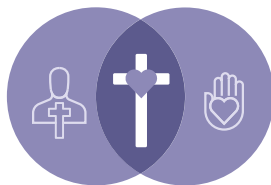


HOPE IN HARDSHIP

LESSON 6

Genesis 37; 45:1–10; 50:20

GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF HIS PEOPLE



CONNECTING IDENTITY & CALLING

IDENTITY: WHO AM I?

God claims me as His redeemed child through Christ, regardless of any circumstances or trials in life.

CALLING: WHY AM I HERE?

I am to love God and serve my neighbor, even when times are difficult. As I do so, I remember that, in the end, God works good for His people.

GROWING IN FAITH FOR LIFE

See how this lesson builds on learning for each age.

ADULT

I can explain how God is faithful to fulfilling His plan of salvation in the midst of treachery and great adversity.

YOUTH

I can express that God is with me in hardships and He gives me hope.

ELEMENTARY

I understand that God works for the good of His people.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

I know God helps me with my troubles.

BIBLE VERSE

You meant evil against me,
but God meant it for good.

Genesis 50:20

SCRIPTURE SNAPSHOT

The account of Jacob's favorite son, Joseph, is a turning point in the history of God's people. The unusual timeline of Joseph's life includes him being despised by his brothers, sold into slavery, attaining success and then losing it all to false accusations, being imprisoned, and serving the court of Pharaoh. Joseph summarizes his life in one sentence addressed to his brothers: "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20).

TAKING IT HOME

- ▶ *On the Go*—Joseph's father gave him a special colorful coat. Talk about one of your favorite gifts that you have received from someone you love. What special gift has God given you?
- ▶ *At Mealtime*—Prepare a special meal together as a family, seating everyone in birth order. Joseph did this when he saw his brothers again in Egypt.
- ▶ *Something to Do*—Go on a scavenger hunt, searching for all the crosses in your home. You might find some in unexpected places, like windowpanes. As you point to each cross, recite Psalm 32:1 ("Blessed is the one . . . whose sin is covered") as a reminder that God forgives us, just as Joseph forgave his brothers.
- ▶ *Before Bed*—Joseph could have been angry at his brothers, but instead he showed them love and mercy. How did he do this? How does God show mercy to us? Why does God show us mercy?

