



## ☆ ☆ Introduction ☆ ☆

Welcome to the INTRUTH Bible Study on Joseph, a Faithful Servant!

We believe that studying the Word of God transforms lives!

The Bible is God's message of redemption, as well as our instruction book for life. God wants us to search the Bible so we can understand the TRUTH of His character and His desire for us. Each lesson has 9-10 questions, a memory verse, a Believe the TRUTH, Pray the TRUTH, and a Walk in TRUTH application section.

These lessons teach foundational Scriptural truths all age groups can enjoy but adjust them to make them work for your group. Younger children may need help to read and answer the questions or understand certain words or concepts. Older students might need help to dig in deeper.

This year, you will meet a Hebrew teenager named Joseph. We read about his life in Genesis, the first book of the Bible. Joseph spent 16 years as a slave and then prisoner in Egypt but he consistently honored God. Through Joseph God fulfilled His plan and saved Joseph's family.

Just as God was with Joseph during his time as a slave and a prisoner, God will be with you during your hard times. He is working, even when we cannot see it or feel it.

There are great themes to learn from this study:

1. No matter the situation, God keeps His promises.
2. What man intends for evil, the Lord intends for good, and for His plan.

As you study Joseph's life of danger and adventure, we hope that you will remember to fully rely on God. God is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. (Ephesians 3:20)

We pray that this study will strengthen your relationship with Jesus!

Enjoy!



# INTRUTH Joseph - Faithful Servant



## 1 Corinthians 13:4

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.”

Lesson 1

## Ephesians 3:20

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.”

Lesson 6

## Galations 5:26

“Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.”

Lesson 2

## Romans 8:28

“And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.”

Lesson 7

## James 1:12

“God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.”

Lesson 3

## Psalms 51:10

“Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me.”

Lesson 8

## 2 Corinthians 9:8

“And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.”

Lesson 4

## Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

Lesson 9

## Romans 11:36

“For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.”

Lesson 5

## Genesis 50:20

“You intended to harm me but God meant it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.”

Lesson 10

## Joseph & His Dreams



MEMORY VERSE: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud." 1 Corinthians 13:4



### GENESIS 37:1-4 Favoritism

1. What do we learn about Joseph in verses 1-2a?
2. What caused Joseph's brothers to be so angry and jealous of him? vv. 2b-4  
Can you think of a time that you have shown favoritism and it was hurtful to someone else?
3. What does jealousy mean and why is it so dangerous?



### GENESIS 37:5-8 First Dream

4. Joseph's dream was from God and told about his future. What was Joseph's dream?
5. Why were Joseph's brothers so angry about his dream?
6. The brothers hated the way Joseph talked about his dream. How could he have handled it differently?



GENESIS 37:9-11 Second Dream

7. Draw or describe Joseph's next dream.

8. How did Joseph's dad respond to this dream?

9. Do you think Joseph allowed his dreams to make him prideful? How can we avoid being prideful?

**BELIEVE THE TRUTH**

God has a special purpose to fulfill thru the lives of His faithful servants. We will study how God works through Joseph, the 11th son of Jacob. Joseph is 17 when we meet him. His brothers hated him because their father loved Joseph more than them. To make matters worse, Joseph began telling his dreams to the family—prophetic visions showing Joseph one day ruling over his family. God used dreams to foretell the future and to let people know that He is in charge.

**PRAY THE TRUTH**

Dear Father in Heaven,  
Thank you for the example of Joseph.  
Please open my heart to what you have for me to learn from his life. Please reveal any areas of my life where I am jealous or prideful. Help me to be one of Your faithful servants. Amen.

**WALK IN TRUTH**



One way to deal with jealousy and pride is to practice being grateful. Take a moment to list your blessings.



## Genesis 37:1-11 (NLT)

### Joseph's Dreams

1 So Jacob settled again in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived as a foreigner.

2 This is the account of Jacob and his family. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks. He worked for his half brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.

3 Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. 4 But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him.

5 One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. 6 "Listen to this dream," he said. 7 "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!"

8 His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.

9 Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. "Listen, I have had another dream," he said. "The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!"

10 This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. "What kind of dream is that?" he asked. "Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?" 11 But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.

**Jealousy** - desire to have the achievements and advantages of someone else.

**Pride** - having an excessively high opinion of one's own importance, superiority, whether in the mind or in conduct.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

## Jealousy Unchecked



MEMORY VERSE: "Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another." Galatians 5:26



GENESIS 37:12-14, 18-22 Plans to Kill

1. Joseph's father sent Joseph out to see how his brothers were doing. When the brothers saw Joseph coming in the distance, what did they decide to do? vv. 18-20

2. What was Reuben's plan? vv. 21-22

3. Why do you think none of the brothers said, "This is wrong! We can't do this!?" How hard is it to stand up for what is right?



GENESIS 37:23-28 Revenge

4. What happened when Joseph arrived? vv. 23-26

5. What idea did Judah have? Did the brothers agree? vv. 26-28

6. How do you think the brothers felt doing this? What happens when anger, envy, and revenge get out of hand?



## GENESIS 37:29-36 Jacob Mourns

7. What does Rueben do? How did the brothers cover up the crime? vv. 29-32
  
8. How did Jacob react to the news about Joseph? vv. 34-35  
How do you think the brothers felt when their father wouldn't be comforted?
  
9. What happened to Joseph? How do you think Joseph felt? vv. 36
  
10. When have you, like the brothers, been blinded by your own sin?

### BELIEVE THE TRUTH

Jealousy evolved into hate, which led to a plan of murder. Negative thoughts will continue to grow until you destroy them. Take your thoughts captive before they can take root. Even in the middle of this horrible event, God was with Joseph. In some ways the story will get worse – and when it does, God will still be with Joseph. Remember that God is also always with you in your scary places.

### PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear Father in Heaven,  
Help me to recognize and ask forgiveness for when I have jealous thoughts and compare myself to others. Please help me to be content with who I am and the gifts that You have given me, Give me the faith I need to rely on You when I am scared or lonely. Thank You for what I am learning from the Bible. In Jesus' name I pray.  
Amen.

