 8

You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. Genesis 50:20

We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Brotherly Love (Genesis 37)

How well did Joseph get along with his brothers?
  - Genesis 37:3-4

How did Joseph contribute to this animosity?
  - Genesis 37:2, 5-11

How did the brothers take out their anger towards their spoiled brother?
  - Genesis 37:23-24, 28

What did the brothers tell their father and how did Jacob respond?
  - Genesis 37:31-34

Good News / Bad News (Genesis 39-41)

How did things go for Joseph in Egypt?
  - Genesis 39:2-4

How did Joseph’s situation change in a way that may have seemed that God deserted him?
  - Genesis 39:7, 10, 14, 20a

How did God remember Joseph in prison?
  - Genesis 39:21-23

What happened some time later that seemed like a way out for Joseph?
  - Genesis 40:2, 4, 8, 14

Did the cupbearer work for Joseph’s release when he was restored as Joseph had foretold?
  - Genesis 40:23

How did this actually lead to Joseph’s release in an entirely unexpected way?
  - Genesis 41:1, 8-9, 12, 14

What happened after Joseph said that the dreams foretold 7 abundant & 7 famine years?
  - Genesis 41:39-41
Seven and Seven  \textit{(Genesis 41:46-57; 47:13-26)}

How did Joseph spend the first seven years of his job for Pharaoh?  
\textit{Genesis 41:47, 49}

How did Joseph know when to stop collecting and to start distributing the grain?  
\textit{Genesis 41:55}

How did Joseph distribute the grain? Did he give it to the Egyptians?  
\textit{Genesis 41:56-57}

What happened when the people ran out of money?  
\textit{Genesis 47:14-16 (13-17)}

What happened when the people ran out of livestock?  
\textit{Genesis 47:18-21 (18-22)}

What happened when the famine was over?  
\textit{Genesis 47:23-24, 26 (23-26)}

Interesting, But Is It Pertinent? \textit{(Genesis 42:1-8)}

What do all of these stories about Joseph in Egypt have to do with God's people in Canaan?  
\textit{Genesis 42:1-5}

Did Jacob's sons get to see their long-lost brother when they went to Egypt?  
\textit{Genesis 42:6-8}

Why didn't they recognize their own brother?  
\textit{Genesis 41:45; 42:23}

Spies From Canaan \textit{(Genesis 42:9-24)}

Did Joseph take advantage of the situation and take revenge against his brothers?  
\textit{Genesis 42:9-14}

If not taking revenge, what was Joseph doing through these accusations?  
\textit{Genesis 43:7}

How did Joseph build on this to see if his brothers had changed?  
\textit{Genesis 42:15-20}

Why did the brothers think this was happening to them?  
\textit{Genesis 42:21-22}

Did Joseph get a chance to hear his brothers' remorse?  
\textit{Genesis 42:23-24}

Another Difficult Message for Dad \textit{(Genesis 42:25-38)}

How did it become clear that Joseph had forgiven his brothers & wasn't seeking revenge?  
\textit{Genesis 42:25-26}

What did the brothers think when they found the silver in their packs?  
\textit{Genesis 42:27-28}

How did Jacob respond when the brothers told him their story?  
\textit{Genesis 42:29, 36 (29-36)}

How did Reuben try to get Jacob's confidence, and did it work?  
\textit{Genesis 42:37-38}
When Ya Gotta Go… *(Genesis 43:1-14)*

What made Jacob reconsider his decision not to let Benjamin go to Egypt?

*Genesis 43:1-3* (1-5)

Who put his own neck on the line to convince Jacob to send Benjamin?

*Genesis 43:8-9* (6-10)

What did Jacob decide?

*Genesis 43:11a, 12-14* (11-14)

A Confusing Fellowship Meal *(Genesis 43:15-34)*

What happened as soon as the brothers reached Joseph?

*Genesis 43:15-17*

What did the brothers think about being taken to Joseph’s house?

*Genesis 43:18* (18-22)

How did Joseph’s steward calm their fears?

*Genesis 43:23*

How did the brothers respond when Joseph arrived for lunch?

*Genesis 43:24-26*

What was the most valuable gift Joseph received from them?

*Genesis 43:27-30*

How did this lunch become even more confusing?

*Genesis 43:31-33*

What other strange thing did the brothers see at this meal?

*Genesis 43:34*

Stolen Silver *(Genesis 44)*

Did Joseph let the brothers go home, never to see them again or did he reveal himself to them?

*Genesis 44:1-5*

How did the brothers respond to accusations of stealing the governor’s silver cup?

*Genesis 44:7, 9-10* (6-10)

What happened when the sacks were searched?

*Genesis 44:11-12*

What did the brothers do with the prospect of telling Jacob that Benjamin was a slave?

*Genesis 44:16* (13-16)

Did Joseph accept this?

*Genesis 44:17*

Who stepped up on Benjamin’s behalf?

*Genesis 44:18, 27-31, 33* (18-34)

Luther: *What would I not give to be able to pray before the Lord as Judah here interceded for Benjamin, for it is a perfect model of prayer, nay, of the strong feeling which must underlie all prayer.*
Joseph Exposed  (Genesis 45)

How much further did Joseph continue to push things?
Genesis 45:1-3
How did Joseph make it clear to them he had forgiven them and held no grudges?
Genesis 45:5 (4-7)
What further plans did Joseph have?
Genesis 45:9, 11 (8-24)
How was Joseph seeing part of God’s plan, but missing the bigger part?
Genesis 15:13-14

Retiring in the Land of Goshen  (Genesis 46-50)

How did the 130 year old Jacob respond to the idea of moving to Egypt?
Genesis 45:26, 28 (25-28)
How did he know it was okay with God to leave Canaan and move to Egypt?
Genesis 46:1-4
Did Jacob plan to move to Egypt or just visit?
Genesis 46:6, 26-27 (5-27)
How large did this family of 70 grow over the next 430 years?
Exodus 12:37, 40
How did Jacob react when he saw Joseph for the first time in 20 years?
What promise did Jacob ask of Joseph?
Genesis 47:29-30 (27-31)
Did Joseph fulfill this promise?
Genesis 50:7, 13 (49:29-50:14)

God Intended it for Good  (Genesis 50:15-21)

What concerned Joseph’s brothers after their father died?
Genesis 50:15-18
How did Joseph respond to their fears?
Genesis 50:19-21 (19-26)

Closing Prayer

Response

1. How have I responded when entrusted with large responsibilities?
   (Genesis 41:41-57; 1 Samuel 15; 18:12-16; Luke 12:42-48; 16:10-13; Romans 14:10; Titus 2:10)
2. How does it feel when I experience the consequence of doing something wrong?
   (Genesis 42:18-24; 44:14-34; Lev. 26:14-17; Psalm 38:1-4; Proverbs 10:24; 29:6; Romans 13:3-4)
3. When have I had opportunity to take revenge on someone? What did I do?
   (Genesis 44-45; 50:15-21; Leviticus 19:18; Proverbs 20:22; 24:29; Romans 12:17-21)
4. How does it feel when I am forgiven by others? When I forgive others?
   (Genesis 45:4-8, 14-15; Matthew 6:12-15; 18:21-35; Luke 7:44-50; 2 Cor. 2:5-11; James 2:12-13)
5. How has God worked His good through bad situations that have happened in my life?
   (Genesis 45:5-8; 50:20; Esther 4:7-16; Jeremiah 29:10-11; Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:12-14)