

Genesis 37-50 - Joseph and His Brothers

This is one of the longest connected stories in the Bible. It tells about a dysfunctional family and shows how God continues to bless the world through them. Clearly, **God enables us to forgive those who harm us, and so turns evil into good.**

1. Skim through **Genesis 37-42** and number these events in the correct order.

- _____ The brothers want to kill Joseph,
but Reuben talks them into throwing him into a well.
- _____ Potiphar throws Joseph into the king's prison.
- _____ The steward tells the king about Joseph.
- _____ Jacob gives Joseph a special fancy coat.
- _____ Joseph marries Asenath, the daughter of an Egyptian priest,
and they have two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.
- _____ The king's cook dreams that birds eat bread from a basket on his head.
- _____ Joseph dreams that his brothers' sheaves, and the sun, moon and stars,
bow down to him.
- _____ The king dreams that seven skinny cows eat seven fat cows,
and that seven thin heads of grain swallow seven full heads of grain.
- _____ The king's steward dreams he give a cup of wine to the king.
- _____ The traders sell Joseph to Potiphar, an official of the king of Egypt.
- _____ The king of Egypt makes Joseph governor over the land,
and he stores up grain.
- _____ Simeon remains in Egypt as a hostage.
- _____ Joseph interprets the king's dream:
seven years of famine will follow seven years of bumper crops.
- _____ Joseph interprets the prisoners' dreams: the steward will be freed,
but the cook will be hanged.
- _____ Joseph bad mouths his brothers.
- _____ The brothers dip Joseph's coat in goat's blood
and tell their father an animal killed him.
- _____ Potiphar's wife tries to seduce Joseph, and then—when he refuses
to have sex with her—accuses him of attempted rape.
- _____ Joseph goes to Shechem and Dothan to find his brothers and their sheep.
- _____ During the seven years of famine Joseph sells grain to all Egyptians.
- _____ Joseph accuses his brothers (who do not recognize him) of being spies.
- _____ The brothers sell Joseph to a caravan of traders.
- _____ Jacob sends ten of his sons to buy grain in Egypt.

2. So, do you think Joseph was a good boy? Why?

3. Now skim through **Genesis 42-47** and number these events in their proper order.

- _____ Joseph hides his silver cup in Benjamin's sack of grain.
- _____ Reuben offers his own sons as hostages,
if Jacob will let him take Benjamin to Egypt.
- _____ The king invites Joseph to bring his entire family to Egypt.
- _____ The brothers take twice the money to "Joseph" in Egypt to buy more grain.
- _____ The brothers report to their father Jacob,
and all find their money in their sacks.
- _____ The king lets Jacob's family settle in the land of Goshen.
- _____ "Joseph" invites his brothers to a banquet,
but they think he wants to arrest them.
- _____ Judah begs "Joseph" not to put Benjamin in prison.
- _____ On the way home, one brother finds his money in his sack of grain.
- _____ "Joseph" asks about his brother's father.
- _____ Joseph sends his brothers home with food and wagons
to bring their father Jacob back to Egypt.
- _____ At Beersheba, on the way to Egypt, God promises
to bring Jacob's descendants back to the land of Canaan.
- _____ Joseph sells grain to the Egyptians, and buys up all their land for the king.
- _____ A servant welcomes the brothers into Joseph's house.
- _____ Joseph meets his father Jacob in Goshen, and asks him to live there.
- _____ Judah convinces Jacob to let Benjamin go back to Egypt to buy grain.
- _____ Joseph's servants arrest Benjamin for "stealing" his cup.
- _____ Joseph introduces his family to the king of Egypt.
- _____ Joseph sees his brother Benjamin, and leaves the dining room to cry.
- _____ Before Jacob dies, Joseph promises to bury him in the land of Canaan.
- _____ Jacob's entire family travels to the land of Egypt.
- _____ Joseph tells his brother who he really is; they all hug each other and cry.

4. After their father died, according to **Genesis 50:15-21**, the brothers wondered whether Joseph had really forgiven them. How did this work out?

5. If you still have time, go back and read **Genesis 38:1-30**, and learn how Tamar seduced her father-in-law Judah.