### WALK IN TRUTH



Selfishness and jealousy are both sins and they always lead to unhappiness.

Is there any jealousy that you need to address?

Are you comparing yourself to others?

Look up the verses below when you are struggling with these things:  
Philippians 4:8  
2 Corinthians 10:5



## Genesis 37:12-36 (NLT)

12 Soon after this, Joseph's brothers went to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem. 13 When they had been gone for some time, Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing the sheep at Shechem. Get ready, and I will send you to them."

"I'm ready to go," Joseph replied. 14 "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are getting along," Jacob said. "Then come back and bring me a report." So Jacob sent him on his way, and Joseph traveled to Shechem from their home in the valley of Hebron.

18 When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. 19 "Here comes the dreamer!" they said. 20 "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!" 21 But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said. 22 "Why should we shed any blood? Let's just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father.

23 So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing. 24 Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it. 25 Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders taking a load of gum, balm, and aromatic resin from Gilead down to Egypt. 26 Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother? We'd have to cover up the crime. 27 Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother — our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed. 28 So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

29 Some time later, Reuben returned to get Joseph out of the cistern. When he discovered that Joseph was missing, he tore his clothes in grief. 30 Then he went back to his brothers and lamented, "The boy is gone! What will I do now?" 31 Then the brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. 32 They sent the beautiful robe to their father with this message: "Look at what we found. Doesn't this robe belong to your son?" 33 Their father recognized it immediately. "Yes," he said, "it is my son's robe. A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph has clearly been torn to pieces!" 34 Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time. 35 His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "I will go to my grave mourning for my son," he would say, and then he would weep.

36 Meanwhile, the Midianite traders arrived in Egypt, where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard.

**Sin:** any action or attitude that falls short of God's perfect standard; separates us from a holy God. When we sin we show contempt for God. Sin keeps the world from working as God originally intended it to.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.



## Trials & Blessings



MEMORY VERSE: "God blesses those who patiently endure testing and temptation. Afterward they will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him."  
James 1:12



### GENESIS 39:1-6 Serving Potiphar

1. Potiphar, the captain of the guard for Pharaoh, bought Joseph to be his slave. Why was Joseph successful? vv. 2
2. Read verses 3-6. Joseph was given more responsibility which required more work on his part. What does Colossians 3:23 tell us about our work?
3. How would you feel if you were sent to a foreign country and never heard or saw anyone in your family again? Can you think of a time when you had to rely on God alone?



### GENESIS 39:7-12, 16-20 Falsely Accused

4. Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to notice her and she tempted Joseph day in and day out. Read verses 7-12. How did Joseph handle the situation?
5. How did Potiphar's wife frame Joseph? What happened to Joseph? vv. 16-20
6. When you face temptations, will you be faithful to God? What might Joseph's example teach us about dealing with temptation?



GENESIS 39:21-23 Serving in Prison

- 7. How did God show Joseph His “faithful love” in prison?
  
- 8. How do you think Joseph felt when he was thrown in prison and later as God provided for him?
  
- 9. How has God turned a hardship into a blessing in your life?

**BELIEVE THE TRUTH**

As Christ followers we are promised both trials and great blessings. When we work hard and more importantly, draw near to Jesus, He will draw near to us. Whatever hardship you face, God will be there to protect you and provide for you.

**PRAY THE TRUTH**

Dear Lord,  
Thank You for all the promises in Your Word. Please help me to remember these promises when I face trouble. Help me to seek Your strength and Your power. Please help me to do my jobs well without complaining so that I can be a leader for You. I trust your plan for my life.  
I love you. Amen.

**WALK IN TRUTH**



None of these terrible circumstances changed or defeated God’s plan for Joseph’s life.  
Do you ever feel like God has abandoned you? What do you learn from this lesson about God?

\*Look back at the blessings you wrote down in week one and remember them when you face trials.



## Genesis 39:1-6, 7-12 & 16-20, 21-23 (NLT)

1 When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the Ishmaelite traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

2 The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. 3 Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did. 4 This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned. 5 From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the LORD began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished. 6 So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing — except what kind of food to eat! Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man,

7 and Potiphar's wife soon began to look at him lustfully. "Come and sleep with me," she demanded. 8 But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. 9 No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God."

10 She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to sleep with her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible. 11 One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work. 12 She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, sleep with me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

16 She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home. 17 Then she told him her story. "That Hebrew slave you've brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me," she said. 18 "But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!"

19 Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her. 20 So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained.

21 But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden. 22 Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison. 23 The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

**Slave** - one who belongs to another; serves another.

**Temptation** - anything that attracts a person to do something unwise, wrong, or opposed to God's will.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

## Dreams & Interpretations



MEMORY VERSE: "And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others."  
2 Corinthians 9:8



### GENESIS 40:1-8 Dreams

1. Who did the Pharaoh throw in prison? While they were in prison what happened to them?
2. Joseph said the interpretation of dreams belongs to God. What does this reveal about Joseph's perspective on his life, his talents and his faith?
3. What talent do you think you have that can only be explained as given by God?



### GENESIS 40:9-19 Interpretations

4. The cup-bearer was very important because he tasted the king's drink to make sure it did not have poison in it. What did Joseph tell him about his dream?
5. What did Joseph ask the cup-bearer to do for him when he got out of prison? Why?  
vv.14-15
6. What did Joseph tell the chief baker about his dream?



7. What happened to the cupbearer and the baker when they got out of prison?

8. Read verse 23. Joseph hoped he might have been released from prison, but it was not to be. Have you ever felt that life is unfair? What might God be doing during these times?

9. How has studying Joseph so far taught you about how to handle hardships in your life?

**BELIEVE THE TRUTH**

The Bible tells us that when we face hardship in this life, if we rely on God, He will provide everything we need. He gives strength to the weary, power to the weak, and hope to the hopeless. He provides for all of our needs in His perfect timing. God is refueling and refining us for what He has in store.

**PRAY THE TRUTH**

Dear Jesus,  
There are times when I feel like Joseph in prison. I know I can rely on you to help me with my problems. You are always faithful to me. Please help me remember to come to you. I trust that you would provide exactly what I need. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

**WALK IN TRUTH**



What specific things do you need right now from God to face your hardships? Ask God to fill these needs.



