



Lesson 5: *Joseph + his Brothers* (Condensed Version)

Objectives: To explain that:

- God sent Joseph ahead of his family to Egypt to save them and many others from starving.
- God's promise to make Abraham the father of a great nation was coming to pass through the family line.
- God was with Joseph in times of trouble.
- God can work all things together for good for those who love him and obey him.

"I Wonder" Questions:

This picture shows a map of the desert sand and some water. What else do you see in this picture? What do you wonder about?

I wonder what that colourful thing is behind the camels.

I wonder where the camels and the people are going.

I wonder who the men are in front of the pyramids.

Lesson Summary:

In this story, one of Abraham's descendants named Jacob had 12 sons. And one of these sons was named Joseph. All of Joseph's brothers were jealous because their father gave Joseph a beautiful coat. The brothers threw Joseph into a pit and then sold him as a slave. He was taken to a far away country called Egypt. Joseph didn't want to leave his family, but God was with Joseph in this difficult time. After a few years in Egypt, God made Joseph become an important leader and helper to the powerful king of Egypt, called Pharaoh. Pharaoh had a troublesome dream. God told Joseph that the dream meant there would be a great famine in the land. (A famine is when there is hardly any food growing and people are going hungry.) Joseph ordered many large barns to be built to collect grain for the years when there would be a food shortage. When the famine came, the people of Egypt had plenty of food and did not starve. God used Joseph to help save many people from hunger. One day Joseph's brothers travelled to Egypt to buy some food because they too were getting hungry. The brothers didn't know that Joseph was still alive. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them and loved them. He forgave them for hurting him and selling him as a slave. Joseph showed God's kindness, forgiveness and love. Then the rest of Joseph's family came to Egypt. They settled there and had many children. They had so many children that they were becoming a great nation, just as God had promised. But they did not have their own country yet. Together these people waited and prayed to have a land to call their home.

Suggested Questions: What does this story tell us about God? (God wants to save people, sends people to help others, is with us in times of trouble, can work all things together for good, keeps his covenants.)

- Why did Joseph's brothers throw Joseph into a pit and then sell him as a slave? (they were jealous and angry)
- What is a famine? What did God have Joseph do to help Pharaoh and all the people in Egypt? (store food)
- Why did Joseph's family go to Egypt? How did Joseph treat his brothers even though they had harmed him years ago? (forgave them)
- Challenge Question: How does our memory verse show God's faithfulness to his people? (God can turn bad situations around for good for those who love and obey him.)

Bible Memory Verse:

"You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good." (Genesis 50:20a - NIRV)