



God Provides for His People

The Story — Lesson 3

Scripture: Genesis 37; 39:1–47:31

Key Verse: “You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good.” —Genesis 50:19–20, NIV

Bible Truth: God worked things out for Joseph’s good. God knows what’s good for me.

Age 2—2nd grade: Read *The Story for Little Ones*, Chapter 3: “Joseph Forgives His Brothers”

3rd—6th grades: Read *The Story for Kids*, Chapter 3: “Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh”

STEP 1: Come Together

Gather the family and tell them you’re going to spend a few minutes studying God’s word together. Pray and thank God for giving you time together and for having a plan for our lives.

Lead your younger children in a discussion about taking care of an animal. If you have a pet, make the conversation about that animal. If not, grab a stuffed animal and ask about how you take care of your pet/stuffed animal. What does it need to eat? What would happen if you didn’t take care of it? Say, **“Just as we take good care of our pets, God takes good care of us! Today we are going to learn about a man named Joseph who was in a very scary situation, but God took care of him.”**

Get your older children’s attention by mooing loudly. Get everyone to moo with you. Then say, **“Let’s see what you know about cows.”**

- **How many hours a day does a cow spend eating?** (Six)
- **How long does a cow live?** (Up to 25 years)
- **How many glasses of milk does a cow produce in her lifetime?** (200,000)

Say, **“Cows are an important part of our Bible story today. Let’s find out how...”**

STEP 2: Hear the Story

Read today’s story from your copy of *The Story*, or read Genesis 37 and 41 together.

STEP 3: Explore More

Review these catechism questions and answers to follow up on today’s story. Read the questions and answers, then repeat each one, having your child repeat back the answer.

Question 12: Does God know all things? (Yes, nothing can be hidden from God.)

Question 13: Can God do all things? (Yes, God can do all His holy will.)

STEP 4: Dig Deeper

Read (or have your older children read) Acts 7:9-10 in your Bible. The story of Joseph’s kidnapping, slavery, and imprisonment is tragic. But in it all, God was at work saving his people. Because of Pharaoh’s dreams, Joseph knew Egypt needed to store grain for the coming famine. This is the grain that Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt to purchase so that Abraham’s descendants would not die off. That way, one day Jesus could be born as one of Abraham’s far-off great-grandchildren. Story after story points to God as a God who saves. Pray and thank God that through Jesus, the “bread of life” (John 6:35), He saved us from spiritual hunger and death.

MONDAY

Read Genesis 37:3-4

Ask What did Joseph's father give him? How did Joseph's brothers feel about him?

Read Psalm 105:16-17

Pray and thank God that he has a plan for our lives. Thank him for the promise that he is always working things out for our good and for his glory, even when things go wrong.

TUESDAY

Read Genesis 37:23-24

Ask What did Joseph's brothers do to him?

Read Matthew 27:27-31

Pray and ask God to forgive you for the times you have mistreated others. Thank Jesus for allowing himself to be mistreated and punished in order to pay for our sins.

WEDNESDAY

Read Genesis 41:14-16

Ask Who called for Joseph? What did Pharaoh want Joseph to do?

Read Romans 8:28-29

Pray and thank God for calling us to be a part of his forever family before we were even born and for sending his Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus.

THURSDAY

Read Genesis 41:56-57

Ask Who came to Joseph to buy grain to make bread? Why?

Read John 6:35

Pray and thank God for sending his Son Jesus to be "the bread of life." When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, he promises we will never be spiritually hungry or thirsty again.

FRIDAY

Read Genesis 45:4-8

Ask Was Joseph angry at his brothers? Who did he say sent him to Egypt?

Read Luke 23:32-34

Pray and ask God for grace to forgive those who sin against you, the way Joseph forgave his brothers, and the way Jesus forgives us.