

JOSEPH -Surprising Savior Genesis 45 *Living Into God's Story* 10-30-16

Intriguing story: God's family & promise is extremely tenuous!

1. Guilty Brothers 2. Devious Joseph 3. Grieving Father Jacob

God's story with some major surprises!

1. SURPRISE #1 Joseph Takes Off His Mask!

2. SURPRISE #2 God Works Behind the Scenes

*** Providential Work of God**

1. Guilty Brothers 2. Grieving Father Jacob 3. Devious Joseph

Surprise! God is working in all of this!

*** Local & Global Grace**

~ Joseph forgives his brothers!

~ Jacob receives 2 as-good-as-dead sons! Family reunited & saved!

~ God provides Egypt's to Israel's family ...& saves many nations!

3. SURPRISE #3 Simplicity in Complexity

*** We Live Complex Stories**

~ Complicated dating story of Joseph & Mary & ministry of Jesus

*** God Comforts Us in His Simplicity**

~ Pure & Simple God ... directs his plan in Jesus to save his people.

~ Simplicity of God assures us he does all he promises!

In Jesus, God's promises are all YES! Faith says AMEN!

Spirit ministers Grace that holds our Faith in place! **Jn.14:3**

The unheard story of talking together. See **Genesis 45:15b**

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Read & reflect together on the Word as a family throughout the week.

Genesis 37 Joseph & His Brothers: Dreams and Slavery

1. Why is Joseph a favorite? What did Dad give him? How did his brothers feel?
2. Why does God give Joseph dreams? Does it show his success or God's work?
3. How well do you get along with your brothers/sisters? How could it be better?
4. Jacob & Joseph likely had regrets. What's your *"If only I hadn't..., then..."*?

Genesis 39 Joseph in Prison

1. How well does Joseph's new job go? Why?
2. Why does God allow Joseph to go to prison? How did his job go there?
3. When have you seen *"the Lord was with me & gave me success"*?

Genesis 41 Joseph & Pharaoh's Dreams - A New Job

1. How does Joseph help Pharaoh make sense of his dreams?
2. When is a time you wondered if God had forgotten about you?
How did you know that he is still with you?
3. If you were King or Queen for a time, what would like to be in charge of?
What are you doing now to be prepared for a crisis that may come later?

Genesis 42 Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt.

1. What have you done when you were short of food to eat?
2. Why does Joseph treat his brothers harshly? Revenge? Reconcile?
3. Why is Joseph so interested in what's happening with Benjamin?
4. Like Jacob, is there a situation that seems hopeless to you? Why?

Genesis 43 A 2nd Trip to Egypt.

1. How does Jacob send his sons with Benjamin to Egypt? What do they fear?
2. Why does Joseph give Benjamin 5 times more food, a special treat?
3. How do the brothers respond differently from how they treated Joseph?

Genesis 44 Joseph Tricks Benjamin to Stay

1. Why does Joseph set Benjamin up like his experience in Chapter 37?
2. Whom do the brothers believe now caught them for selling Joseph?
3. Where is God calling you to do the honorable, courageous act?
4. With whom do you still hope to help heal a relationship?