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? = special tunic reached to palms & soles
. Genesis 37:3-4 = They hated him because Jacob loved him more
. How did Joseph contribute to this animosity? = They hated him even more
. Genesis 37:2, 5-11 = Joseph squealed on them and dreamt twice they’d bow to him
. How did the brothers take out their anger towards their spoiled brother?
. Genesis 37:23-24, 28 = Sold him as a slave to traders going to Egypt
. What did the brothers tell their father and how did Jacob respond?
. Genesis 37:31-34 = Gave robe with goat’s blood to Jacob, he grieved a long time

Good News / Bad News (Genesis 39-41)

How did things go for Joseph in Egypt?
. Genesis 39:2-4 = God gave Joseph success in everything, put in charge of household
. How did Joseph’s situation change in a way that may have seemed that God deserted him?
. Genesis 39:7, 10, 14, 20a = After refused by Joseph, Potiphar’s wife cried rape, he went to jail
. How did God remember Joseph in prison?

What happened some time later that seemed like a way out for Joseph?
. Genesis 40:2, 4, 8, 14 = He revealed dreams to trusted servants of Pharaoh
. Did the cupbearer work for Joseph’s release when he was restored as Joseph had foretold?
. Genesis 40:23 = No, he forgot Joseph

How did this actually lead to Joseph’s release in an entirely unexpected way?
. Genesis 41:1, 8-9, 12, 14 = Pharaoh sent for Joseph to interpret two dreams
. What happened after Joseph said that the dreams foretold 7 abundant & 7 famine years?
. Genesis 41:39-41 = Pharaoh put him over all Egypt to gather & distribute food
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} = Gathered & stored grain throughout Egypt, beyond measure  
How did Joseph know when to stop collecting and to start distributing the grain?  
\textit{Genesis 41:55} = When the people ran out of their own food & came to Pharaoh  
How did Joseph distribute the grain? Did he give it to the Egyptians?  
\textit{Genesis 41:56-57} = Sold it to anyone who came paying, Egyptian or otherwise  

What happened when the people ran out of money?  
\textit{Genesis 47:14-16 (13-17)} = Joseph took all of the livestock as payment for Pharaoh  
What happened when the people ran out of livestock?  
\textit{Genesis 47:18-21 (18-22)} = Joseph took all of the land and people as payment for Pharaoh  
What happened when the famine was over?  
\textit{Genesis 47:23-24, 26 (23-26)} = Joseph gave seed to plant and set a law that 20% is Pharaoh’s

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} = Famine was severe in Canaan, Jacob sent sons to buy grain in Egypt  
Did Jacob’s sons get to see their long-lost brother when they went to Egypt?  
\textit{Genesis 42:6-8} = Yes, but they didn’t recognize him  
Why didn’t they recognize their own brother? = 17 when sold as slave, now upper 30s  
\textit{Genesis 41:45; 42:23} = Never expected brother to be Egyptian governor, different name

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} = Looks like it at first glance, accused them of being spies  
If not taking revenge, what was Joseph doing through these accusations?  
\textit{Genesis 43:7} = An excuse for asking questions to get updated on family situation  
How did Joseph build on this to see if his brothers had changed? = In prison 3 days without hope  
\textit{Genesis 42:15-20} = Would they stand by their brother or save their own skin  

Why did the brothers think this was happening to them?  
\textit{Genesis 42:21-22} = Punishment for what they had done to Joseph 20 years before  
Did Joseph get a chance to hear his brothers’ remorse? = Simeon 2nd oldest; Reuben saved J’s life  
\textit{Genesis 42:23-24} = They spoke in front of him in Hebrew, he continued with his plan

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} = He filled their grain orders and returned their silver payment  
What did the brothers think when they found the silver in their packs? = \textit{v11}, we are honest men  
\textit{Genesis 42:27-28} = Afraid they would be considered thieves, more punishment  
How did Jacob respond when the brothers told him their story?  
\textit{Genesis 42:29, 36 (29-36)} = Afraid of losing his youngest & now favorite son, Benjamin  
How did Reuben try to get Jacob’s confidence, and did it work?  
\textit{Genesis 42:37-38} = Offered his sons as collateral, Jacob said no way
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)*  =  They ran out of food again and had to go buy some more

