

Story 3: Joseph 2

Main Bible verse
[Genesis 50:20]

You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good.
He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives.

As governor of Egypt, Joseph became the second most powerful man in Egypt after Pharaoh.

After Joseph became governor of Egypt, there were seven years of great abundance.

There was plenty to eat in Egypt. The servants of Egypt did as Joseph instructed.

They collected and stored all the food during the years of abundance.

When the seven years of abundance were over, the years of famine began.

The fields dried up because there was no rain but because Joseph had instructed the servants to gather and store all the grain during the good years, there was food and the people of Egypt were not worried.

Joseph handed out the grain from the storehouses.

People in other countries heard that there was food in Egypt.

The news even reached Canaan where Jacob lived with his family. Canaan was also suffering from famine.

One day, Jacob gathered his sons and said, "Go to Egypt and bring back some food."

Joseph's ten older brothers left for Egypt. They left the youngest, Benjamin, behind.

When the brothers arrived in Egypt, they bowed before the governor of Egypt.

None of them recognized Joseph. But Joseph recognized his brothers immediately.

Joseph was delighted to see his brothers again but spoke to them in a harsh voice.

"You are spies! You have come to see where our land is unprotected."

His brothers answered, "No, my lord. Your servants have come from Canaan to buy food."

Joseph asked again, "How many of you are there?"



"We are twelve brothers in total. The youngest is back home and our other younger brother is no more," his brothers answered. When Joseph heard this he wanted to see Benjamin.

So Joseph said, "One of you must remain here, and if the rest of you do not bring your youngest brother, this brother will be killed."

Of the ten brothers, Simeon remained. The other nine brothers returned to Canaan with the food.

After some time, Joseph's brothers brought Benjamin back to Egypt with them.

Joseph was deeply moved when he saw Benjamin.

But Joseph wanted to test his brothers and so he had his silver cup placed in Benjamin's sack.

He planned to falsely accuse Benjamin of stealing. And so Joseph had Benjamin stay in Egypt.

The other brothers all knelt before Joseph.

They could not have their father Jacob, who was still grieving the loss of Joseph, lose another son.

The brothers bowed before Joseph.

Joseph saw how his brothers cared for the youngest, Benjamin, and how they felt deep compassion for their father and their brother. Joseph could no longer control himself. He wrapped his arms around his brothers, cried tears of joy and forgave his brothers. The brothers were surprised to see Joseph because they had believed him to be dead. The brothers trembled with fear before Joseph, who had become the governor of Egypt, because of the wrong they had committed against him previously.

But Joseph wept for joy and forgave his brothers. Joseph forgave his brothers for their wrongdoing and lived happily with his father Jacob and his brothers in the land of Egypt.



Activity 1.

Answer the following questions.

a. What was the first thing Joseph's brothers did when they came before the governor of Egypt?

b. What did Joseph do with his brothers who sold him to the Midianite merchants?

c. Read Genesis 45:5 and fill in the blanks:

But don't be ----- . And don't be ----- with yourselves because you ----- me here.

----- sent me ahead of you to ----- many ----- .

- Read and memorize the Bible verse. (Genesis 50:20)

You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good.
He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives.

Activity 2.

Find 10 hidden images in the following picture.

► Sea shell, ruler, bread, fish, ax, chili pepper, cup, Bible, pencil, nail.

