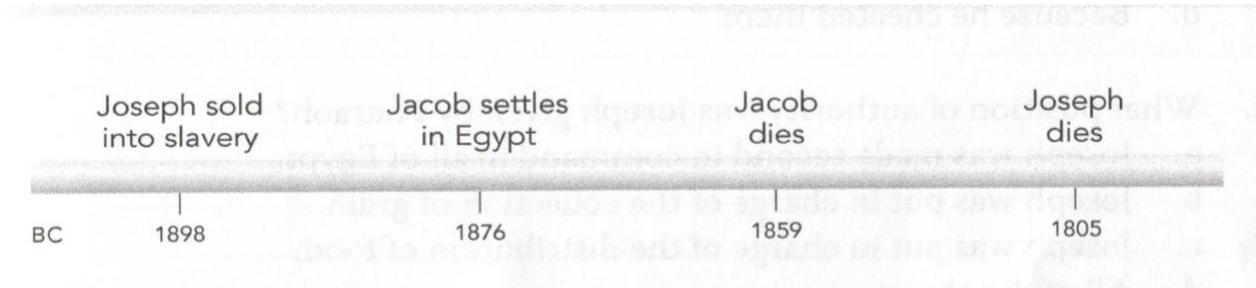


The Story

Session 4: Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh

Buhler Mennonite Church YouTube Channel Livestream – November 18, 2020

“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)



1. Opening & Praying

2. Introduction:

“All of us naturally avoid times of struggle, pain, and hardship, but these moments in life might just be the tool God uses to accomplish God’s will in and through us.”

- **Reflect on it/Talk About It:** If you have siblings, share about the general temperament among your family while growing up in your home?

3. Review:

As we go through *The Story* together, we want to learn how to tell the story. This week we continue our focus on Movement 1 portion of the Story. Read through Movement 1 below several times as you continue to commit it to memory.

In the Upper Story, God creates the Lower Story. God’s vision is to come down and be with us in a beautiful garden. The first two people reject God’s vision and are escorted from paradise. Their decision introduces sin into the human race and keeps us from community with God. At this moment God gives a promise and launches a plan to get us back. The rest of the Bible is God’s story of how he kept that promise and made it possible for us to enter a loving relationship with

US. Movement 1: The Story of the Garden (Genesis 1 – 11)

Picture	Portion of The Story	Portion of the Bible
	The Story of the Garden	Genesis 1 – 11
	The Story of Israel	Genesis 12 – Malachi
	The Story of Jesus	Matthew – John (Gospels)
	The Story of the Church	Acts – Jude
	The Story of a New Garden	Revelation

4. Know the Story: Pop Quiz

- Why did Joseph's brothers want to get rid of him?
 - a. Because of his coat of many colours.
 - b. Because of his dreams.
 - c. Because he was not a good shepherd.
 - d. Because he cheated them.

- What position of authority was Joseph given by Pharaoh?
 - a. Second command in all of Egypt.
 - b. In charge of the collection of the grain.
 - c. In charge of the distribution of food.
 - d. All of the above.

- When his brothers came to Egypt, what was Joseph's accusation against them?
 - a. Being thieves.
 - b. Being traitors.
 - c. Being spies.
 - d. Being murderers.

- What was God's promise to Jakob in sending him down to Egypt?
 - a. I will make you a great nation.
 - b. I will give you plenty of food to eat.
 - c. I will let you see your son before you die.
 - d. I will let you see your great grandchildren.

5. Understand the Story: Video with Randy Frazee

Video Guide: As you watch the video use the following outline to record anything that stands out to you.

- Meeting Joseph: *favorite, dreamer, slave*
 - Joseph was his dad's _____.

- Facing false accusations:
 - The Lord was with Joseph so that he _____, then ...

- Dream Interpreter:
 - God showed him _____ and granted Joseph favor in the eyes of the prison warden.

- A unique family reunion ... God works all things out for good.
 - "It was to _____ lives that God sent me ahead of you." Genesis 50:20 (NIV)
 - Let God _____ you during the difficult seasons to equip you for the assignment ahead.

6. Video Discussion/Journaling: Write down your answers.

- From a human standpoint (Lower Story), Joseph was in the worst place: abandoned by family, sold into slavery, cast into prison (Genesis 39:20-23). From a divine perspective (Upper Story), he was in the best place. How do you see God working in Joseph and showing blessing, even in the pain of these moments of his life?
- In the darkest times of Joseph’s life, we read that, “*the LORD was with Joseph.*” How have you experienced the Lord being with you in the hard times of life? What are some of the signs that God is with us, even in the dark places?
- Joseph waited two years in prison for someone to remember him and send help. Tell about a time you waited for months or years on an answer from the Lord. How did you make it through this long season of waiting?
- How does Joseph’s attitude toward his brothers challenge you in some of your own difficult relationships?
- Charles Colson could say, “If I had not been caught and ended up in prison, I would never have become the man I am today.” Joseph could say, “If my brothers had not turned on me, if Potiphar’s wife had not falsely accused me, I would have never ended up meeting Pharaoh’s servants in prison. I might have never become the Pharaoh’s right-hand man.” Describe how your life would be different if you had never faced a specific time of challenge and struggle.

“If I had not _____,

I would never have _____.”

7. Conversation

One day around a meal or your dinner table, have an intentional conversation about this week’s topic. During the meal, read Genesis 50:20 found at the top of this page. Maybe these questions can help with the conversation: *What are examples of some of the good things God brings into our lives? How can things that first appear bad or negative turn out to be good or positive? Where has God been at work shaping and forming you ... even in hard times? Are you facing something tough right now? If God wants to use this experience to grow you, ask for the courage to embrace it.*

8. Double Check Your Pop Quiz

Answer Key: b / d / c / a

Video Notes Answer Key: favourite / prospered / kindness / save / mould

9. Next Week: *Well, as the original schedule dictated we are now on Holidays break. Our next session will be in January of 2021.*

Be well, do good work, and keep in touch as you read through the OT.