

Joseph's Dreams Came True

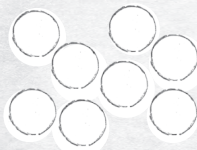
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15–21

MAIN POINT: God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.

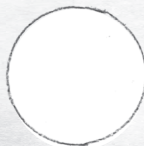
UNIT KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 26:24

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

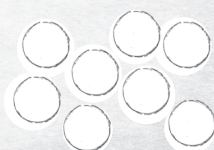
SMALL GROUP OPENING
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jacob and his family lived in Canaan, but someone was missing. Jacob's favorite son, Joseph, was in Egypt. Unbeknownst to Jacob, Joseph had been elevated to a position of power. So when a famine came to Canaan and Jacob sent his sons to Egypt for grain, he had no idea that the journey would lead to a family reunion.

Ten of Jacob's sons went to Egypt to buy grain. They went to Joseph, who was in charge of distributing the food. Joseph recognized his brothers immediately, but they did not recognize him. Joseph put his brothers through a series of tests. He accused them of being spies and required them to return with their youngest brother, Benjamin.

Jacob was hesitant to let his sons return to Egypt for more grain, especially with Benjamin in tow. He reluctantly let Benjamin go with Judah's promise of protection for him. After the heartbreak of losing his favorite son, Jacob could not stand the thought of losing his youngest.

Finally, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers. They must have been in awe that the brother they assumed was dead was in fact alive! And a powerful leader in Egypt! Would Joseph use his power to rescue his family from the famine? Or would he avenge his brothers' evil against him?

Joseph explained why God allowed him to be taken to Egypt. Even though his brothers intended harm, God intended his good. Joseph told his family to come to Egypt where they could thrive. Little did Joseph know, his brothers and their families would be enslaved in Egypt for the next 400 years.

Before he died, Joseph reminded his brothers of God's promise to their family. "God will certainly come to your aid and bring you up from this land to the land He promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Gen. 50:24). Despite Egyptian oppression, Jacob's descendants multiplied. God kept His promise, and through the nation of Israel, He worked out His plan of redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ.



Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Joseph's Dreams Came True

Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15–21

Jacob and his family were in trouble. They **did not have enough food to eat**. No one in the land of Canaan had enough food to eat. **But Jacob learned that there was food in Egypt. So Jacob sent 10 of his sons to buy some grain. His son Benjamin stayed home.**

Joseph had a powerful job in Egypt. He **was in charge of who got food, so the brothers came to him and bowed down. Joseph knew who these men were, but they did not recognize him** as their brother whom they sold into slavery years before. Joseph remembered his dreams of his brothers bowing down to him. Joseph's dreams were coming true.

Joseph said, “I think you are spies. You are here to spy on the land.”

But the brothers said, “No! We are not spies. We are brothers. There were 12 of us, but our youngest brother is at home with our father and another brother is dead.”

Joseph put his brothers in prison for three days. **Then he said, “Go home and bring your youngest brother back to me to prove that you are not spies. But one of you must stay here.”**

The brothers went home with food for their families, and one of them stayed in Egypt. They told their father everything that had happened, and their father was very upset. “Do not take my youngest son with you,” he said. “Joseph is dead, and I cannot lose another son.”

When all the food was gone, Jacob asked his sons to go back to Egypt.

“We can only go back if we take Benjamin with us,”

Judah said. “I promise to bring him home.”

So the brothers returned to Egypt. They took money to pay for their food, and they took a special gift for Joseph.

Joseph invited all of the brothers to his home for a meal. After the meal, Joseph sent away all of his attendants. He cried in front of his brothers. **“I am Joseph!” he told them.** “I am your brother! **You sold me into Egypt, but do not be afraid. God sent me here so I could save your people, a remnant, from the famine.**”

Joseph told his brothers to go home and gather all their family and belongings and come back to Egypt, where they would have enough food to eat.

