

Family Worship Guide – Week 3

READ

- Genesis 37:1-4, 37:17b-27
- When Joseph's brothers saw a caravan coming, they formed their plan. They decided to sell Joseph as a slave. So Joseph was taken to Egypt, and the brothers believed they were rid of the brother they despised. They told Jacob, their father, that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. Joseph was sold to a man named Potiphar. Soon, Potiphar grew to trust Joseph and placed him in charge of his household. But Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph. When he refused to dishonor God, she made accusations and sent him to jail. While in jail, Joseph began interpreting the dreams of others. When Pharaoh himself needed his dream interpreted, Joseph was called. His accurate and insightful interpretation earned him a favored place with Pharaoh and in the country of Egypt. He was placed in a position to help Egypt survive a coming famine. Joseph's brothers learned that Egypt had abundant food during this famine, so they set off to buy some grain for their families. After their arrival, they discovered that it was their brother Joseph in power, who was being used by God to deliver people during this time.
- Genesis 45:1-15
- We see in this story that God displayed His sovereignty through the life of Joseph. God took him through trials and many struggles in order to work out His plan. The plan was for Joseph to be in just the right place, at the right time, specially prepared to preserve the Egyptians throughout the famine. God was with Joseph the entire time – during his exaltation and also during his humiliation. He guided and protected Joseph, and ultimately, He worked through his brothers' sin to preserve the entire family.

The Bottom Line: Even when evil seems to be in control, we can be confident that God will take evil and use it for our good and His glory.

Questions:

Were Joseph's brothers following God's plan or an evil plan when they sold him?

How do you think Joseph felt throughout his years in Egypt?

How did God use the brothers' sin for His glory?

PRAY

- Latin America: Latin America is made up of 46 countries and territories – 25 of which are islands. Approximately 595 million people live in Latin America currently. In 1900, almost the entire population was considered Catholic. Since then, many changes have taken place. Strict traditionalism with strong opposition to Protestant missionary activity has given way to freedom of religion and rapid Evangelical growth. Evangelical churches are now becoming rooted and sending out missionaries of their own. The missions movement has had an enormous impact on the world – first from North America, and now increasingly from Latin America.
- Use Prayer Card

SING

- Use lyrics sheet and mp3 download of 'I Already Know'
- 'I Already Know' is a song we wrote last July for the Love Story series. Based on the story of Ruth, this song was written from the perspective of God to show His sovereignty over all things. He is always in complete control over every facet of our lives.

In the story of Joseph, we see how nothing in Joseph's life happened outside the will of God. Even when sin appears to have ruined the Lord's plan, in the end He works all things together for the good of His people and for His great glory.

As we listen and sing together as a family and as a church, let us praise God for who He is and what He has accomplished. All power and all authority belong to Him. The mountains bow before Him, the wind and the waves obey Him. When it feels as though our life is completely out of control we can most certainly stand upon the Word of God and trust that our Mighty God knows 'the end of the story' and will receive glory for our complete trust in Him.

MEMORIZE

- Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These activities and questions can replace or serve as a supplement to the questions under the 'Read' section on Page 1. Remember, these suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's Word and worship Him together.

Preschool (Birth-Kindergarten)

- Show the child a piece of rope, scarf, or chain. Say, "In Joseph's day chains or ropes were used to keep a slave or prisoner from running away. Joseph's brothers were jealous and wanted what he had. Joseph's brothers sold him to be a slave in Egypt. He had to work very hard and could not run away. But God didn't allow Joseph to be a slave forever (throw the rope or chain to the side). God allowed Joseph to be a very important person."
- Discuss how God used something bad in Joseph's life and made it good. Say, "God makes everything happen just like He says it will. Did God leave Joseph while he was a slave? No. When he was in jail? No. God is always with His people, those who trust him."

Children (Grade 1-5)

- Questions to ask: Have you ever had a fight with your brothers or sisters? Were your feelings hurt? How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers sold him into slavery? Did God know what was happening? Why do you think God didn't stop it? When bad things happen to you or you are mistreated, is it hard to trust that God will turn those bad things to good?
- Did Joseph just happen to end up in Egypt? Did he just happen to gain favor in the eyes of the jailer? Did he just happen to be able to interpret dreams? Did there just happen to be a famine in the land? Did it just happen that Joseph's brothers came to buy food from him? Are all of these events coincidental or do they show that God had a plan?
- Discuss who the hero of this story is – Joseph or God? How did Joseph point to God's greatness?

Students (Grade 6-12)

- It would have been understandable for Joseph to question all the hardships he experienced. Read Genesis 45:5-8 again. Have you ever been in hard circumstances for a lengthy period of time? Did you have or show bitterness to those that seemed to cause your suffering?
- Rather than harboring bitterness Joseph boldly declares to his brothers, "...it was not you who sent me here, but God." (v. 8) Joseph makes it clear that God's will is what was being exercised, not man's. Does knowing that God always accomplishes His plans encourage or scare you? Discuss.
- Joseph's trust in the Lord was magnified during his most difficult moments. What can we say about how Joseph believed and trusted in his master?

Prayer Week 3

Confession

Confession is our personal acknowledgement of the sin in our lives. God tells us in His word to confess our sin to Him and to turn from it. Confession is vital in the life of every believer as they seek to be more like Christ. If you desire to read some passages from scripture about this, some are listed below.

Biblical Basis for Confession:

Proverbs 28:13; Romans 10:10; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9

Take an opportunity for those gathered with you in worship to spend time in silent confession to God.

Nations: Latin America

- The churches there will understand how to best support cross-cultural outreach.
- The development of training programs that result in fruitful long-term missions.
- Brook Hills' families who are currently serving in Latin America:
 - The Burder Family, The Frost Family, Jamie Benton

Source: *Operation World* by Johnstone and Mandryk

Scripture Memory

Week 3

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

I ALREADY KNOW by Mandi Mapes

VERSE 1:

Am C

I'm closer than you can see

Bb F

My love is greater than you know

Am C

Feel the weight of my mercy

Bb F

My arms are open

CHORUS:

C

I already know who's gonna save you

Am

I already wrote the end of the story

C

You were made for me and I'll never leave you

Am

And in the end it's all for my glory

VERSE 2:

Your life is my melody

Part of a song that I am singing

In the dark it's hard to see

But there will be redemption in the morning

VERSE 3:

Cling to me and wait

As I cover you with my garments

Can't you see you are my clay

And I'm the potter and you're carrying my fingerprints

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