

Bible Study Teaching Plan for June 10, 2018  
Rescue & Redemption, Lesson 2, "God Intended it for Good"  
Dr. Williamson, Genesis 37:14-28; 50:15-21

CONNECT WITH LIFE

1. ASK: Has anyone ever seen or experienced any sibling rivalry? If so, what are signs or symptoms of it? What do you think are possible causes? Discuss.

ASK: What can parents do to "diminish" sibling rivalry? Discuss.

ASK: Which is more true, in your opinion, and why? Discuss.

- All children need to be loved and treated equally.
- All children need to be shown love and treated according to their personality.

GUIDE BIBLE STUDY

2. Today we look at the Old Testament story of Joseph, with his coat of many colors, and his brothers. It's another story of "rescue and redemption." Let's set the stage. Present brief lecture (or ask the class to tell you the story of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob). Include some or all of the following:

- Last week, we looked at the father of the Hebrew nation, Abraham, and his beloved son, Isaac.
- Isaac had two paternal twin sons, Esau and Jacob. The birth story is that Jacob was clutching Esau's heel when they were born.
- Jacob and Esau had their share of sibling rivalry, with their mother preferring Jacob, and Isaac (the father) preferring the oldest son, Esau
- One day, when Esau was out hunting, he came in famished. Jacob had food. Esau sold his "birthright" to Jacob for a bowl of the stew he had prepared.
- In later years--with his mother's help--Jacob tricked his father into also giving him the oldest son's "blessing," which should have been for Esau.
- Esau was so mad, he wanted to kill Jacob. Jacob left the family, with the birthright and the blessing.
- Years passed. Jacob's family indeed multiplied. Jacob had two wives, Leah and Rachel, as well as hand maids. Jacob ended up having 12 sons, we know as the 12 tribes of Israel.
- Two of the sons were Jacob's favorite, born later in life to his favorite wife Rachel: Joseph and Benjamin.
- Jacob gave Joseph an expensive coat of many colors. Joseph did not have care for the livestock. He got to live at home with his parents.
- Joseph also was a "dreamer." He had at least two dreams where he dreamed that all of his brothers "bowed down to him." One was about stars, and one was about grain stalks. Of course, Joseph told these dreams to his brothers.

3. One day, Jacob sent Joseph to check on his older sons. It turned out not to be a good day for Joseph or for Jacob. Have volunteer read Genesis 37:14-36 (or divide it in half and let 2 volunteers read).

4. ASK: What are you hearing, or remembering, from this story that might have contributed to this sibling rivalry?

ASK: How could it have got this bad in a family? Discuss.

5. The Bible often includes stories of failure and sin. What do you think is God purpose in re-telling these stories? Discuss.

6. Ask the class to help fill in details of what happened to Joseph in Egypt. Include the following:

- Life for Joseph was harsh as a slave
- He was sold to the house of Potiphar
- Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph
- When Joseph did the right thing, and declined (and ran), Potiphar's wife lied about it, and had him arrested
- Joseph spent many years in prison
- There was "some" good news: Have volunteer read Gen. 39:21-23
- Joseph interpreted a couple of dreams for fellow prisoners. All he asked in exchange was to be "remembered" that he was unjustly in prison
- One of the two jail mates was killed, while the other was rescued out of prison. But he did not say anything good about Joseph. So Joseph remained in prison.
- Then one day, the Pharaoh had a dream. No one could interpret the dream for Pharaoh. The cook remembered Joseph at that time, and Pharaoh sent for Joseph. Rescue at last!
- Joseph tells Pharaoh that the dream means a famine is coming, and they have 7 years to prepare for it.
- Pharaoh moved Joseph to be in charge of all of the preparation. He became second in command of all of Egypt.
- When the famine came, it hit hard. There wasn't any food anywhere, except in Egypt.
- Jacob sent some of Joseph's brothers to Egypt to get food.
- Joseph saw his brothers, and recognized them. But they don't recognize him.
- He wept in private for them. He gave them food. He also planned a way to get his father and youngest brother, Benjamin to Egypt.
- Joseph revealed himself to his brothers. They were terrified.
- Joseph forgave them, and told them to go get their father and move him to Egypt.
- Jacob moved to Egypt, and ultimately died. Once again, the brothers are terrified of what Joseph will do to them.

7. Have volunteer read Genesis 50:15-18. SAY: Joseph had every opportunity to exact revenge on his brothers.

ASK: What does this story show about what can happen when we treat others wrongly, like Joseph's brothers did to him? Discuss. Possible answers:

- The brothers are consumed with both fear and guilt.
- They have been carrying this guilt most of their adult lives
- They turned to more "lies" to try and save their lives

8. Have volunteer read Genesis 50:19-21, and another volunteer read Romans 8:28. As we talked about last week, life is not always "easy." It is often filled with pain, unfairness, hardship, etc. God doesn't claim that all will be good. God says that He can work all things together for good for those who love the Lord.

APPLY TO LIFE

9. ASK: Are there examples we should learn from in today's scripture? If so, what are they?

ASK: How do you think Joseph was able to gain his maturity and perspective demonstrated and spoken?

ASK: Is there a promise to claim?

ASK: In what ways does this lesson teach "rescue & redemption"?

ASK: What would you teach your children about forgiveness based on today's Bible teachings?