On the way to Egypt, God spoke to Jacob in a vision. A vision is like a dream, but Jacob was awake. God said, “I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you back.” All of Jacob’s family, from sons to great-grandsons, went to Egypt. Jacob hugged his son Joseph and they cried.

Jacob’s family was blessed in Egypt, but Jacob got older and died. Now Joseph’s brothers were afraid Joseph would punish them for what they did to him. Joseph said, “You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result: the survival of many people.” Then Joseph comforted his brothers and spoke kindly to them.

Christ Connection: God had a plan for Joseph’s life. He allowed Joseph to suffer in order to rescue a whole nation. God planned for Jesus to suffer so that many—people from all nations—would be saved.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S
WORD? GET
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that God is faithful to keep His promises. God planned to send Jesus through Jacob’s family to rescue us from sin and death.

Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Joseph's Dreams Came True

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15–21

MAIN POINT: God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 26:24

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

Welcome time

ARRIVING ACTIVITY: Away from home

Ask kids if they have ever spent time away from their family. Discuss how they felt while they were away and how they felt when they were finally home again.

SAY • Joseph was taken away from his home and made to be a slave in another man's household. Then, he was put in jail for something that he did not do. A few years later, Pharaoh had a dream that Joseph interpreted and he was made second-in-command in all of Egypt. Still, Joseph was away from his family. Let's see if that might change today.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Guide kids to complete the activity page by finding the 10 coins hidden in the scene.

SAY • In our story today, the famine that God told Pharaoh about in his dream was happening, and many people in the areas around Egypt were running out of food. People would come and pay coins for grain so that they could take it back to their country. In today's story, Joseph has some very special visitors.

- "Where Are the Coins?" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Show me how you feel

Guide kids to respond to each scenario by expressing with their facial expressions how they would feel. Ask kids to move around the room between scenarios and to freeze in the appropriate facial expression when you announce a scenario.

Scenarios:

- You made straight As on your report card.
- You found out your dog is very sick.
- You heard a scary noise in the middle of the night.
- You just found out that you have a test today.
- You just heard that you are going on vacation soon.

SAY • Joseph had a lot of ups and downs in his life. He was far from his home, faced some really difficult times, and then was second-in-command in all of Egypt. Today we'll talk about another emotional time in Joseph's life. We'll learn what that time was today.

OPTION 2: Favorite foods

Give each kid a small lump of play dough. Guide them to sculpt their favorite food. As each child finishes, ask him to tell about what he sculpted.

• play dough

SAY • In our story today, food was hard to find. Because Joseph knew the famine was coming, he saved grain and many people came to Egypt to buy grain for their families. Today we'll learn more today about a group of people who came to get grain from Egypt.

Transition to large group



Large Group LEADER

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Countdown

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (2 minutes)

- leader attire from previous weeks
- theme background slide (optional)

[Large Group Leader enters in mismatched pieces of sports gear. She may have on a catcher's helmet, shin guards, and elbow pads, while moving a basketball on stage with a hockey stick.]

LEADER • Hey, teammates! Are you ready for a great day? We're going to do some pretty awesome stuff today! This will be our last day to talk about Joseph, so we need to soak it all up! I love Joseph's story. It's such a great one. How cool is it that Joseph was a real person and everything we read about him is true? Talk about a zero to a hero. He was the MVP. That's for sure. Do you remember what's happened so far?

Giant timeline (2 minutes)

- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

LEADER • Joseph was Jacob's son, and Jacob was Isaac's son. The promise that God made to Abraham had been passed down through Jacob's family. Last session, we learned about a time that **God used Joseph's suffering for good.** Joseph's brothers hated Joseph

because he was Jacob's favorite son. They were going to kill him, but decided to sell him into slavery instead. He was sold to a man in Egypt named Potiphar, and God gave Joseph favor with Potiphar. He put Joseph in charge of all of his household. Then Joseph was accused of something that he didn't do and Potiphar had him thrown into jail. This was part of God's plan too, though. Joseph would interpret a dream for two prisoners, one of which just happened to be the Pharaoh's cupbearer. Years later, when Pharaoh had a dream, the cupbearer remembered Joseph. Joseph interpreted the dream, and he was made second-in-command in Egypt!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • It is obvious that God was in control of Joseph's life. Not even Joseph's brothers could change that. Let's say our big picture question together. ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.***