## Genesis 40:1-23 (NLT)

### Joseph Interprets Two Dreams

1 Some time later, Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer and chief baker offended their royal master. 2 Pharaoh became angry with these two officials, 3 and he put them in the prison where Joseph was, in the palace of the captain of the guard. 4 They remained in prison for quite some time, and the captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, who looked after them.

5 While they were in prison, Pharaoh's cup-bearer and baker each had a dream one night, and each dream had its own meaning. 6 When Joseph saw them the next morning, he noticed that they both looked upset. 7 "Why do you look so worried today?" he asked them.

8 And they replied, "We both had dreams last night, but no one can tell us what they mean." "Interpreting dreams is God's business," Joseph replied. "Go ahead and tell me your dreams."

9 So the chief cup-bearer told Joseph his dream first. "In my dream," he said, "I saw a grapevine in front of me. 10 The vine had three branches that began to bud and blossom, and soon it produced clusters of ripe grapes. 11 I was holding Pharaoh's wine cup in my hand, so I took a cluster of grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup. Then I placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

12 "This is what the dream means," Joseph said. "The three branches represent three days. 13 Within three days Pharaoh will lift you up and restore you to your position as his chief cup-bearer. 14 And please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place.

15 For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I'm here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it."

16 When the chief baker saw that Joseph had given the first dream such a positive interpretation, he said to Joseph, "I had a dream, too. In my dream there were three baskets of white pastries stacked on my head. 17 The top basket contained all kinds of pastries for Pharaoh, but the birds came and ate them from the basket on my head."

18 "This is what the dream means," Joseph told him. "The three baskets also represent three days. 19 Three days from now Pharaoh will lift you up and impale your body on a pole. Then birds will come and peck away at your flesh."

20 Pharaoh's birthday came three days later, and he prepared a banquet for all his officials and staff. He summoned his chief cup-bearer and chief baker to join the other officials. 21 He then restored the chief cup-bearer to his former position, so he could again hand Pharaoh his cup. 22 But Pharaoh impaled the chief baker, just as Joseph had predicted when he interpreted his dream. 23 Pharaoh's chief cup-bearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

## Honor & Glory



MEMORY VERSE: "For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen."

Romans 11:36



### GENESIS 41:1-8 Dreams

1. God gave Pharaoh two dreams to help him lead his country, Egypt, and to help the Hebrew people.
  - a. The first dream had two sets of cows coming out of the Nile River. How many were there? What happened?
  - b. The second dream had two sets of grain. How did they look different? What happened that was the same in both dreams?
2. Pharaoh was greatly disturbed by these dreams. What did he do? What was the result?



### GENESIS 41:9-24 Giving God Credit

3. Verse 9 says, "Today I have been reminded of my failure." This means that Joseph was in prison for two whole years waiting on God's plan. What can you learn from this?
4. Who could not interpret the dreams? vv. 8  
Who could interpret the dreams? vv. 16  
Pharaoh wanted to give Joseph credit for the dreams. How did Joseph respond? vv. 16
5. Why is it important to give God credit for what He accomplishes through us?



- 6. God is telling Pharaoh in advance what He is about to do. What did the seven healthy cows and healthy heads of grain mean? What did the thin cows and withered grain mean?
  
- 7. What was Joseph's solution for the seven years of abundance followed by the seven years of famine? vv. 33-36
  
- 8. God not only interpreted the Pharaoh's dreams but also gave Joseph the solution to his problem. What does this tell you about God's character?
  
- 9. Do you see evidence of God's plan at work in your life?

**BELIEVE THE TRUTH**

God revealed to Pharaoh through his dreams the hardship Egypt was about to endure. God had a plan and used Joseph to interpret the dreams and share God's solution. In the same way, God has a plan for your life, and wants to use you to bring Him honor and glory

**PRAY THE TRUTH**

Dear God,  
I know that you have a plan for my life. Remind me to trust in Your timing and give me strength to follow Your lead. I want to be like Joseph and give You credit for the things that only You can do. Help me to bring You honor and glory! Amen.

**WALK IN TRUTH**



Where do you need to be giving honor and glory to God for what He is doing in your life right now?





## Genesis 41:1-46 (NLT)

### Pharaoh's Dreams

1 Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River. 2 In his dream he saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. 3 Then he saw seven more cows come up behind them from the Nile, but these were scrawny and thin. These cows stood beside the fat cows on the riverbank. 4 Then the scrawny, thin cows ate the seven healthy, fat cows! At this point in the dream, Pharaoh woke up. 5 But he fell asleep again and had a second dream. This time he saw seven heads of grain, plump and beautiful, growing on a single stalk. 6 Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were shriveled and withered by the east wind. 7 And these thin heads swallowed up the seven plump, well-formed heads! Then Pharaoh woke up again and realized it was a dream. 8 The next morning Pharaoh was very disturbed by the dreams. So he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. When Pharaoh told them his dreams, not one of them could tell him what they meant.

9 Finally, the king's chief cup-bearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh. 10 "Some time ago, you were angry with the chief baker and me, and you imprisoned us in the palace of the captain of the guard. 11 One night the chief baker and I each had a dream, and each dream had its own meaning. 12 There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison who was a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he told us what each of our dreams meant. 13 And everything happened just as he had predicted. I was restored to my position as cup-bearer, and the chief baker was executed and impaled on a pole." 14 Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh. 15 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it." 16 "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."

17 So Pharaoh told Joseph his dream. "In my dream," he said, "I was standing on the bank of the Nile River, 18 and I saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass. 19 But then I saw seven sick-looking cows, scrawny and thin, come up after them. I've never seen such sorry-looking animals in all the land of Egypt. 20 These thin, scrawny cows ate the seven fat cows. 21 But afterward you wouldn't have known it, for they were still as thin and scrawny as before! Then I woke up. 22 "In my dream I also saw seven heads of grain, full and beautiful, growing on a single stalk. 23 Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were blighted, shriveled, and withered by the east wind. 24 And the shriveled heads swallowed the seven healthy heads. I told these dreams to the magicians, but no one could tell me what they mean."

