

July
2024

God Has the Perfect Plan!

Genesis 25-50

A Family Study from *Today in the Word*

This Family Study is a companion to the *Today in the Word* devotional *God's Promise: Genesis, Part Two (July 2024)*. The whole family can learn from God's Word together. In each of the four lessons, you will:



Read

Read a passage
in the Bible



Understand

Understand the biblical
text in a deeper way



Imagine

Imagine the lesson
with hands-on activities

About Genesis 25-50

In Genesis, we read the story of Joseph, the favorite of Jacob's sons. The jealousy of Joseph's brothers led them to sell him to strangers to be their servant. But Joseph's story didn't end there! With God's help, he would eventually climb the ranks and become second in command over all of Egypt. What Joseph's brothers did to him was wrong, but God had a perfect plan for Joseph. God helped Joseph forgive his family and provide for them during a famine.



This *Today in the Word* family study was written by Moody Bible Institute students Haylee Grindal, Ashleigh Hildebrandt, and Abigail Peterson under the direction of Elizabeth Smith, Program Head and Associate Professor of Moody's Children and Family Ministry program. Please visit moody.edu/academics/programs/children-family-ministry for more information.

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10 Things to Know

About Genesis, Part 2

1

Jacob had 12 sons who would become the 12 tribes of Israel (Gen. 35:23–26).

2

Joseph was Isaac's grandson and Abraham's great grandson!

3

Chapters 37–50 of Genesis tell the story of Joseph.

4

Joseph was the 11th son of Jacob. Rachel was the mother of Joseph.

5

Joseph had one younger biological brother named Benjamin.

6

Jacob loved Joseph most of all his sons, so he gave him a fancy robe (Gen. 37:3)

7

Joseph was only 17 when his brothers sold him into servanthood (Gen. 37:2).

8

God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams (Gen. 40:8).

9

The name "Joseph" means "may God add or increase."

10

Joseph lived until he was 110 years old (Gen. 50:22).

God Is with Us Always!

Memory Verse

God was with [Joseph] and rescued him from all his troubles.—Acts 7:9–10



Read Genesis 37:1–36

Jacob loved his son Joseph the most out of his children, so he gave him a colorful robe. This made Joseph's brothers jealous. One day, Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers in the field. They saw Joseph approaching. They wanted to kill him but instead threw him into a deep pit. They took his coat and destroyed it so their father would think Joseph had died. The brothers sold Joseph to a passing group of tradesmen, the Ishmaelites. His brothers decided to lie to their father to cover up what they had done and pretended Joseph had died. Joseph was eventually sold as a slave to an Egyptian ruler named Potiphar.



Understand

1. What special gift did Jacob give Joseph?
2. Why didn't Joseph and his brothers get along?
3. What happened to Joseph?
4. What does today's Bible verse tell us about God's part in the story?
5. Read Isaiah 41:10, Deuteronomy 31:8, Joshua 1:9.
6. No matter what happens, what can we always depend on?



Imagine

Parents, even though terrible things happened to Joseph, we are told that God was with him (Acts 7:9–10). God was with him in the pit and when he went to Egypt. Get some colorful sticky notes or cut paper into dozens of small squares. Have your children write "God is with us!" on each one. Or, for your older children, have them write out some of today's Bible verses. Then, send them out to hide their batch of "God with us" notes in your home. They can be placed in a pocket, in the junk drawer, or stuck on the back of the tv remote. This week, notice how many places you find a reminder of God's presence. Knowing that God is with us changes how we live and gives us peace no matter what happens!



Prayer

As a family, ask God to remind us of His presence. Even when things go bad or we face difficult times, we can depend on God to be with us and guide us.

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A Hurtful Lie

Memory Verse

The Lord detests lying lips, but he delights in people who are trustworthy.—Proverbs 12:22



Read Genesis 39:1-6, 19-23

After Joseph was sold into slavery, God continued to protect him. Joseph became a successful man in Potiphar's (the captain of Pharaoh's guard) household because God was with him. Potiphar put Joseph in charge, and he had a great deal of responsibility. Sadly, Potiphar's wife told a big lie about Joseph, and he got into a lot of trouble. He was even thrown into jail. For two years Joseph was in prison. But even then, God was with Joseph.



