



Heroes of the Faith Lesson 4 - Joseph

Read the Bible passages aloud. Then, answer the questions together. Be sure everyone has a chance to speak.

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. 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.
 Genesis 37:3-4, NLT

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.
 Genesis 37:28, NLT

The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master. Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did.
 Genesis 39:2-3, NLT

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. 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."
 Genesis 41:39-40, NLT

"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. 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. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. 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.
 Genesis 45:4-8, NLT



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.
 Genesis 50:20, NLT

Summary of Joseph's Life:

1. **Joseph's Early Life and Dreams** (Genesis 37):
 - Joseph, one of Jacob's twelve sons, is his father's favorite, causing jealousy among his brothers.
 - He receives a multicolored coat, symbolizing his favored status.
 - Joseph shares dreams implying his brothers and even his parents will bow down to him, intensifying their jealousy.
2. **Sold into Slavery** (Genesis 37:12-36):
 - His brothers plot to kill him but instead sell him to Midianite traders, who take him to Egypt.
 - They deceive Jacob, claiming Joseph was killed by a wild animal.
3. **Joseph in Potiphar's House** (Genesis 39):
 - In Egypt, Joseph becomes a servant to Potiphar, an official of Pharaoh.
 - He prospers due to God's blessing, but Potiphar's wife falsely accuses him of assault, leading to imprisonment.
4. **Joseph in Prison** (Genesis 40):
 - Even in prison, God's favor remains with Joseph. He interprets the dreams of Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker, accurately predicting their outcomes.
5. **Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams** (Genesis 41):
 - Two years later, Joseph is summoned to interpret Pharaoh's troubling dreams of seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.
 - Joseph credits God for the interpretation and is elevated to second-in-command in Egypt to oversee preparations for the famine.
6. **Reunion with His Brothers** (Genesis 42-45):
 - During the famine, Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt seeking food, unknowingly dealing with Joseph.
 - Through a series of tests, Joseph reveals his identity, showing forgiveness and attributing his journey to God's plan to save lives.
7. **Joseph's Family Settles in Egypt** (Genesis 46-50):
 - Joseph brings Jacob and his family to Egypt, ensuring their survival during the famine.

- Before his death, Joseph reassures his brothers, saying, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:20).

To Discuss:

- What do you think it means that God was with Joseph through all his struggles?
- Can you think of a time when something bad happened to you, but God turned it into something good?
- What can we learn from Joseph about forgiveness?
- How can we trust God even when we don't understand why something is happening?

Family Activity: "God Turns It for Good" Chart

- On a piece of paper, write two columns:
 - **“Difficult Situations”**
 - **“How God Used It for Good”**
- As a family, brainstorm examples from Joseph's story and your own lives to fill in the chart.

Trusting God in difficult times means believing that he is with us, even when life feels uncertain or overwhelming. Just like Joseph in the Bible, we may face struggles that seem unfair or confusing, but God's plan is always bigger than what we can see. Trusting him means letting go of fear and frustration, knowing that he can take even the hardest situations and use them for good. It's about remembering his promises, seeking his guidance through prayer, and holding onto faith that he will work everything out in his perfect timing.