25 Joseph responded, "Both of Pharaoh's dreams mean the same thing. God is telling Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do. 26 The seven healthy cows and the seven healthy heads of grain both represent seven years of prosperity. 27 The seven thin, scrawny cows that came up later and the seven thin heads of grain, withered by the east wind, represent seven years of famine.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.



## Genesis 41:1-46 (NLT)

28 “This will happen just as I have described it, for God has revealed to Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do. 29 The next seven years will be a period of great prosperity throughout the land of Egypt. 30 But afterward there will be seven years of famine so great that all the prosperity will be forgotten in Egypt. Famine will destroy the land. 31 This famine will be so severe that even the memory of the good years will be erased. 32 As for having two similar dreams, it means that these events have been decreed by God, and he will soon make them happen.

33 “Therefore, Pharaoh should find an intelligent and wise man and put him in charge of the entire land of Egypt. 34 Then Pharaoh should appoint supervisors over the land and let them collect one-fifth of all the crops during the seven good years. 35 Have them gather all the food produced in the good years that are just ahead and bring it to Pharaoh’s storehouses. Store it away, and guard it so there will be food in the cities. 36 That way there will be enough to eat when the seven years of famine come to

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

## God's Faithfulness



MEMORY VERSE: "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20



GENESIS 41:37-44

Second-in-Command

1. What did Pharaoh notice about Joseph? vv. 37-39
2. What did Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of? How was Joseph to be treated?
3. Joseph moved from being a slave to second-in-command under Pharaoh. How do you think God used Joseph's journey to prepare him for this great promotion?



GENESIS 41:45-52

Abundance

4. Read verses 47-49. Did Joseph's interpretations of Pharaoh's dreams come true? What does this tell us about God?
5. How did Joseph show good stewardship with the abundance of grain God gave Egypt?
6. What do you learn about his new family? vv. 50-52 What do the names of Joseph's sons tell you about God's faithfulness to him?



7. What happened after seven years of good crops in Egypt?

8. How did Joseph help all the people of Egypt?

9. God, in His perfect wisdom selected the place and time when Joseph's release from prison would serve him best. What can you learn from this?

### BELIEVE THE TRUTH

God is faithful! God has a plan for your life and through the ups and the downs, He is there for you. Like Joseph, He will fulfill His promises to you and bring His plans to completion.

### PRAY THE TRUTH

Dear God, Thank you for caring enough about me to have a plan for my life and making promises to take care of me. Help me to remember that You are there for me when life gets hard. I pray you will use me to bring You glory in all things. Amen.

### WALK IN TRUTH



In this lesson, we begin to see God's plan for Egypt and Joseph unfolding. What does this show you about the magnitude of what God can do for his glory and his followers?



## Genesis 41:37-57 (NLT)

### Joseph Made Ruler of Egypt

37 Joseph's suggestions were well received by Pharaoh and his officials. 38 So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?" 39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are. 40 You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."

41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt." 42 Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck. 43 Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, "Kneel down!" So Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt. 44 And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval."

45 Then Pharaoh gave Joseph a new Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah. He also gave him a wife, whose name was Asenath. She was the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt. 46 He was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And when Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt. 47 As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops. 48 During those years, Joseph gathered all the crops grown in Egypt and stored the grain from the surrounding fields in the cities. 49 He piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure. 50 During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. 51 Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family." 52 Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."

53 At last the seven years of bumper crops throughout the land of Egypt came to an end. 54 Then the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had predicted. The famine also struck all the surrounding countries, but throughout Egypt there was plenty of food. 55 Eventually, however, the famine spread throughout the land of Egypt as well. And when the people cried out to Pharaoh for food, he told them, "Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you." 56 So with severe famine everywhere, Joseph opened up the storehouses and distributed grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout the land of Egypt. 57 And people from all around came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph because the famine was severe throughout the world.

**Stewardship** - the careful and responsible management of taking care of something

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

## Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt



MEMORY VERSE: "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."  
Romans 8:28



### GENESIS 42:1-9 Brothers Travel to Egypt

1. What did Jacob tell his sons to do, and why? Why didn't Benjamin go? vv. 1-5
2. From lesson 1, Genesis 37:5 says, "Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more." Do you remember what this dream was? What is happening now? vv. 6
3. How do you think Joseph felt when he saw his brothers again? What does Joseph accuse them of? vv. 9



### GENESIS 42:10-23 Joseph Confronts His Brothers

4. How do the brothers react when Joseph calls them "spies"? How do they defend themselves?
5. After Joseph put the brothers in prison for three days, what was the final plan? vv. 14-20
6. Why do the brothers believe they are in this situation? vv. 21-22  
What does this tell you about sin in your life?



- 7. How does Joseph respond in verse 24?
  
- 8. What does Joseph do with their money? How do the brothers react when they find out?  
vv. 25-28
  
- 9. Read verses 29-38. How does the father react when the brothers return home? vv. 36-38
  
- 10. God can and does use the evil actions of men to further His good plan. This never excuses man's evil, but it means God's wisdom and His goodness are greater than man's evil. How does this give you hope?

**BELIEVE THE TRUTH**

Joseph's childhood dreams from God have come true. The only reason there is grain in Egypt to provide for Jacob's family's needs is because God sent Joseph on ahead. God caused everything to work together for good for Joseph. For those who love God and are doing their best to obey His commands, God will use the bad/sad/evil things to ultimately bring about good, both in our lives and in the world.

**PRAY THE TRUTH**

Dear Lord, I want You to make me more like Jesus and use my trials for my good and Your glory. Help me believe the promise of Romans 8:28. Please let me be a part of Your plan and not working against You. Reveal to me any sin that I need to confess or people that I need to forgive. Help me to love people the way You do. In Jesus' name. Amen.

**WALK IN TRUTH**



This lesson shows that life and relationships are messy, but God is bigger than all that. Do you relate to either Joseph or the brothers? Is so, why? How can you step back and let God do His good work?

## Genesis 42:1-38 (NLT)

### Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

1 When Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why are you standing around looking at one another? 2 I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we'll die."

