



Lesson Eight

God Preserves Jacob's Family

Heart Preparation & Bible Background



Bible Truth

God kept Jacob's family alive and God continued his plan to make his people into a great nation, as he had promised to do.

Scripture

Genesis 42–50



Lesson Focus

God saves his children and rules over their lives for their good.

Goals for the Children

- Tell how God saved Jacob's family.
- Tell how God kept his promise to his people.
- Tell how God helped Joseph forgive his brothers.
- Learn that God is in charge and he always does what is best.



Memory Minute

God meant it for good . . . to save many people.
Genesis 50:20b, NKJV

When Joseph's brothers went to Egypt for food, little did they know that this was God's way not only to preserve his people, but to provide the occasion for Jacob's shattered family to be reconciled. God would use his royal servant, first sent off to Egypt as a slave, to bring this about.

As governor of Egypt, Joseph was in a position to supply Jacob's family with all the provisions they needed. And using his God-given wisdom and authority, Joseph took on the role of directing his father's family, bringing it back to unity.

Slowly but surely, God transformed Joseph's brothers, replacing their jealousy, deception and anger with repentance, sorrow and humility. They acknowledged their sin, accepted Joseph's forgiveness, and were able to rejoice with him in God's sovereign overruling in their lives. Harsh words, mistrust, tears and suffering finally gave way to warm fellowship and joyful celebration. Now Reuben, Judah and the others rejoiced with Joseph, along with Benjamin, Joseph's beloved younger brother.

Although it was not easy for him to leave Canaan, old Jacob was ready to join Joseph in Egypt. He knew that God would go with him, and that one day his offspring would return to the land of promise.

How Jacob rejoiced when he was reunited with Joseph and witnessed the restoration of his family. His heart was filled with gladness when he saw God's blessings on the house of Israel. The Lord *had* kept his promise: he was forging the family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob into a great nation, just as he had said he would. Now Jacob was ready to bless his offspring, die peacefully and go to his grave in Canaan.

As you study the story of Joseph in Egypt, may you recognize that just as God was in charge of Joseph, his father and his brothers, so he is in charge of all that happens to you. Just as Joseph and his family learned to trust, obey and rejoice in God their Savior, may you trust in his sovereignty, grace and provision, knowing that it is all for your good.