



DREAMS AND DESTINY

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

WEEK 4 - A FAMILY RECONCILED, A PROMISE FULFILLED OVERVIEW

Now that Joseph is in a position of extreme power over Egypt, he can prepare the country for seven years of famine. Because of his wise stewardship, the land has grain to see them through a time of shortage. This is a blessing to the Egyptians, but also to his own family, who seek Egypt's aid as they struggle to survive. In the story we see how Joseph is reunited with his brothers, tests them to see if their hearts have changed, and ultimately reveals his identity through tears. In this emotional reunion, Joseph explains that God had a purpose behind all of it, even him being sold into slavery at his brothers' hands. The story ends with the family of Abraham reunited, safe from famine, and sheltered from hardship in Egypt where they can "be fruitful and multiply" (Genesis 1:22). The stage is set for the family of Jacob to become a nation... a nation called to bring God's blessing to the world.

You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

Genesis 50:20

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Were you able to see Grace's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*? If so, what was your favorite part? Did you notice any details that were not quite the same as the biblical account of the story?
2. Read [Genesis 42:3-28](#).
 - a. Why didn't the brothers recognize Joseph, even though he recognized them?
 - b. Why do you think Joseph puts his brothers through several tests instead of just selling them food and telling them who he was?
3. Read [Genesis 44:33-34](#) and [Genesis 49:10](#). Why is it Judah who is repentant?
4. Read [Genesis 45:1-8](#) and [Genesis 50:19-21](#).
 - a. How is the story of Joseph significant?
 - b. What is the main idea of the story - the message Joseph has for his brothers and the message God has for us?
5. Read [Romans 8:28, 35-39](#). Do you believe that God can redeem your story? Do you believe that God can make something good out of even the worst moments of your life? Why?