



# MOSAIC Gospel Project

## Volume 2, Unit 4, Lesson 3: Joseph Saved His Family

**Bible Passage:** Genesis 42-46; 50

### Personal Preparation

The land of Egypt enjoyed seven years of plenty before a famine struck, just as Pharaoh had dreamed. During this time, Joseph gathered all the excess food and stored it in the cities. The famine was severe in every land, so Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to everyone who needed it.

Jacob and his family lived in Canaan, and Jacob sent his sons to Egypt for grain. Jacob still felt the sting of losing Joseph. He did not allow his youngest son, Benjamin, to go with his brothers for fear of losing him too. But Joseph wasn't dead. He was in Egypt and had been elevated to a position of authority. As his sons headed to Egypt, Jacob had no idea that the journey would lead to a family reunion.

Although Joseph recognized his brothers immediately, they did not recognize him. When Joseph finally revealed his identity to his brothers, they must have been in awe that the brother they sold into slavery was now a powerful leader in Egypt! Would Joseph use his authority to rescue his family from the famine? Or would he avenge his brothers' evil against him?

What Joseph's brothers intended for harm, God intended for good. Joseph invited his family to come to Egypt where they could thrive. God clearly used Joseph to provide for Jacob's family and establish a remnant. As Jacob made his way to Egypt, God spoke to him in a vision and repeated the promise he first made to Abraham: "I will make you into a great nation" (Gen. 46:3).

Joseph and his father's family stayed in Egypt. Before he died, Joseph reminded his brothers of God's promise to their family (Gen. 50:24). Despite Egyptian oppression, Jacob's descendants multiplied. God kept his promise, and through the nation of Israel and the tribe of Joseph's brother Judah, God worked out his plan to provide his Son, Jesus Christ, to redeem people from sin.

As you prepare to teach the lesson today, reflect on a time in your life when God used something hard to do something good. Thank him that his plans are always good, and that he uses all things for his glory and our good. Pray that the individuals you teach would know the goodness of God's plans and the sovereignty of his ways.

### Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by reviewing the memory verse with the group.

#### 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. God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.
2. God can do all things according to his character.

### Activity #1

Guide the group to begin working on the first page of the activity sheet. Feel free to allow

them to continue working as you teach the lesson.

## Video

We've been learning from the Book of Genesis about the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jacob had another name—do you remember what it was? (Israel) Do you remember how many sons Jacob had? (12) And who was Jacob's favorite son? (Joseph) That's right. Joseph's brothers were jealous of Joseph. They wanted to kill him, but instead, Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.

Joseph was taken to Egypt, where he worked for an important official. Joseph was accused of doing something he didn't do, and he was put in prison. God was with Joseph, and God gave Joseph power to understand dreams. Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams and said a time of plenty and a time of famine were coming. Then, Pharaoh made Joseph second in command in all of Egypt.

In today's story, we will hear how Joseph used his position to save his family. Check this out.

Play the video for the lesson titled "Joseph Saved His Family."

## Bible Lesson

Do you realize what happened? Joseph's dreams came true! Joseph's brothers and the rest of his family bowed down to him when they came to Egypt. Joseph's brothers must have been so afraid to find out Joseph was not only alive, but he was also a powerful leader! Joseph could have refused to give his brothers any food. He could have treated them badly because they had treated him badly. Joseph tested his brothers to see if they had changed, but Joseph showed kindness to his brothers and was glad to see them.

Joseph realized that God was working out a greater plan all along. God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant. A remnant is a part of something that is left when other parts are gone. The remnant in our story today is Jacob's family—his 12 sons and their families. There were 70 people in all. They moved to Egypt where there would be enough food, and God spoke to Jacob and promised to bring his family back to the promised land one day.

## Activity #2

Guide the group to complete the activity sheet. Go over the memory verse with the group. Lead them to continue practicing and learning the verse. Encourage them to write the verse using the Velcro pictures.

## Christ Connection

Joseph's life wasn't easy. Joseph was falsely accused of a crime, which caused him to be sent to prison. He was mistreated, made fun of, and rejected by his own family members. God had a plan for Joseph's life. He allowed Joseph to suffer in order to rescue a whole nation from a famine.

Many years later, Jesus was also mistreated, made fun of, and rejected by his people. Jesus was falsely accused of a crime, leading to his death on the cross. In a greater way, God planned for Jesus to suffer so that many—people from all nations—would be saved from sin.

## Review Questions

*(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video to continue the discussion on Joseph's reunion with his family. Today's episode asks how we can forgive others.)*

Group A

Early Learner

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

1. **Did Joseph's brothers recognize him when they saw him?** No
2. **Did Joseph forgive his brothers?** Yes
3. **What did Joseph give to his brothers?** Food
4. **Whose plan was it to use Joseph to save his family from famine?** God

## Group B

1. **Did Joseph's brothers recognize him when they saw him?** No
2. **What did Joseph accuse his brothers of being?** Spies
3. **What was God's plan for Joseph all along?** To save Jacob's family from the famine
4. **Joseph said that what his brothers planned for harm, God planned for good. What does this mean?** Some events of Joseph's life were difficult and sad, but God worked through them to protect his people from the coming famine.
5. **Can you think of other situations, in the Bible or in your life, where God used something hard to do something good?** Allow the individuals to share their experiences. Remind them of stories like "Noah and the Ark" or "The Suffering of Job." Point them to the ultimate example of God's turning something sad into something good: Jesus' crucifixion.
6. **Do you think we will always see the outcome of God's working things for good?** Guide the individuals to discuss that sometimes we will not get to see the bigger picture of good that God is working around us. Remind them that we can trust God even when we do not understand what he is doing in the world. He has promised to work things together for good, so we can rest in that promise even when we do not see it come true.

## Group C

1. **Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers?** Joseph believed that God was in control and working out his plan to rescue his people even through the actions of Joseph's brothers.
2. **What should we do if we have wronged someone?** Guide the individuals to recognize the importance of being quick to admit when we are wrong and to apologize and seek forgiveness with others and with God.
3. **How does God forgive us? How should we forgive others?** God forgives our sins completely, not dealing with our sins as we deserve because Jesus took our punishment for sin. We should forgive others in the same way—completely and without holding a grudge.

## Group D

## Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** God has the power to provide.
2. **Why did God want to save Joseph's family?** God was keeping his promise to grow Abraham's family.
3. **Do you think a person should always be punished for wrongdoing?**
4. **Whom do you need to forgive? How can you repay them with good?**

## Prayer

**Lord, you worked in Joseph's life for his good and your glory. Thank you for the Bible so we can know that you are a God of forgiveness. Help us forgive others like you helped Joseph forgive his brothers and like you have forgiven us. Amen.**