3 So Joseph's ten older brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain. 4 But Jacob wouldn't let Joseph's younger brother, Benjamin, go with them, for fear some harm might come to him. 5 So Jacob's sons arrived in Egypt along with others to buy food, for the famine was in Canaan as well.

6 Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground.

7 Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. "Where are you from?" he demanded. "From the land of Canaan," they replied. "We have come to buy food." 8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn't recognize him. 9 And he remembered the dreams he'd had about them many years before. He said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become." 10 "No, my lord!" they exclaimed. "Your servants have simply come to buy food. 11 We are all brothers — members of the same family. We are honest men, sir! We are not spies!" 12 "Yes, you are!" Joseph insisted. "You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become."

13 "Sir," they said, "there are actually twelve of us. We, your servants, are all brothers, sons of a man living in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is back there with our father right now, and one of our brothers is no longer with us."

14 But Joseph insisted, "As I said, you are spies! 15 This is how I will test your story. I swear by the life of Pharaoh that you will never leave Egypt unless your youngest brother comes here! 16 One of you must go and get your brother. I'll keep the rest of you here in prison. Then we'll find out whether or not your story is true. By the life of Pharaoh, if it turns out that you don't have a younger brother, then I'll know you are spies." 17 So Joseph put them all in prison for three days.

18 On the third day Joseph said to them, "I am a God-fearing man. If you do as I say, you will live. 19 If you really are honest men, choose one of your brothers to remain in prison. The rest of you may go home with grain for your starving families. 20 But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. This will prove that you are telling the truth, and you will not die." To this they agreed.

21 Speaking among themselves, they said, "Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn't listen. That's why we're in this trouble."

22 "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy?" Reuben asked. "But you wouldn't listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!" 23 Of course, they didn't know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter.

24 Now he turned away from them and began to weep. When he regained his composure, he spoke to them again. Then he chose Simeon from among them and had him tied up right before their eyes.

25 Joseph then ordered his servants to fill the men's sacks with grain, but he also gave secret instructions to return each brother's payment at the top of his sack. He also gave them supplies for their journey home. 26 So the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and headed for home.

27 But when they stopped for the night and one of them opened his sack to get grain for his donkey, he found his money in the top of his sack. 28 "Look!" he exclaimed to his brothers. "My money has been returned; it's here in my sack!" Then their hearts sank. Trembling, they said to each other, "What has God done to us?" 29 When the brothers came to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan, they told him everything that had happened to them. 30 "The man who is governor of the land spoke very harshly to us," they told him. "He accused us of being spies scouting the land. 31 But we said, 'We are honest men, not spies. 32 We are twelve brothers, sons of one father. One brother is no longer with us, and the youngest is at home with our father in the land of Canaan.'

33 "Then the man who is governor of the land told us, 'This is how I will find out if you are honest men. Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take grain for your starving families and go on home. 34 But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. Then I will know you are honest men and not spies. Then I will give you back your brother, and you may trade freely in the land.'" 35 As they emptied out their sacks, there in each man's sack was the bag of money he had paid for the grain! The brothers and their father were terrified when they saw the bags of money.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.





## Genesis 42:1-38 (NLT)

36 Jacob exclaimed, "You are robbing me of my children! Joseph is gone! Simeon is gone! And now you want to take Benjamin, too. Everything is going against me!"

37 Then Reuben said to his father, "You may kill my two sons if I don't bring Benjamin back to you. I'll be responsible for him, and I promise to bring him back."

38 But Jacob replied, "My son will not go down with you. His brother Joseph is dead, and he is all I have left. If anything should happen to him on your journey, you would send this grieving, white-haired man to his grave."

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.



## Change in Heart



MEMORY VERSE: "Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me."  
Psalm 51:10



GENESIS 43:1-25

Brothers Bring Benjamin

1. Read 1-18. Joseph's brothers ran out of food again. Who did they have to bring with them if they went back to Egypt to buy food? When Joseph saw brothers what did he arrange? How did the brother's react?
2. What did the house manager tell them? Who joined them, and how did they prepare to meet Joseph? vv. 19-25
3. Compare how Joseph treated his brothers the first time versus this time. Why do you think Joseph treated them differently this time?



GENESIS 43:26-34

Feast at Joseph's Home

4. What was Joseph's first question, and how did the brothers respond? vv. 26-28
5. What did Joseph say to Benjamin, and how did he react to meeting him? vv. 29-31
6. Explain the seating of Joseph's brothers and how this affected them. vv. 33-34  
Why do you think Joseph favored Benjamin with more food?



7. What instructions did Joseph give his servant? vv. 1-2

8. Who was considered guilty, and what did the brothers do? vv. 11-13

9. What problem did Judah fear? vv. 31  
Why did Judah feel especially responsible for Benjamin? vv. 32-34

10. Jacob still seems to be showing favoritism but what changes do you see in the brothers from these chapters?

**BELIEVE THE TRUTH**

In these chapters, we see a change in heart from both Joseph and his brothers. Joseph treats them better the second time they come back for more grain. The brothers show a change in heart with how they protect Benjamin and offer to sacrifice themselves for him. When we invite Jesus into our lives, we are forgiven for all our sins and the Holy Spirit helps us change to be more like Jesus. His power is made perfect in our weakness!

**PRAY THE TRUTH**

Dear Lord,  
You are an awesome God and Father to us. I am Your child. Please change me to be loving and more like Your Son, Jesus. Please reveal to me any areas in my life where I need to change.  
Amen.

**WALK IN TRUTH**



What can you learn about love, compassion, forgiveness and grace from this lesson?



## Genesis 43-44 (NLT)

### The Brothers Return to Egypt

1 But the famine continued to ravage the land of Canaan. 2 When the grain they had brought from Egypt was almost gone, Jacob said to his sons, “Go back and buy us a little more food.”

3 But Judah said, “The man was serious when he warned us, ‘You won’t see my face again unless your brother is with you.’ 4 If you send Benjamin with us, we will go down and buy more food. 5 But if you don’t let Benjamin go, we won’t go either. Remember, the man said, ‘You won’t see my face again unless your brother is with you.’”

