

# STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



## Week Seven - Joseph & Judah

### **A Note to the Parents/Teachers**

*God's rescue plan for the world continues through Abraham's family... even though the family keeps messing it up! This week we're praying to see that God is faithful even when we are not, and that we have a True and Better Brother in Jesus who secures our family inheritance for us.*

- **Big Idea:** God uses what was meant for evil for our good and His glory!

### **Starter**

- **Evidences of Grace**

*Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.*

- **Dreams**

*Ask kids about what kind of dreams they had last night. Were they scary? Exciting? Silly? Sometimes dreams don't mean much, but sometimes God uses them to help His people through life. Today's story talks about God using Joseph's dreams to lead to a reality of salvation for many.*

### **Sing Together**

### Story - from Genesis 37-50

Jacob settled in the land of Canaan. He had many sons; the youngest was Joseph. Joseph wasn't very well liked by his older brothers. He would tell on them to his father and his brothers knew he was Jacob's favorite. Jacob even made him a special coat to wear, which made them jealous. To make it worse, Joseph told them about dreams he had where his brothers and even his parents were bowing down to him as their ruler!

One day Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers working the field. When they saw him they decided to kill him! But the oldest, Reuben, convinced them not to kill him and just leave him in a hole. He planned to go back and get Joseph out later. Then another brother, Judah, had the idea to sell Joseph as a slave to traders coming by. They sold him for 20 pieces of silver! Joseph became a slave for an Egyptian officer named Potiphar. His brothers told their father that Joseph was killed by an animal in the field.

But God was with Joseph and everything he did was successful. So he became loved by Potiphar and in charge of his entire household. That is, until Potiphar's wife told a terrible lie about Joseph and had him thrown in prison! But God was with Joseph in prison and the jailers put him in charge there too.

Now, the baker and cupbearer of the king of Egypt, Pharaoh, were also thrown into prison. Both had a dream the same night they didn't understand, so they told them to Joseph. God helped Joseph understand them and he interpreted their dreams. He said the baker's dream meant he would be killed for his betrayal but the cupbearer's dream meant he would be found innocent and set free! Sure enough, that's what happened. Two years passed, and Pharaoh also had an unsettling dream. The cupbearer finally remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh he could interpret his dream.

Joseph told Pharaoh his dreams meant a famine was coming, but he told Pharaoh how to prepare so everyone in Egypt and the nations surrounding them would have enough food to last. Pharaoh was so impressed that he put Joseph in charge. He was now ruler of everything, except Pharaoh! Sure enough, the famine came and his own brothers came to Egypt to buy food. How surprised they were to find Joseph alive and in charge!

Joseph forgave his brothers. He said, "What you meant for evil, God used for good." Joseph reunited with his father and got to meet a new younger brother! God was with Joseph and used him to bless his family and all the nations. One day, another man would be betrayed by a different Judas for some silver. But God would use that betrayal in order to bless all the world with eternal life.

*[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]*

- Why do you think Joseph was successful everywhere he went? (as a slave, as a prisoner, as Pharaoh's right-hand man)
- God used the bad things in Joseph's life to bless him, his family, and many other people. This was what God always promised the family of Abraham - that He would bless them to be a blessing for many. Do you think Joseph felt blessed while he was in prison? Or in slavery?
- Why do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers?
- Jesus was betrayed, sold, and killed. How did God use this evil for the good of the whole world?

### **Breakout Time**

- **Prayer:**

God, thank You for using even the hard things in life to bring Your goodness into the world. Help us to trust You even in the bad things. Amen.

- **Craft:**

Have the kids color the sheet attached, cut it out, then glue or tape it together in the shape of a pyramid.

- **BLESS Activity:** *\*For kids to do during the week\**

*Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.*

This week, focus on the **Bless** rhythm. God has always wanted people to partner with Him to be a blessing to the rest of the world. How can you partner with God this week to bless someone else? Come up with a plan with your family.

of those who love him. Romans 8:28



God works for the good

We know that in all things