• Big Picture Question Poster

Key passage (4 minutes)

LEADER • Genesis 26:24 reminds us that God is in control and is with His people. He always keeps His promises. God kept His covenant with Abraham when He sent Jesus to be the ultimate blessing for the world. Jesus came from Abraham's family. He came so that we might be forgiven of our sins. Jesus took the punishment we deserved to pay for our sin when He died on the cross. Jesus set up a new covenant with us, that all who trust Him would become part of God's family.

• Key Passage Poster
• "I Am with You" song

Sing the key passage song “I Am With You” together.

Sing (4 minutes)

- “Rest in His Promise” song

LEADER • I’m glad God is always in control and is always faithful to every promise He made. Our God is so trustworthy. He is unlike any person because He never fails. Let’s sing and praise Him for His faithfulness to us.

Sing together “Rest in His Promise.”

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

- Bibles
- “Joseph’s Dreams Came True” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Main Point Poster

LEADER • Let’s open our Bibles to Genesis 42–46. Our story also comes from Genesis 50, but we’ll stay in chapters 42–46 for most of the time. Today, we’ll learn about a time when God used Joseph to provide food for his family back in Canaan. We’ll see that **God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.** Let’s watch and learn more.

Open your Bible to Genesis 42. Show the video, or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. For a shorter version of the story, read the bolded text.

LEADER • Joseph provided for his family. Can you imagine seeing your family after years and years of being away from them? Joseph’s family also moved to Egypt to live with him, which will be important as we continue to learn about the grand story that God wrote in the Bible. **God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.** A *remnant* is a part of a whole. Jacob’s family who moved to Egypt was a remnant of God’s people who were living in the Promised Land. They moved to Egypt to be near Joseph so that they would be taken care of during the famine. God used

Joseph's suffering for good, and one day, many years later, God would do something even better for His people. God would send His perfect Son to pay for sin. He would suffer on the cross unfairly, and die to take the punishment for sin. Then, three days later, Jesus rose again! Remember that, and let's review the story.

Ask the following review questions:

1. Why did Jacob's brothers go to Egypt? (*They ran out of food to eat, Genesis 42:5*)
2. How did Joseph get his brothers to go get Benjamin, whom Joseph deeply loved? (*He told them to go get their youngest brother and bring him back to prove that they weren't spies, Genesis 42:14-16*)
3. When the brothers returned, what did Joseph do? (*He invited them for a meal and told them who he was. He explained that God had brought him to Egypt so that God's people could be saved from famine; Genesis 43:18-25; 46:1-15*)
4. ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.***

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • What would you do if you were Joseph? How would you feel if you were one of Joseph's brothers? Let's watch our discussion starter video and see how we would respond to Nell's dilemma.

Show the "Unit 3, Session 4" video.

LEADER • Will broke Nell's snow globe, and then Nell had the opportunity to do whatever she wanted to Will's snow globe. What should she do? What would you do? Why is it important that we forgive others?

• "Unit 3, Session 4"
discussion starter video

Joseph did not repay evil with evil, but showed grace to his family. **God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant**, and this would be important for years and years. Many decades later, through Joseph's family, God would send Jesus to suffer and pay for sin on the cross. All of this was part of God's perfect plan.

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (optional)

Use Scripture and the guide provided with this session to explain to boys and girls how to become a Christian. Assign individuals to meet with kids who have more questions. If this is not possible, encourage boys and girls to ask their parents, small group leaders, or other Christian adults any questions they may have about becoming a Christian.

Big picture question and prayer (3 minutes)

Show the big picture question poster.

LEADER • Let's review our big picture question one last time. This will be our last week for this question.

What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan. God was working His perfect plan in Joseph's life, and He'll work His plan in our lives, too. We can trust that God knows best and is always in control!