6 “Why were you so cruel to me?” Jacob moaned. “Why did you tell him you had another brother?” 7 “The man kept asking us questions about our family,” they replied. “He asked, ‘Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?’ So we answered his questions. How could we know he would say, ‘Bring your brother down here?’”

8 Judah said to his father, “Send the boy with me, and we will be on our way. Otherwise we will all die of starvation—and not only we, but you and our little ones. 9 I personally guarantee his safety. You may hold me responsible if I don’t bring him back to you. Then let me bear the blame forever. 10 If we hadn’t wasted all this time, we could have gone and returned twice by now.” 11 So their father, Jacob, finally said to them, “If it can’t be avoided, then at least do this. Pack your bags with the best products of this land. Take them down to the man as gifts — balm, honey, gum, aromatic resin, pistachio nuts, and almonds. 12 Also take double the money that was put back in your sacks, as it was probably someone’s mistake. 13 Then take your brother, and go back to the man. 14 May God Almighty give you mercy as you go before the man, so that he will release Simeon and let Benjamin return. But if I must lose my children, so be it.”

15 So the men packed Jacob’s gifts and double the money and headed off with Benjamin. They finally arrived in Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph. 16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the manager of his household, “These men will eat with me this noon. Take them inside the palace. Then go slaughter an animal, and prepare a big feast.” 17 So the man did as Joseph told him and took them into Joseph’s palace.

18 The brothers were terrified when they saw that they were being taken into Joseph’s house. “It’s because of the money someone put in our sacks last time we were here,” they said. “He plans to pretend that we stole it. Then he will seize us, make us slaves, and take our donkeys.”

### A Feast at Joseph’s Palace

19 The brothers approached the manager of Joseph’s household and spoke to him at the entrance to the palace. 20 “Sir,” they said, “we came to Egypt once before to buy food. 21 But as we were returning home, we stopped for the night and opened our sacks. Then we discovered that each man’s money — the exact amount paid — was in the top of his sack! Here it is; we have brought it back with us. 22 We also have additional money to buy more food. We have no idea who put our money in our sacks.”

23 “Relax. Don’t be afraid,” the household manager told them. “Your God, the God of your father, must have put this treasure into your sacks. I know I received your payment.” Then he released Simeon and brought him out to them.

24 The manager then led the men into Joseph’s palace. He gave them water to wash their feet and provided food for their donkeys. 25 They were told they would be eating there, so they prepared their gifts for Joseph’s arrival at noon.

26 When Joseph came home, they gave him the gifts they had brought him, then bowed low to the ground before him. 27 After greeting them, he asked, “How is your father, the old man you spoke about? Is he still alive?”

28 “Yes,” they replied. “Our father, your servant, is alive and well.” And they bowed low again.

29 Then Joseph looked at his brother Benjamin, the son of his own mother. “Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?” Joseph asked. “May God be gracious to you, my son.” 30 Then Joseph hurried from the room because he was overcome with emotion for his brother. He went into his private room, where he broke down and wept. 31 After washing his face, he came back out, keeping himself under control. Then he ordered, “Bring out the food!”

32 The waiters served Joseph at his own table, and his brothers were served at a separate table. The Egyptians who ate with Joseph sat at their own table, because Egyptians despise Hebrews and refuse to eat with them. 33

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

## Genesis 43-44 (NLT)

Joseph told each of his brothers where to sit, and to their amazement, he seated them according to age, from oldest to youngest. 34 And Joseph filled their plates with food from his own table, giving Benjamin five times as much as he gave the others. So they feasted and drank freely with him.

### Genesis 44

#### Joseph's Silver Cup

1 When his brothers were ready to leave, Joseph gave these instructions to his palace manager: "Fill each of their sacks with as much grain as they can carry, and put each man's money back into his sack. 2 Then put my personal silver cup at the top of the youngest brother's sack, along with the money for his grain." So the manager did as Joseph instructed him.

3 The brothers were up at dawn and were sent on their journey with their loaded donkeys. 4 But when they had gone only a short distance and were barely out of the city, Joseph said to his palace manager, "Chase after them and stop them. When you catch up with them, ask them, 'Why have you repaid my kindness with such evil?' 5 Why have you stolen my master's silver cup, which he uses to predict the future? What a wicked thing you have done!"

6 When the palace manager caught up with the men, he spoke to them as he had been instructed.

7 "What are you talking about?" the brothers responded. "We are your servants and would never do such a thing! 8 Didn't we return the money we found in our sacks? We brought it back all the way from the land of Canaan. Why would we steal silver or gold from your master's house? 9 If you find his cup with any one of us, let that man die. And all the rest of us, my lord, will be your slaves."

10 "That's fair," the man replied. "But only the one who stole the cup will be my slave. The rest of you may go free."

11 They all quickly took their sacks from the backs of their donkeys and opened them. 12 The palace manager searched the brothers' sacks, from the oldest to the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack! 13 When the brothers saw this, they tore their clothing in despair. Then they loaded their donkeys again and returned to the city.

14 Joseph was still in his palace when Judah and his brothers arrived, and they fell to the ground before him. 15 "What have you done?" Joseph demanded. "Don't you know that a man like me can predict the future?"

16 Judah answered, "Oh, my lord, what can we say to you? How can we explain this? How can we prove our innocence? God is punishing us for our sins. My lord, we have all returned to be your slaves — all of us, not just our brother who had your cup in his sack."

17 "No," Joseph said. "I would never do such a thing! Only the man who stole the cup will be my slave. The rest of you may go back to your father in peace." Judah Speaks for His Brothers

18 Then Judah stepped forward and said, "Please, my lord, let your servant say just one word to you. Please, do not be angry with me, even though you are as powerful as Pharaoh himself.

19 "My lord, previously you asked us, your servants, 'Do you have a father or a brother?' 20 And we responded, 'Yes, my lord, we have a father who is an old man, and his youngest son is a child of his old age. His full brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother's children, and his father loves him very much.'

21 "And you said to us, 'Bring him here so I can see him with my own eyes.' 22 But we said to you, 'My lord, the boy cannot leave his father, for his father would die.' 23 But you told us, 'Unless your youngest brother comes with you, you will never see my face again.'

