

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **February 21, 2021** Family Theme | **God Is in Control** Study Text | **Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-5**

Objective: Children understand that we can trust God, knowing that He is always with us and is in control even when it seems everything is going wrong.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set later in Jacob/Israel's life when his older sons sold Joseph into slavery to the Midianites, who then sold him to one of Pharaoh's officials in Egypt. This was all part of God's plan to save the beginnings of the nation from famine and greatly multiply the people.

Bible Basics: Review the names and order of books six, seven, and eight of the Old Testament (Joshua, Judges, and Ruth) this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-6

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that God is always with us and has everything under control. We can trust Him even when things seem to be going wrong.



Key Truth: God Accomplishes His Plans, Even in the Midst of Family Problems (Genesis 37:1-11)

Genesis 37 picks up the story of Joseph, the main character of the rest of the book. Jacob (Israel) had a blended family: 12 sons and one daughter, from two wives (sisters) and their two servants. Just as his own parents (Isaac and Rebekah) had done, Jacob played favorites among his children. The favoritism, symbolized by a resented robe, made Joseph's brothers hate Joseph. Joseph did not help his situation by sharing his peculiar dreams with his brothers. In these verses, we see family dysfunction. We wonder how God could ever do anything worthwhile with such people. We should be an example of God's grace, even in the midst of family problems.



Key Truth: God Accomplishes His Plans, Even When Life Seems Off Track (Genesis 37:12-36)

Jacob appears to have given no thought to the way his preference for Joseph affected the other brothers. He seemed out of touch with the level of animosity they felt toward Joseph. He surely did not realize he was sending Joseph into danger. His brothers saw him coming and saw this as an opportunity to be rid of the brother they hated. They decided to kill Joseph and his dreams. Reuben, however, hoped to become a hero in his father's eyes by rescuing Joseph. Reuben's plotting did not succeed, however, as the brothers sold Joseph to Midianite traders who sold him into slavery in Egypt. Keep trusting God when things get difficult, knowing nothing can derail His plans.



Key Truth: God Can Use Us for His Glory in Any Work Situation (Genesis 37:36; 39:1-6)

Imagine what it must have been like for Joseph as he faced life as a slave in Egypt, with different customs, food, and even a different language. But God was with Joseph in an obvious way. Joseph undoubtedly proved to be a hard and faithful worker, and God blessed his efforts. Even his master Potiphar understood that special divine favor rested upon Joseph (verses 2-5). Because of this favor, Joseph rose in position. Potiphar delegated him to be over the household and all that Potiphar had. God was in control, even in Joseph's slavery. Point people to God by being an excellent worker.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- How was God in control in Joseph's family, despite the wrong things that were done?
- How can we bring God glory through our work, knowing He is in control?
- In what area might you need to submit to God's control?
- How can we respond to trials and difficulty in a way that brings glory to God?
- **For Elementary:** Why can we say God is in control, even when bad things happen?
- **For Elementary:** How does it encourage you to know God is in control in times of trouble?

Everyday Extras

Do you remember how cheerleaders build a pyramid sometimes, with people on their knees, stacking up on top of each other? Try building a family pyramid as a team building exercise. Remind each other that everyone is important to the family. Set the timer on your camera and see how many tries it takes to get the shot!

If there is a problem with sibling rivalry at your home, plan a strategy to eliminate it. Have a peace summit and serve as a negotiator to solve irritating issues before they produce bad attitudes. Remind your children that families should be safe places for everyone to belong and feel valuable.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Joseph was a good worker, but because of a wrong accusation he was put in jail. While there, Joseph explained some dreams to two of the king's men who were also in jail. Later, the king had some dreams that his men could not explain. One of the men whose dream Joseph had explained remembered him and had Joseph brought to the king. Afterward, the king put Joseph in charge of storing the food. Joseph trusted God and **Can Trust God** too.