Before transitioning to small groups, make any necessary announcements. Lead kids in prayer. Thank God for having a plan and for using our hard times for good. Pray that God would help kids trust Him above all.

Dismiss to small groups

• Big Picture Question
Poster

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Small Group LEADER

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UNIT KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 26:24

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster

Review the key passage with the motions created earlier in this unit. Then, guide kids to start a rhythm by patting their legs twice and clapping once. Say one word of the key passage on each beat until it is completed.

SAY • God is faithful and always keeps His promises. Jesus was the ultimate fulfillment of the covenant God made with Abraham. Now, all who trust Jesus can be part of God's family and the Holy Spirit is always with them.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- construction paper, 5 sheets

Place five sheets of construction paper on the floor spread apart on the floor. Explain to kids that the group will move together from sheet to sheet with each correct answer. Not all kids in the group must stand on the paper. The group will need to agree on an answer before choosing a final answer. The goal of the game is to get the entire group to Egypt, or to the final sheet of paper.

SAY • God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.

All of Joseph's suffering was part of God's plan. Even though Joseph didn't know what would happen or why he was going through hard times, he trusted

God and God gave him favor. Joseph shows us a picture of what Jesus would be like. Generations later, God would send Jesus into the world that was foreign to Him to suffer unjustly for sin He did not commit. Jesus paid for sin on the cross and rose again three days later, promising that all who trust Him would spend eternity with Him! This is a perfect plan! ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.***

Answer the following questions:

1. Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt? (*There was a famine in the land and they ran out of food. The brothers knew they could get grain in Egypt; Genesis 42:1-2*)
2. Which brother stayed home with his father when the brothers first went to Egypt? (*Benjamin, Genesis 42:4*)
3. What did Joseph do when the brothers returned to Egypt with Benjamin? (*invited them to a meal, told them who he was; Genesis 43:16; 45:1-3*)
4. Why did the brothers leave and bring their father back to Egypt? (*Joseph asked them to move to Goshen, near him. He would take care of them; Genesis 45:9-13*)
5. How did God use Joseph's suffering for good? (*Many people survived the famine; Joseph also was used to establish a remnant in Egypt; Genesis 45:7*)
6. ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.***

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Brother, may I?

Choose one child to be Joseph. The other children will be Joseph's brothers. Joseph will stand on one side of the room, while the brothers stand on the opposite side. Joseph will give an instruction, such as "Take two steps forward." The brothers will answer with, "Brother, May I?" Joseph will answer "Yes, you may" or "No, you may not." Any child who moves when Joseph does not allow the move is out. The child to reach the opposite side of the room first wins and gets to become the next Joseph.

SAY • Joseph's brothers didn't expect to see Joseph in Egypt, and I'm sure Joseph didn't expect to see them either. Joseph wasn't angry with his brothers. Joseph knew that **God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant.** All of Joseph's suffering was part of God's perfect plan to provide for His people. Later, God would send Jesus, and Jesus' suffering would also be a part of God's perfect plan. Jesus would suffer to pay for sin by dying on the cross. He also rose again three days later proving His victory over sin and death!

OPTION 2: Comic book drawings

Guide kids to illustrate the story in the form of a comic book. Ask kids to draw when the brothers first came to Egypt, when one brother stayed behind in jail until the brothers brought back Benjamin, when the brothers returned for the second time with Benjamin, when the brothers ate a meal with Joseph, and when Jacob and the brothers moved to Goshen to be near Joseph. They may also include speech bubbles.

SAY • Joseph experienced some very hard times. All of the

- paper
- markers
- pencils

suffering that Joseph experienced had a purpose.

God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant

of God's people. God was with Joseph throughout his life, and God was working His plan in every situation. Many generations later, God would send Jesus through Joseph's family. Jesus was God's perfect plan to pay for sin. Jesus also suffered and faced many hard times. He died on the cross for our sin and rose again three days later. ***Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.***

Journal and Prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute each child's journal and instruct the kids to draw a picture of one way that they can show forgiveness in their families. Writers may write about how they might show forgiveness. Remind kids that Joseph forgave his brothers and showed his grace toward them by helping when they needed food during the famine.