24 "So we returned to your servant, our father, and told him what you had said. 25 Later, when he said, 'Go back again and buy us more food,' 26 we replied, 'We can't go unless you let our youngest brother go with us. We'll never get to see the man's face unless our youngest brother is with us.'

27 "Then my father said to us, 'As you know, my wife had two sons, 28 and one of them went away and never returned. Doubtless he was torn to pieces by some wild animal. I have never seen him since. 29 Now if you take his brother away from me, and any harm comes to him, you will send this grieving, white-haired man to his grave.'

30 "And now, my lord, I cannot go back to my father without the boy. Our father's life is bound up in the boy's life. 31 If he sees that the boy is not with us, our father will die. We, your servants, will indeed be responsible for sending that grieving, white-haired man to his grave. 32 My lord, I guaranteed to my father that I would take care of the boy. I told him, 'If I don't bring him back to you, I will bear the blame forever.'

33 "So please, my lord, let me stay here as a slave instead of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. 34 For how can I return to my father if the boy is not with me? I couldn't bear to see the anguish this would cause my father!"

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

## God's Plan



MEMORY VERSE: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11



GENESIS 45

Reunion with Brothers

1. Read verses 1-15. How did Joseph reveal himself to his brothers? What did the reunion look like?
2. Read verse 5. Why was Joseph in Egypt? Was it because of the sin of his brothers or because of God's plan? Or both? Explain.
3. Read verse 7. God's plan is so much bigger than just Joseph or even Egypt. God had to preserve Jacob's line because Jesus the Son of God would come from this family! Have you ever realized that God was using you or your life in some way to further His kingdom?
4. Read verses 16-28. What do you think is interesting about the way Pharaoh responded to Joseph's family?



GENESIS 46:28-30; 47:1-12

Reunion with Father

5. How do you think Jacob and Joseph felt when they finally saw each other after so many years?
6. Read 47:1-6. How did God save Joseph's family and provide above and beyond?
7. What did Jacob do for Pharaoh? vv. 7 & 9 What do you find interesting about this?



8. Read verses 18-19. What did the Egyptians propose in verse 19?

9. How did Joseph help both the people and Pharaoh? vv. 25-26

10. Review question 2. Why did the people of Israel do so well in the land of Goshen?  
(Jacob lived 17 years there and died at the age of 147.)

### BELIEVE THE TRUTH

God is all powerful and can do anything to fulfill His plan for His people. In this lesson, Joseph realizes that his journey was all a part of God's plan to save the Hebrews. He has a good plan for our lives too. He's working that plan out through everything we're going through.

### PRAY THE TRUTH

Lord, give me faith to believe that everything I'm going through at this moment is part of Your good plan for my life. Help me to remember that nothing is impossible with You. Thank You for Your love which is so great and big. I love You, too. Amen.

### WALK IN TRUTH



Are there any circumstances that you have gone through or are going through that you now realize God may be using in a bigger way? If so, how does this change your attitude towards your circumstances?



## Genesis 45; 46:28-34; 47:1-12, 13, 18-28 (NLT)

### Genesis 45

#### Joseph Reveals His Identity

1 Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, “Out, all of you!” So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. 2 Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace.

3 “I am Joseph!” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. 4 “Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. 5 But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. 6 This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. 8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh — the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

9 “Now hurry back to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately! 10 You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own. 11 I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.’”

12 Then Joseph added, “Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph! 13 Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly.” 14 Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same. 15 Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.

#### Pharaoh Invites Jacob to Egypt

16 The news soon reached Pharaoh’s palace: “Joseph’s brothers have arrived!” Pharaoh and his officials were all delighted to hear this.

17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘This is what you must do: Load your pack animals, and hurry back to the land of Canaan. 18 Then get your father and all of your families, and return here to me. I will give you the very best land in Egypt, and you will eat from the best that the land produces.’” 19 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, ‘Take wagons from the land of Egypt to carry your little children and your wives, and bring your father here. 20 Don’t worry about your personal belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.’”

21 So the sons of Jacob did as they were told. Joseph provided them with wagons, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he gave them supplies for the journey. 22 And he gave each of them new clothes — but to Benjamin he gave five changes of clothes and 300 pieces of silver. 23 He also sent his father ten male donkeys loaded with the finest products of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other supplies he would need on his journey.


24 So Joseph sent his brothers off, and as they left, he called after them, “Don’t quarrel about all this along the way!” 25 And they left Egypt and returned to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan.

26 “Joseph is still alive!” they told him. “And he is governor of all the land of Egypt!” Jacob was stunned at the news — he couldn’t believe it. 27 But when they repeated to Jacob everything Joseph had told them, and when he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to carry him, their father’s spirits revived.

28 Then Jacob exclaimed, “It must be true! My son Joseph is alive! I must go and see him before I die.”

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.





## Genesis 45; 46:28-34; 47:1-12, 13, 18-28 (NLT)

Genesis 46:28-34

Jacob's Family Arrives in Goshen

28 As they neared their destination, Jacob sent Judah ahead to meet Joseph and get directions to the region of Goshen. And when they finally arrived there, 29 Joseph prepared his chariot and traveled to Goshen to meet his father, Jacob. When Joseph arrived, he embraced his father and wept, holding him for a long time. 30 Finally, Jacob said to Joseph, "Now I am ready to die, since I have seen your face again and know you are still alive."

Genesis 47:1-12

Jacob Blesses Pharaoh

1 Then Joseph went to see Pharaoh and told him, "My father and my brothers have arrived from the land of Canaan. They have come with all their flocks and herds and possessions, and they are now in the region of Goshen."

2 Joseph took five of his brothers with him and presented them to Pharaoh. 3 And Pharaoh asked the brothers, "What is your occupation?"

They replied, "We, your servants, are shepherds, just like our ancestors. 4 We have come to live here in Egypt for a while, for there is no pasture for our flocks in Canaan. The famine is very severe there. So please, we request permission to live in the region of Goshen."

5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Now that your father and brothers have joined you here, 6 choose any place in the entire land of Egypt for them to live. Give them the best land of Egypt. Let them live in the region of Goshen. And if any of them have special skills, put them in charge of my livestock, too."