Understand

1. What happened to Joseph in Egypt?
2. Who was Potiphar?
3. How did Joseph get into trouble?
4. How did the lies told by Potiphar's wife hurt Joseph?
5. Why do people tell lies? Can you think of a time when you or someone else lied?
6. How does God view lying?



Imagine

Parents, let's teach your children about the danger of lying. Ask your children: "Have you ever told a lie? Maybe a 'white lie'? Is any lying okay?" Have your children sit at a table. Put a sheet of paper towel in front of each one and have them cup their hands in front of them. Squirt some honey onto each child's hands. Have them rub it around for a minute. They can taste it if they'd like. "It is sweet!" But now, tell them to try to clean their hands using only that dry paper towel. What happens? That "sweet" honey has created a big mess. It is hard to get it off! In the same way, lying has sticky consequences. Explain that in Joseph's story, one lie sent Joseph to jail. Lying can harm us and others. God tells us to never lie. It is important to always tell the truth.



Prayer

As a family, pray that God will help you to be truth tellers. Ask Him to protect you from the temptation to lie and help you tell the truth in every situation.

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A Helpful Dream

Memory Verse

*Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you.—Isaiah 41:10*



Read Genesis 41:1-49, 56-57

God gave Joseph the amazing ability to interpret dreams. After Joseph spent two years in prison, Pharaoh had some confusing dreams. Pharaoh sent for Joseph to interpret them. God helped Joseph understand the dreams which meant there would be seven years with lots of food and seven years of famine. Pharaoh was so pleased that he put Joseph in charge! During the seven years of plenty, Joseph stored up grain. After the famine came, Egypt still had food.



Understand

1. How many years was Joseph in prison?
2. Why did Pharaoh send for Joseph?
3. What did Joseph say Pharaoh's dreams meant?
4. Why was Pharaoh worried?
5. How did God save the people in Egypt?
6. Why can we trust God with our future?



Imagine

Parents, let's help our children understand that they can trust an unknown future to God! Let's see how well they can predict the future. Get a coin, and before you flip it have the children choose "heads or tails." Flip the coin and give them a point if they predicted the right answer. After you've done this about 10 times, ask them why they didn't get it right every single time. Why is it hard to guess perfectly? We can only guess what the future will hold. But God knows what will happen next. Explain to them that God is "omniscient" or all knowing. He knows everything—past, present, and future. We can trust our plans to God and, like Joseph, go to Him for help!



Prayer

*As a family, thank God that He knows all things. Nothing escapes His notice.
Ask God to guide and protect us as we go through our day and make plans!*

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God's Plan Revealed

Memory Verse

It was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.—Genesis 45:5



Read Genesis 42:1-38; 45:1-11

The famine came, and the people were hungry, including Joseph's family. Jacob sent his sons to Egypt to get food that had been stocked up. There, they found Joseph, their brother they had betrayed all those years ago. Finally, Joseph revealed himself, and God helped him forgive his brothers. He told them that it was God's plan, so the people could survive the famine. Joseph sent his brothers to bring back their families and live with him in Egypt.



Understand

1. Was Joseph mad at his brothers? Why or why not?
2. Read Genesis 45:7. How did God use Joseph to save people from the famine?
3. What did Joseph tell his brothers to do?
4. How did Joseph's brothers respond to the news that he was still alive?
5. Why did God allow Joseph to go through hard times?
6. What should we think when we go through hard times?



Imagine

Parents, let's teach your children about God's plan! Pretend you are getting ready for a trip. Let your children pick the destination (explaining that this is all imaginary). Together, make a list of all the things you will need to do to get ready for your big trip. Your list might include packing suitcases, getting gas for the car, finding someone to care for your pets. You could even pack a suitcase, so they have a better understanding. Talk to your children about how each of these things were done for a reason. Just like we prepare for future things, so does God! God had a perfect plan for Joseph and his family so they could have food during the famine. We can be sure that God has a plan for us too. We can trust Him!



Prayer

As a family, pray that we will always remember that God has a perfect plan for our lives. Ask God to help us forgive others, just as Joseph forgave his brothers.

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