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

*Genesis 43:8-9 (6-10)*  =  Judah - *you can hold me personally responsible for him*

What did Jacob decide?  =  Asked God for safe return of his sons – *If I am bereaved, I am bereaved*

*Genesis 43:11a, 12-14 (11-14)*  =  Sent them with gifts for the gov & double silver for payment

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

What happened as soon as the brothers reached Joseph?  =  Hadn't seen Ben since 1 yr old, now >20

*Genesis 43:15-17*  =  Without explaining, Joseph had brothers taken to his house

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

*Genesis 43:18 (18-22)*  =  They thought they'd be taken as slaves for stealing the silver

How did Joseph's steward calm their fears?

*Genesis 43:23*  =  Said payment was credited in full, not stolen, released Simeon

How did the brothers respond when Joseph arrived for lunch?

*Genesis 43:24-26*  =  They bowed down to him (dreams fulfilled) & presented gifts

What was the most valuable gift Joseph received from them?

*Genesis 43:27-30*  =  Good news of his father's health & seeing his only full brother

How did this lunch become even more confusing?

*Genesis 43:31-33*  =  They had been seated in order of age - how did they know?

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

*Genesis 43:34*  =  Benjamin was given 5 times as much food

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*  =  He carried out another “silver in the pouch” plan

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

*Genesis 44:7, 9-10 (6-10)*  =  They wouldn't do such a thing, guilty one would become slave

What happened when the sacks were searched?

*Genesis 44:11-12*  =  It was found in Benjamin's sack

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

*Genesis 44:16 (13-16)*  =  Returned to Joseph & offered selves as slaves (bowed again)

Did Joseph accept this?

*Genesis 44:17*  =  No, only the guilty one would become his slave, rest are free

Who stepped up on Benjamin's behalf?

*Genesis 44:18, 27-31, 33 (18-34)*  =  Judah pled with Joseph to take him as slave instead

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? = Shown repentance for wrongs to Joseph
   Genesis 45:1-3 = He stopped here; he broke down and told them who he was
How did Joseph make it clear to them he had forgiven them and held no grudges?
   Genesis 45:5 (4-7) = God allowed it all so Joseph could save them from famine
What further plans did Joseph have?
   Genesis 45:9, 11 (8-24) = To have Jacob and the entire family move to Egypt
How was Joseph seeing part of God’s plan, but missing the bigger part?
   Genesis 15:13-14 = God was bringing His chosen people to Egypt for 400 yrs preparation

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) = He was thrilled at seeing Joseph again
How did he know it was okay with God to leave Canaan and move to Egypt?
   Genesis 46:1-4 = God told him to go, become a great nation, God would be with them
Did Jacob plan to move to Egypt or just visit?
   Genesis 46:1-4 = 66 people + 3 in Egypt + Jacob = 70
   Genesis 46:6, 26-27 (5-27) = He took everything and everyone, a permanent move
How large did this family of 70 grow over the next 430 years?
   Exodus 12:37, 40 = 600,000 men + women + children + others left in Exodus

How did Jacob react when he saw Joseph for the first time in 20 years?
   Genesis 46:29-30 (46:28-47:12) = Emotional reunion, Jacob felt his life was now complete
What promise did Jacob ask of Joseph?
   Genesis 47:29-30 (27-31) = To bury him in Abraham’s cave, not in Egypt
Did Joseph fulfill this promise?
   Genesis 50:7, 13 (49:29-50:14) = Yes, went with all of the family and many Egyptian officials

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

What concerned Joseph’s brothers after their father died?
   Genesis 50:15-18 = Joseph might now take revenge in them, offered as slaves
How did Joseph respond to their fears?
   Genesis 50:19-21 (19-26) = You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good...

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)