

More Bad Things Happen

Genesis 39:11-23

Week 3	Joseph Sent to Prison
Story Opening	Trust Walk: Partner up the members of your family. In each pair, one person keeps their eyes closed while the other one leads them around by holding their arm. After a few minutes, have them switch roles. Afterward, ask the children to talk about what it felt like to be led by someone else while their eyes were closed. Was it scary? Fun? Hard? Easy? Ask the children: who is someone you trust, and why do you trust that person?
Background	After Joseph arrived in Egypt, he was bought by an important officer named Potiphar. The Bible says that God was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did. Eventually, Potiphar trusted Joseph with everything he owned because Joseph had proved himself worthy of that trust. But Potiphar's wife repeatedly tried to get him to sin. When she was unsuccessful, she made up a lie about him to get him in trouble. Potiphar believed her and sent Joseph to prison, even though he had done nothing wrong.
Telling the Story	Read the first part of the story below (verses 11-20).
Retelling the Story	Pick a number: Write the numbers 1,2,3, etc. on separate small pieces of paper and place them in a bowl. Mix them up and then hand out one paper to each member of your family. Go through the numbers one at a time having each person retell the next part of the story when their number is called.
Discovery & Response Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What choices did the people in the Bible Story make -- Potiphar's wife? Potiphar? Joseph? What were the consequences of these choices? What other choices could they have made?• What do you think Joseph may have been feeling when he worked so hard to do the right thing but STILL was placed in jail for something he didn't do? How do you think you would have felt if you were him?• If you were Joseph, how would you be feeling about the promises God made to you in the dreams he had given you?• What choices can you make when you are going through difficult or confusing times? What happens because of these choices?• What can you trust about God when you go through difficult times?• How can you respond when you go through difficult times? How might this make you feel? <p>Let's read verses 21-23 now to see what God did for Joseph and how Joseph responded. [Read it together.] Even though Joseph may have</p>

	<p>been feeling angry, confused, upset, disappointed, and betrayed, God showed him that He was <u>with him</u> even in jail, and God granted him favor with the man in charge of the prison so that Joseph was put in charge of all the prisoners. Joseph didn't know it at the time, but God was giving him more practice to get him ready for the really, really important job God had for him next. And we can tell from Joseph's actions that he didn't wallow in negative feelings, but that he continued to do the work he was given with integrity, honor, and to the best of his ability with God's help.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just as Joseph trusted God even when his circumstances didn't make any sense and were terribly disappointing, is there anything in your life right now, perhaps because of COVID, that you need to trust God with? • What does this story tell us about people? What does it tell us about God?
<p>Response Station</p>	<p>Like in the blind game we played earlier, it takes TRUST to walk with God through hard times when we can't understand what He is up to. But we know that no matter how things seem at the moment, we can be confident that God is good, God is loving, and God is all-powerful.</p> <p>Read these verses and talk about the promises God has given us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romans 8:28 (God promises to work ALL things together for GOOD to those who love Him and have been called according to His purpose.) • James 1:2-4 & Romans 5:3-5 (God uses trials to produce godly character in our lives so that we become "mature and complete, not lacking anything.") • Proverbs 3:5-6 (We can trust God to lead us in the best way!) <p>Give children a chance to respond by playing a song in the background and letting them write up their responses on index cards or in a journal.</p>
<p>Coloring Page</p>	<p>See attached coloring page for an additional activity to do with your child.</p>

Story: Genesis 39:11-20 (ESV)

For younger children, a version of this text from the Action Bible is included in another link if you deem it more appropriate for their age.

But one day, when he went into the house to do his work and none of the men of the house was there in the house, [Potiphar's wife] caught him by his garment, saying, "Lie with me." But he left his garment in her hand and fled and got out of the house. And as soon as she saw that he had left his garment in her hand and had fled out of the house, she called to the men of her household and said to them, "See, he has brought among us a Hebrew to laugh at us. He came in to me to lie with me, and I cried out with a loud voice. And as soon as he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried out, he left his garment beside me and fled and got out of the house." Then she laid up his garment by her until his master came home, and she told him the same story, saying, "The Hebrew servant, whom you have brought among us, came in to me to laugh at me. But as soon as I lifted up my voice and cried, he left his garment beside me and fled out of the house."

As soon as his master heard the words that his wife spoke to him, "This is the way your servant treated me," his anger was kindled. And Joseph's master took him and put him into the prison, the place where the king's prisoners were confined, and he was there in prison.

Genesis 39:21-23

But the LORD was with Joseph and showed him steadfast love and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners who were in the prison. Whatever was done there, he was the one who did it. The keeper of the prison paid no attention to anything that was in Joseph's charge, because the LORD was with him. And whatever he did, the LORD made it succeed