

The Blessing of God's Sovereignty (11/27/22)

Main Verses: Genesis 45:4-8

Key Verse: Genesis 45:5

'Takeaway': When we understand that God is in charge of everything, we can see how God uses even our hard times to be a blessing to us and others.

Getting Started: Have you ever had a hard time with another person or situation?



READ Genesis 45:4-8

Some **QUESTIONS** to consider:

Toddler/PreK:

- Why were the brothers afraid when they learned it was Joseph? (v3)
- What did Joseph tell them to try to ease their fears?
- Who did Joseph say sent him to Egypt, and why?

Elementary:

- What do you know about how Joseph ended up in Egypt? Were his brothers right to be “terrified in his presence?”
- Who did Joseph say actually sent him to Egypt and for what purpose?
- What does Joseph’s response tell us about how he viewed God?

Here are some **IMPORTANT IDEAS** we discover in these verses:

Toddler/PreK:

- Joseph’s brothers were afraid because they had caused Joseph to go into slavery in Egypt.
- God used Joseph’s hard times for his purpose – to bless others through Joseph’s leadership.
- Joseph says three times (vv 5, 7, 8) that it was God – not his brothers – who had sent him to Egypt.
- Because God is Sovereign (in charge of everything), we can know that he will use even our hard times to be a blessing to us and others.

Elementary:

- God used Joseph’s time in Egypt for His purpose – to preserve life (bless others) through Joseph’s leadership and to establish Israel as a remnant on earth.
- Joseph affirms three times (vv 5, 7, 8) that it was God – not his brothers – who had sent him to Egypt. Knowing this, Joseph tries to ease his brothers’ fears about reuniting with him.
- God always provides for his people. He is Sovereign (in charge of everything) and so we can be confident that he will use even our hard times to be a blessing to us and others.

An **ENCOURAGEMENT** in light of God's word:

(Toddler/PreK) Talk to God, thanking him for being in charge of everything. Thank him for being with you, even when things seem very hard. Ask him to help you turn to him during those hard times, knowing he will help you, and bless you and others in them.

(Elementary) Talk to God and thank him for being the Sovereign King over everything. Talk to him about how you usually respond when you’re having a hard time. Do you lash out against others and God (sin)? Or do you turn to God and ask him to help you during the hard times? Ask God, even now, to help you as you go through your week to turn to him when things are hard, confident that he will use it to bless you and those around you as you follow God.