

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

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Seven and Seven (*Genesis 41:46-57; 47:13-26*)

How did Joseph spend the first seven years of his job for Pharaoh?

Genesis 41:47, 49

How did Joseph know when to stop collecting and to start distributing the grain?

Genesis 41:55

How did Joseph distribute the grain? Did he give it to the Egyptians?

Genesis 41:56-57

What happened when the people ran out of money?

Genesis 47:14-16 (13-17)

What happened when the people ran out of livestock?

Genesis 47:18-21 (18-22)

What happened when the famine was over?

Genesis 47:23-24, 26 (23-26)

Interesting, But Is It Pertinent? (*Genesis 42:1-8*)

What do all of these stories about Joseph in Egypt have to do with God's people in Canaan?

Genesis 42:1-5

Did Jacob's sons get to see their long-lost brother when they went to Egypt?

Genesis 42:6-8

Why didn't they recognize their own brother?

Genesis 41:45; 42:23

Spies From Canaan (*Genesis 42:9-24*)

Did Joseph take advantage of the situation and take revenge against his brothers?

Genesis 42:9-14

If not taking revenge, what was Joseph doing through these accusations?

Genesis 43:7

How did Joseph build on this to see if his brothers had changed?

Genesis 42:15-20

Why did the brothers think this was happening to them?

Genesis 42:21-22

Did Joseph get a chance to hear his brothers' remorse?

Genesis 42:23-24

Another Difficult Message for Dad (*Genesis 42:25-38*)

How did it become clear that Joseph had forgiven his brothers & wasn't seeking revenge?

Genesis 42:25-26

What did the brothers think when they found the silver in their packs?

Genesis 42:27-28

How did Jacob respond when the brothers told him their story?

Genesis 42:29, 36 (29-36)

How did Reuben try to get Jacob's confidence, and did it work?

Genesis 42:37-38

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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.*

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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?

Genesis 46:29-30 (46:28-47:12)

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*)