



MOSAIC Gospel Project

Volume 2, Unit 4, Lesson 1: Joseph Sent to Egypt

Bible Passage: Genesis 37

Personal Preparation

Jacob grew up in strife with his twin brother, Esau. He spent many years away from his family to avoid Esau's anger. God spoke to Jacob in a dream and reaffirmed to Jacob the promise he gave Abraham and Isaac. Finally, God called Jacob home to the land of Canaan. God blessed Jacob and changed his name to Israel.

Jacob had twelve sons. They would become the leaders of the tribes of Israel. But Jacob's favorite son was Joseph. Joseph was the son of Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife, and Jacob didn't hide his favoritism. He gave Joseph a gift that his other sons did not get—a beautiful coat of many colors.

Of course, this did not endear Joseph to his siblings. Neither did Joseph's announcement that God had spoken to him in dreams--dreams that revealed that one day everyone in Joseph's family would bow down to him. Joseph's brothers planned evil against him, and Joseph ended up enslaved in Egypt.

Maybe Joseph felt alone in Egypt. Had God forgotten Joseph? No. God was with Joseph, and he had a wonderful plan for Joseph. God later used Joseph to establish a remnant—a small, surviving group of his people. Centuries later, God sent his Son, Jesus, into the world as part of that family.

Jesus experienced true loneliness and ultimate suffering as he died on the cross for our sins. God raised Jesus from the dead. When we trust in him, God forgives our sin. We won't experience true loneliness because

Jesus promised to always be with us (Matt. 28:20). And compared to the weight of glory awaiting believers, our suffering on earth is a "momentary light affliction" (2 Cor. 4:17).

God is in control of our lives, and he accomplishes his plans in and through us—even as he works through the suffering and injustice we sometimes experience. We can trust God's faithfulness. Through all circumstances, God's will prevails—all for his glory and our good.

As you prepare to teach today, pray that God would remind you that he uses all things for his glory and our good. Pray that the individuals would see how he works for good even in the midst of suffering and confusion.

Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by sharing the new memory verse with the individuals. Encourage them to start learning it.

Hosea 13:4

"I have been the Lord your God ever since I brought you out of Egypt. You must acknowledge no God but me, for there is no other savior."

Points of Emphasis

1. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.
2. God can do all things according to his character.

Activity #1

Lead the group to start working on the first page of the activity sheet. Feel free to let them keep working as you teach the lesson.

Video

You might remember that the Bible is made up of lots of different stories, but all the stories fit together to tell the bigger story of how God saves sinners through his Son, Jesus. We started in the first book, Genesis. It tells us about how God created everything, how sin entered the world, and how God formed a nation from the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This nation was called Israel. God planned to send Jesus into the world through Israel.

Last week, we heard about Jacob's return to the land of Canaan. Today's story is about Jacob's family. Jacob had twelve sons and, like most brothers, they didn't always get along. Check this out.

Play the video lesson for today titled "Joseph Sent to Egypt."

Bible Lesson

Wow! This chapter in Genesis has a lot going on. Jacob was living in Canaan with his family, including his twelve sons. Jacob was the grandson of Abraham, so his sons were Abraham's great-grandchildren. Early on, Jacob showed that his son Joseph was his favorite. How did Jacob show his favoritism? [Allow responses.] Yes, he gave Joseph a colorful robe. Joseph's brothers hated Joseph. Then, Joseph came around one day and told his brothers about a couple of dreams he had. The dreams meant that one day Joseph would rule over his brothers and his whole family.

How would you feel if you were Joseph's brothers? They were jealous! They didn't want to imagine that they would one day bow down to their younger brother. They didn't want to believe that Joseph's whole family would one day bow down to him.

Joseph's brothers decided to kill Joseph. If Joseph were dead, his dreams couldn't come true! But Joseph's oldest brother convinced

the brothers not to kill Joseph; instead, they took his colorful coat and threw him into a pit. Joseph might have died in that pit, but when the brothers saw some travelers heading to Egypt, they sold him into slavery. They took Joseph's robe home, and Jacob was very sad. He believed Joseph was dead.

But you see, Joseph's dreams weren't just dreams from his own mind. These dreams came from God. God had a plan for Joseph's life, and not even a group of jealous brothers can stop God's plan. Is there anything God cannot do? God can do all things according to his character.

Activity #2

Guide the group to complete the second page of the activity sheet. Go over the memory verse and help the individuals practice it and learn it. Encourage them to write the verse using the Velcro pictures.

Christ Connection

Joseph's brothers turned against him and tried to kill him, but God protected Joseph and used him as part of his plan to rescue his family. God was working out a bigger plan to rescue the world through his Son, Jesus. God was forming the nation of Israel—the family God would use to bring his Son into the world.

Review Questions

(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video. Today's episode discusses why God lets bad things happen to us.)

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. Point to which son Jacob loved the most.
Joseph
2. Point to who hated Joseph. His brothers
3. Point to what Jacob gifted to Joseph.
Rainbow coat

4. **Point to who was sold into slavery.** Joseph
5. **Point to who sold Joseph into slavery.** His brothers

Group B

1. **Why did Joseph's brothers hate him?** Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons.
2. **What did Jacob's dreams about the night sky and the bundles of wheat suggest?** Joseph would one day rule over his family.
3. **What did the brothers plan to do to Joseph?** At first kill him, then to throw him in a pit, then to sell him into slavery.
4. **How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers attacked him and sold him?** Guide the group to think about the feeling of betrayal Joseph likely felt. Talk to the individuals about situations where they feel angry at those who may hurt them. Remind them that our feelings are real and it's normal to feel anger, sadness, or heartache in hard times. Remind them that God wants us to celebrate good things and mourn bad things.
5. **How do you think God wants us to behave in hard times?** Although our feelings of hurt and anger are real, we don't have to let them control us. God wants us to do good to those who hurt us and not seek revenge.
6. **How do you think we can trust God when people hurt us?** Guide the group to see the ways Jesus provides us comfort and hope for the future. Help them see that no matter what sorrow we face in this life, we have hope in God. He will bring justice, and we can trust him.

Group C

1. **Have you ever felt jealous about someone else's success? Why should we be happy when God blesses others?** Guide the individuals to recognize believers as part of one family—God's family. We honor and love one another by sharing in both joy and trials.
2. **How do you think Joseph felt when he was in the pit? How can we react when others mistreat us?** Invite the group to

imagine Joseph's anger, sadness, and fear; point the individuals to a great trust that God is ultimately in control and can bring healing and forgiveness through Jesus.

3. **How can challenges in life actually help us? Why do you think God allows believers to experience hard times?** Lead the group to consider how difficult circumstances and suffering can help us grow and change to depend on God and be more like Jesus.

Group D

Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** God hears and rescues his people. Joseph was in a pit, and then Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. But that wasn't the end of Joseph's story. God can do all things according to his character, and nothing can stop God's plan.
2. **What was significant about Joseph's dreams?** The dreams meant that one day Joseph would rule over his brothers and his whole family. Joseph's dreams weren't just dreams from his own mind. These dreams came from God. God had a plan for Joseph's life, and not even a group of jealous brothers can stop God's plan.
3. **Why do you think God allows bad things to happen?**
4. **Can you think of a time God brought something good out of something difficult?**

Prayer

Father, thank you that we can always trust you. Help us to look to you when we are afraid or uncertain. Remind us each day that we have hope because of you. Amen.