7 Then Joseph brought in his father, Jacob, and presented him to Pharaoh. And Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

8 "How old are you?" Pharaoh asked him.

9 Jacob replied, "I have traveled this earth for 130 hard years. But my life has been short compared to the lives of my ancestors." 10 Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh again before leaving his court.

11 So Joseph assigned the best land of Egypt — the region of Rameses — to his father and his brothers, and he settled them there, just as Pharaoh had commanded. 12 And Joseph provided food for his father and his brothers in amounts appropriate to the number of their dependents, including the smallest children.

13, 18-28

Joseph's Leadership in the Famine

13 Meanwhile, the famine became so severe that all the food was used up, and people were starving throughout the lands of Egypt and Canaan. 14 By selling grain to the people, Joseph eventually collected all the money in Egypt and Canaan, 18 But that year ended, and the next year they came again and said, "We cannot hide the truth from you, my lord. Our money is gone, and all our livestock and cattle are yours. We have nothing left to give but our bodies and our land. 19 Why should we die before your very eyes? Buy us and our land in exchange for food; we offer our land and ourselves as slaves for Pharaoh. Just give us grain so we may live and not die, and so the land does not become empty and desolate."

20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. All the Egyptians sold him their fields because the famine was so severe, and soon all the land belonged to Pharaoh. 21 As for the people, he made them all slaves, from one end of Egypt to the other. 22 The only land he did not buy was the land belonging to the priests. They received an allotment of food directly from Pharaoh, so they didn't need to sell their land.

23 Then Joseph said to the people, "Look, today I have bought you and your land for Pharaoh. I will provide you with seed so you can plant the fields. 24 Then when you harvest it, one-fifth of your crop will belong to Pharaoh. You may keep the remaining four-fifths as seed for your fields and as food for you, your households, and your little ones."

25 "You have saved our lives!" they exclaimed. "May it please you, my lord, to let us be Pharaoh's servants." 26 Joseph then issued a decree still in effect in the land of Egypt, that Pharaoh should receive one-fifth of all the crops grown on his land. Only the land belonging to the priests was not given to Pharaoh.

27 Meanwhile, the people of Israel settled in the region of Goshen in Egypt. There they acquired property, and they were fruitful, and their population grew rapidly. 28 Jacob lived for seventeen years after his arrival in Egypt, so he lived 147 years in all.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

## Great Forgiveness



MEMORY VERSE: "You intended to harm me but God meant it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people."

Genesis 50:20



GENESIS 49:22-25

Joseph's Blessing

1. Jacob called his sons together and he prophesied blessings upon each son, one-by-one. What does Jacob call Joseph? vv. 22
2. Read verses 23-24. Think back on Joseph's life. What are some of the ways you saw God's Hand on his life?
3. What can we learn from Joseph's defeats and triumphs?



GENESIS 50:14-20

Great Forgiveness

4. Joseph and his brothers bury their father Jacob. What were the brothers afraid of when they returned to Egypt after burying their father? vv. 14-17
5. How did Joseph respond to his brothers? How did he say he would treat them? vv. 18-21
6. Read verse 20. How did the brothers try to harm Joseph? How did God mean it all for good?



7. What are we told about the rest of Joseph's life? vv. 22-23

8. Read verse 24. Do you have any doubts that God will fulfill the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? After studying Joseph's life, is it easier to believe that God keeps His promises and has a plan for every person's life - including yours?

9. God's plan for Joseph was part of a bigger plan for the Hebrew people. Through the Hebrew people God sent us His Son Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for our sins so that ALL that believe in Jesus can have life forever with Him. What an amazing picture of God's provision and love. How does this impact you?

**BELIEVE THE TRUTH**

God's plan for Joseph made him a leader so he could save the Hebrew people. Joseph's dreams came true because it was God's plan. God's GREATEST plan for all people, including YOU, is to accept His Son Jesus as Savior. God wants us to know him and He wants to USE us to bring others to Him.

**PRAY THE TRUTH**

Dear Lord, I praise You because You are the one and only God. You made heaven and earth and You made me and Joseph. Help me to discover Your unique plan for me. Although I cannot see You, I know You are real and I see the many ways You have blessed me. I am not afraid of bad things because I know You are with me. Lord, use my life to glorify You. In the blessed name of Your Son, Jesus, amen.

**WALK IN TRUTH**



After studying Joseph, hopefully you can see God's intricate and massive plan for you. He came to save you! He loves you and wants to be a part of your life. God sent His Son Jesus to die for you. Do you believe this? Have you accepted this gift? If so, how does this change the way you live?

If not, and you want to... pray and ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be the Lord of your life. That means God is your Heavenly Father, Jesus is your King and the Holy Spirit will be with you as your Helper.



## Genesis 49:22-25 (NIV) ; 50:14-26 (NLT)

49:22-25

“Joseph is a fruitful vine,  
a fruitful vine near a spring,  
whose branches climb over a wall.

23 With bitterness archers attacked him;  
they shot at him with hostility.

24 But his bow remained steady,  
his strong arms stayed limber,  
because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob,  
because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,

25 because of your father’s God, who helps you,  
because of the Almighty, who blesses you  
with blessings of the skies above,  
blessings of the deep springs below,  
blessings of the breast and womb.

50:14-26

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

14 After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father’s burial. 15 But now that their father was dead, Joseph’s brothers became fearful. “Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him,” they said. 16 So they sent this message to Joseph: “Before your father died, he instructed us 17 to say to you: ‘Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you — for their sin in treating you so cruelly.’ So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin.” When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. 18 Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. “Look, we are your slaves!” they said.

19 But Joseph replied, “Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

21 No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.” So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

The Death of Joseph

22 So Joseph and his brothers and their families continued to live in Egypt. Joseph lived to the age of 110. 23 He lived to see three generations of descendants of his son Ephraim, and he lived to see the birth of the children of Manasseh’s son Makir, whom he claimed as his own.

24 “Soon I will die,” Joseph told his brothers, “but God will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, “When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you.” 26 So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, a Division of Tyndale House Ministries, Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.