SAY • God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish a remnant. All of Joseph's suffering was for a reason!

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the coloring page provided with this session. Thank God for showing how He is with us, even during hard times, the same way He was with Joseph. Pray that kids would learn to trust God in both good and bad times. Before releasing kids to parents, give each child this week's big picture card to review throughout the week.

- Journal Page
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons or markers
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Kids

Journal Page

God the Covenant-Keeper

Key Passage: Genesis 26:24

Big Picture Question: What can stop God's plan?
Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

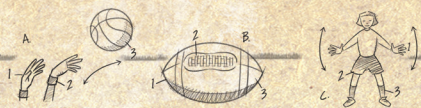
Session 1: The Stolen Blessing
Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45
Jacob stole Esau's blessing.

Session 2: Jacob's New Name
Genesis 32-33
God changed Jacob's name to Israel,
the name of God's covenant people.

Session 3: Joseph Sent to Egypt
Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-41:57
God used Joseph's suffering for good.

Session 4: Joseph's Dreams Came True
Genesis 42:1-46:34; 50:15-21
God sent Joseph to Egypt to establish
a remnant.

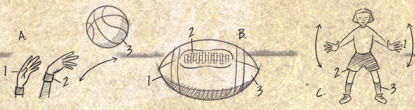




“I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your offspring because of My servant Abraham.”

Genesis 26:24

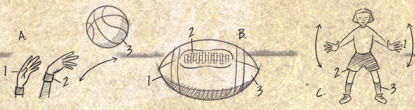




**I am the God of
Abraham thy father:
fear not, for I am with
thee, and will bless
thee, and multiply thy
seed for my servant
Abraham's sake.**

Genesis 26:24

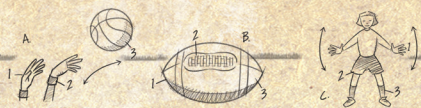




**“I am the God of
Abraham your father.
Fear not, for I am with
you and will bless
you and multiply your
offspring for my servant
Abraham’s sake.”**

Genesis 26:24





“I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bless you and will increase the number of your descendants for the sake of my servant Abraham.”

Genesis 26:24



God sent Joseph
to Egypt to
establish a
remnant.





DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Corinthians 8:6

- What can stop God's plan?
Nothing can stop God's perfect plan.

JOSEPH'S DREAMS CAME TRUE

- Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to purchase grain, but they did not recognize Joseph.
- Joseph told the brothers to come back with Benjamin and then told them who he was.
- Joseph forgave his brothers and all of Joseph's family moved to be with Joseph, establishing a remnant of God's people in Egypt.

- How did God use evil for good?
- When someone wrongs you, do you choose to forgive or to seek revenge?

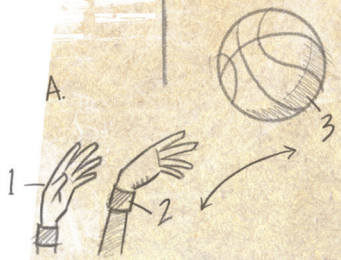
- Talk about what it must have been like for Jacob's family to have no food. Gather food to donate to a food pantry.
- Go further: Volunteer at a soup kitchen as a family.

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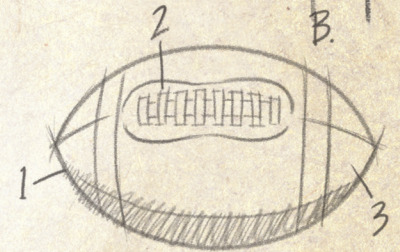




**MAIN POINT: GOD SENT JOSEPH TO EGYPT
TO ESTABLISH A REMNANT.**



What can stop God's plan?



**What can
stop God's
plan?**

Nothing can stop
God's perfect
plan.

