

ELEMENTARY (4-7)

9. The Forgiving Prince

The story of Joseph and his brothers.

Memory Verse

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" Romans 8:28 NIV

- OR -

"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 NIV

Story Time

Read 'The forgiving prince' (pages 76-83 in the Jesus Storybook Bible) or watch the video on our website.

Understanding the Story

Talk this through with your kids:

At the end of Joseph's life, he was the 2nd most important man in all of Egypt, but there were moments he was sitting at the bottom of a well, betrayed, sad and alone. It's important to note, Joseph wasn't perfect. Some of the trouble he found himself in was because his pride and arrogance caused bitterness between himself and his brothers.

All the ups and downs of Joseph's life teach us one especially important lesson - **God is good, all the time**. No matter if you're at the bottom of a well or sitting on a throne. God is good. When we make mistakes; God is good. That doesn't mean bad things won't happen, but we can trust that even when they do, God is actively working to make things right.

Joseph's brothers did something terrible, but God intervened, using what was bad to do something good. The brothers intended harm, but instead, God used it to save lives through Joseph's part in preventing the famine.

Digging a little deeper:

No one in this story was a puppet. God didn't force the brothers to do something bad so He could show everyone He's good. God is good and working towards good no matter what choices we make, that's who He is. He wants to work alongside us, talk to

us, point us to Jesus, but He doesn't force any of our choices.

Joseph was part of a rescue plan that helped redeem a bad situation, but God had an even greater rescue plan in mind. One that would bring goodness to places the terrible lie intended harm.

Questions to get you talking:

- What is your definition of good and bad?
- Have you ever been stuck and needed rescuing?
- Did you learn anything new from today's story?

Activities in your box

- Make a Family Tree

God used Joseph's family for good (even though they made lots of mistakes). Joseph and his brothers had families which came to be known as the 12 tribes of Israel. Years later, Jesus would be born from their bloodline.

Go outside, find a branch (or cut one out of cardboard - a cereal box would work well!). Use the paper leaves in your box to make a family tree by adding a name to each leaf and gluing or taping them to the branch. Talk about your family. How have you seen God's goodness at work? Enjoy sharing stories with each other!

- Colouring sheet