

# Family Worship Guide

## Week 16

### Read

#### Genesis 39-50

- **Questions**

**1. In our last time together, Joseph was sold by his brothers into slavery. It was not fair or right, but God allowed it to happen. Now Joseph was thrown in prison. Again, it was not fair. If you were Joseph how would you have felt?**

It is easy to be angry at God when bad things happen to us. There is a difference between hating sin and hating God.

**2. Even though Joseph was in jail, he continued to trust in God. God blessed him in the prison and Joseph was given the responsibility of supervising the other prisoners. Later, two of the king's servants, a cupbearer and a baker, were thrown into the prison with Joseph. What happened?**

Each of the men had dreams. They asked Joseph to interpret the dreams. Joseph told them that he could not do it but that God could. God revealed to Joseph that the dreams meant that one man would return to his position in the palace, and that the other man would die. Joseph would spend another two years in jail.

**4. While Joseph was still in jail, Pharaoh, King of Egypt, also had a dream. His wise men could not interpret the dream for him. But the cupbearer remembered Joseph, who had interpreted his dream when he was in prison. He told Pharaoh about Joseph, and Pharaoh summoned him. What did Joseph say when Pharaoh asked him to interpret the dream?**

In Genesis 41:16 Joseph humbly told Pharaoh that he could not do it, but that God could. It was a dangerous thing for Joseph to talk about the Hebrew God. Pharaoh himself was considered a god. Joseph was bold in talking about God. Are we bold when it comes to talking about God with our friends and neighbors? Are we bold in talking about God in our own family?

**5. God gave Joseph the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream - that there would be seven years of plenty and seven years of famine. What did Pharaoh do?**

Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of Egypt! Joseph was second only to Pharaoh himself. The mission was unfolding! God gave Joseph the assignment of leading the nation of Egypt in order to save them from the coming famine.

**5. God brought Joseph through slavery and prison - because God had an important mission for him. What would it take for your family to trust God more when your family is facing hard times?**

**6. In the final chapters of Genesis, amazing things happen with Joseph and his family. Would you like to take some extra time as a family during the next few days and read the end of this true story together?**

If the family wants to finish reading Genesis together, talk about two or three specific times that you can set aside to read together. These extra times in God's word this week will be powerful!

## Praise

Praise God for giving us:

Himself

Grace and Mercy

Salvation

Our family

Our church family

What has God done in our family this week that we can give him praise?

## Pray

Use the ACTS model (Example below.)

- ADORATION - "He keeps His promises."
- CONFESSION - "Confess times when we have not obeyed"
- THANKSGIVING - "How has God been faithful to your family?"
- SUPPLICATION - "God encourages us to bring all of our needs and burdens to Him."
- Pray that we will live obediently to God's Word.
- Pray for your neighbors by name! Pray that God will bless them!
- Pray for our EFM mission field in Sinaloa Mexico. Please pray for a missionary team to feel the call to Sinaloa! Pray for the new missionaries as they prepare to go. Pray for the Gospel to be received and lives to be changed!

## Memorize

"You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." - **Genesis 50:20**

## Digging Deeper

(Optional activities)

### Kids Fun

Supplies needed: None

**Believe it or not we are almost done with our journey through the book of Genesis. We will be starting Exodus soon! For our family worship time**

tonight, we are going to think back through some of the true stories and lessons that we have learned as we have been reading Genesis.

Here is the plan. I'd like to invite each person to think of a story that we have learned about during family worship in the past few weeks or months. Ideally, it will be something from Genesis. Your job is to act out the story for us, and we have to guess what story you are doing. You can ask other family members to be a

part of your story if you need extra people or props. You can dress up or use items from around the house to help tell the story.

However, you can't make any noises. No talking. No grunting. You have to silently act out the story, and the rest of us have to try and guess what it is.

I'll give you some time to think about what you want to do. Remember, you can use other family members, even pets if needed, to help tell the story.

Little ones may need help thinking of what they want to act out. Parents, be sure to participate in this too! The kids will love to see you do this.

Encourage each person to give it a try. Be prepared for the kids to ask for the chance to do another round. If time permits, go for it. After everyone is done, give them encouragement and move into the next part of your family worship time.

**You all did great! This is our last big time of family worship in the book of Genesis. Next week we will start a new book, the book of Exodus**

## For Teens

**1. The story of Joseph reminds us of a well known verse in the New Testament. Read Romans 8:28. Many people remember and quote the first half of the verse, without the second half. Does this verse promise that God will work all things for the good of all people?**

No. God does not promise to work in all things for the good of all people. God promises to work in all things for the good of those who love Him. Joseph is a perfect example of this. Joseph loved God. He believed in Him. He kept his faith. In response to Joseph's faith, God brought him through his suffering and used him for good.

**2. Have you ever had a friend or sibling going through a hard time and tried to encourage them by saying, "Don't worry. It will all work out. It will be OK."? Sometimes we say that to people to cheer them up. But according to Romans 8:28 should we say that to people if they are not seeking to love and follow God?**

Telling someone, "don't worry, it will all work out" if they are not seeking to follow God is not a true thing to say. You are giving them false hope. Instead, encourage them to love God and trust Him. If they do that, then you can stand on the authority of the Bible and tell them that God will not abandon them and will see them through.

**3. The story of Joseph is one of unjust suffering. It was not fair for Joseph to be sold into slavery or go to prison. But can you think of times that you experienced pain in your life, not because of something that was unfair, but because of something you did wrong?** It is not popular to say it, but most of the suffering we experience in our lives comes from the consequences of our own sin. At times we suffer unjustly because we live in a fallen world, but the majority of the time our pain and suffering is a result of our own choices.