

## ■ Joseph: From Prison to Palace 🗝️ 👑

Genesis 41-45 Summary for Kids



Two whole years had passed, and Joseph was still stuck in a dark, lonely prison. The cupbearer—the man Joseph had helped—had completely forgotten about him. That is, until something strange happened...

One night, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had a dream. In his dream, he was standing beside the Nile River when seven healthy, fat cows came up from the water and started eating the grass. But then seven skinny, sick-looking cows came out of the river and ate the healthy cows! 🤖

Pharaoh woke up, sweating and confused. He went back to sleep and had another dream. This time, he saw seven full, beautiful heads of grain growing on one stalk. Then, seven thin, dry, and scorched heads of grain appeared and swallowed up the healthy ones. Pharaoh was disturbed. He didn't understand what it meant. So he called for all his magicians and wise men—but no one could explain it. That's when the cupbearer remembered Joseph. "Pharaoh, I know someone who can help! When I was in prison, a young Hebrew man interpreted my dream, and everything he said came true!" So Pharaoh called for Joseph right away. They brought him out of prison and cleaned him up. When Pharaoh asked if Joseph could explain the dreams, Joseph said:

"I can't, but God can." 🙏

Joseph told Pharaoh that God was giving him a warning: There would be seven years of good harvests—followed by seven years of famine. Joseph advised Pharaoh to store up food during the good years so the people would survive the famine. Pharaoh was amazed by Joseph's wisdom and how he gave credit to God. So he made Joseph second in command of all Egypt! Joseph went from forgotten prisoner to powerful leader—because God had a plan all along.

Life Lesson 💡

Even when life feels unfair or nothing seems to be changing, God is working behind the scenes. Joseph waited years in prison, but at just the right time, God lifted him up. When we focus on God's promises instead of our problems, we grow stronger and more patient while we wait.

Activity: "Behind the Scenes"

You'll Need:

- A small paper bag or box
- Slips of paper
- Pens or markers

Instructions:

### 1. Write It Down

On each slip of paper, write about a time when something felt hard, unfair, or confusing. (Examples: "My friend moved away," "I didn't make the team," "I had to wait a long time.")

### 2. Flip the Focus

On the back of each slip, write what good eventually came from it—or what you learned. Don't see it yet? Write a prayer asking God to help you trust Him.

### 3. Bag It Up

Put all your slips in the bag and call it your "Behind-the-Scenes Bag."

Every time you feel discouraged, pull one out and remember: God was working then—and He still is.

# ■ The Healing of Joseph and His Family

## Read Genesis 42

Life can be really hard sometimes. People hurt us. We make mistakes. And sometimes, instead of dealing with the pain, we push it down and try to forget. But God doesn't forget. He cares about every wound—every hurt in your heart—and He wants to bring healing, even when it's been a long time.

In Genesis 42, Joseph's story takes a powerful turn. Years after his brothers sold him into slavery, a famine strikes the land. His brothers travel to Egypt looking for food, but they don't realize that the powerful man in charge is actually their brother, Joseph! When Joseph sees them, old emotions rise to the surface. He remembers the pain. The betrayal. But his brothers are hurting too. They feel guilty for what they did to Joseph and wonder if they're being punished. Joseph doesn't reveal who he is yet, but he starts testing them to see if they've changed. Even Joseph's father, Jacob, is still dealing with pain. He refuses to send his youngest son, Benjamin, with the others at first because he's afraid of losing him too—just like he lost Joseph.

This chapter shows us something important: God doesn't just want to heal the person who was hurt. He wants to heal everyone. The ones who did wrong. The ones who carry guilt. The ones who are afraid. God's love is deep enough to restore broken families and broken hearts.

Activity: "Baggage Claim"

Supplies: Paper bags (or envelopes), slips of paper, pens/pencils

1. Give each child a paper bag or envelope. Tell them it represents their "heart."
2. Ask them to write down one or two things that have hurt them or made them feel guilty or afraid. They don't have to share unless they want to.
3. When everyone is done, place the bags at the foot of a cross (or draw one on the board or paper).
4. Say together: "God sees my pain. God wants to heal me."

5. Encourage them to take the slips out later and pray over each one, asking God to heal those wounds.

## ■ Joseph's Test and Forgiveness

(Genesis 45)

Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy food, but they didn't know the man they were talking to was Joseph—the brother they had once sold! Joseph gave them food but kept one brother, Simeon, and told them to return with their youngest brother, Benjamin. Later, they came back with Benjamin. Joseph was so happy to see him that he cried in private. He had a feast prepared and gave Benjamin five times more food than the others! But Joseph still wanted to know: had his brothers changed? So he secretly had his silver cup placed in Benjamin's bag. When the cup was found, the brothers were scared. Judah begged Joseph to take him instead of Benjamin. He couldn't bear to hurt their father again. That's when Joseph cried loudly and told them, "I'm Joseph—your brother!" The brothers were shocked, but Joseph forgave them. He said God used their actions for good—to save many lives during the famine. Joseph sent for their father, Jacob. When Jacob found out Joseph was alive, he was full of joy.

### Forgive Like God Forgives

Joseph tested his brothers first—but God doesn't wait to love or forgive us. God forgives us even when we don't deserve it. Jesus teaches us to forgive our enemies, to be kind even when others hurt us.

- God lets the sun shine and the rain fall on everyone—both the good and the bad.

(Matthew 5:44–45, paraphrased)

So when you get into a fight with your brother, sister, or friend—yes, tell them what they did wrong—but also make space in your heart to show them love, even if they never say "I'm sorry."

💡 Memory Verse:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud...  
It keeps no record of wrongs.”

— 1 Corinthians 13:4–5 (ICB)

✦ Activity: Forgiveness Heart

Supplies: Paper, scissors, pen, crayons

1. Cut out a heart shape from paper.
2. On the front, write the memory verse.
3. On the back, write the name of someone you need to forgive—or someone who needs your kindness.
4. Pray for that person. Ask God to help you love like He does.
5. Keep the heart as a reminder that forgiveness is part of love.