



EVIL TO GOOD

God's Incredible Plan • U3#4 1st-3rd Grade • Sept. 7, 2025

Concept

God is sovereign over individuals and nations.

Goal

Students will learn that God has worked through nations and individuals throughout history to make salvation available to all people. God can use ALL circumstances to accomplish his plan, and His plan is one of love towards us.

Passage

Genesis 41-49

Key Verse: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• World map <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 sticks• Bucket• Bibles• Large bag of popcorn• Coffee filters, 1/student <p>Optional Activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "History of Israel" worksheet, 1/student• "History of Israel" reference sheet, 1/student	<p>Activity Stations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salvation verses• Various colors of construction paper die-cut "candy" boxes, 1/student• Diamond cuts from "candy" boxes to use as decoration• Various shapes, stickers• Stampers/stamp pads• Yarn, 24"/student• Glue sticks• Scissors• Construction paper for card, ¼ sheet/student• Markers

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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How often we forget or choose not to believe that God is in control and that all trials have to pass through the screen of His permission before they come into our lives. The same is true with nations. No matter what leaders plot or scheme, God has the final say over what actually happens (Psalm 2).

"The most trivial and the most important, the most likely and the most unlikely circumstances are made to minister to the development of God's purposes. In [Genesis] chapter 39 Satan uses Potiphar's wife, and in chapter 40 he uses Pharaoh's chief butler. The former he used to put Joseph into the dungeon; and the latter he used to keep him there, through his ungrateful negligence; but all in vain. God was behind the scenes. His finger was guiding all the springs of the vast machine of circumstances, and when the due time was come, he brought forth the man of His purpose, and set his feet in a large room. Now, this is ever God's prerogative. He is above all, and can use all for the accomplishment of His grand and unsearchable designs. It is sweet to be able thus to trace our Father's hand and counsel in everything. Sweet to know that all sorts of agents are at His sovereign disposal; angels, men and devils—all are under his omnipotent hand, and all are made to carry out His purposes...

"... That 'all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose,' is writ large across our lesson. And well for us if we take this to heart. But the trouble is, we grow so impatient under the process, while God is taking the tangled threads of our lives and making them 'work together for good.' We become so occupied with present circumstances that hope is no longer exercised, and the brighter and better future is blotted from our view. Let us bear in mind that Scripture declares, 'Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof' (Ecc. 7:8). Be of good cheer, faint heart; sorrow may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. So it was with Joseph. For a season he suffered wrongfully, but at the last God vindicated and rewarded him. Remember Joseph then, troubled reader, and 'let patience have her perfect work.'"

Arthur W. Pink, *Gleanings in Genesis*, © 1922, 1950 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, pp. 372-374.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Transition

Activity Stations:

- **Craft – Gift Box**

- **Goal:** What Joseph's brothers intended for evil, God meant for good for the nation of Israel and eventually for all mankind. Jesus, the Savior that God promised, descended from the family of Joseph. What man intended for evil in the crucifixion of Jesus, God meant for good for all mankind. The gift of salvation is the greatest gift we can receive.
- **Instructions:** On a piece of construction paper create a small greeting card/message using your favorite verse about salvation, or pick one from the provided list, to remind themselves that salvation is a gift or to give to someone who doesn't know Jesus. Use provided stickers, stamps, markers, diamond cuts to decorate one side of the first four sections of the die-cut “candy” box. Spread glue on the 5th section, fold the box along the perforated lines and secure this section under the 1st section. Pull the ends together and tie one end with yarn. Put the small greeting card in the other end and tie that end with yarn.

- **Missions Prayer**

- **Instructions:** Talk about and pray for the Oasis Giving campaign.

Last week we learned about Joseph. His brothers were jealous of him so they sold him as a slave to some Egyptians. He was taken far away from his family. He was here (point to Egypt on the map). All the rest of his family was here in Canaan (point to Israel). Today Canaan is called Israel. So you see how very far Joseph was from his father and brothers. Joseph thought he would never see his family again. But God had a plan that neither Joseph nor his brothers knew. While Joseph was in Egypt, God made him very wise and powerful. God told Joseph how to prepare for the famine that came to Egypt and Canaan. Who knows what a famine is? The Puppet Team is ready to do a skit to tell us about God's plan for Joseph and his brothers.

We'll join the other classes (*depending on location*) to learn about the next years of Joseph's life.

DRAMA - “A Reunion Remembered”

Presented by Puppet Team

(Or teachers plan to do with their team.)

Let's go back to our classrooms to read more about Joseph.

Lesson Lg. Group

Our key verse is, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20). Why did Joseph say that?

Joseph's brothers were jealous. They hated him because he was their father's favorite, so they sold him as a slave. But when Joseph met them again 20 years later he didn't punish them. Instead, he tested them to see if they were still filled with jealousy and hate. Benjamin was Jacob's next favorite son after Joseph. Joseph wondered if they would treat Benjamin the way they had treated him.

Follow along as I read verses 1-4 in Genesis 45. How did Joseph react when he saw that they'd changed?

Why did Joseph forgive his brothers? Read Genesis 45:5-8; 50:20. Our key verse is, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20). What was that big picture?

Who did the "History of Israel" worksheet when you came in? Read Genesis 46:1-4 to see that God had a bigger picture in mind. What did God tell Jacob when he started on his way to Egypt? This is the continuation of God's Incredible Plan.

Who can tell me God's Incredible Plan? (God wants to have a relationship with every person. But we are separated from Him because of our sin. His plan was to work through the nation of Israel and through that nation to send His son, Jesus, to pay the penalty we owe for our sins so that we can have a relationship with Him.) We don't have a relationship with God until we admit we need forgiveness and ask that Jesus' death count for our sins. When Jesus was killed on the cross His followers thought it was the worst thing that ever happened. Indeed, it was the most evil thing ever done. Our key verse is, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20). But God meant even the most evil thing for good to save the lives of many people for eternity.

Transition

Let's get into small groups and discuss what it looks like for us to respond like Joseph.

Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

What about you—what happens when someone is cruel or mistreats you? I know my first response is to want to get even. I want to make that person see how wrong they were and to make them pay.

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

I sometimes get consumed in my thinking with what should happen to that person that I don't think about talking to God about it. But our key verse says, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20).

Joseph may have thought those things, but he chose to look to God and obey Him in all his bad circumstances. He decided to believe that somehow God would help him.

- We can do that, too, but how?
- Since God had a plan to send Joseph to Egypt, do you think it was okay that Joseph's brothers were mean to him? (No it wasn't okay! What they did was VERY wrong. The point is that God can even use the sin of others to accomplish His plan.)
- When you have hard circumstances do you ever think about talking to God? If you do, what do you say to Him? Do you ask Him to take your bad circumstances away? Do you ever think that God could use those bad circumstances to impact others?
- Is it wrong to ask God to take your bad circumstances away? (NO.) Does He always do that? (NO) What would have happened to the Israelites if God had taken Joseph's bad circumstances away? (He wouldn't have gone to Egypt, he wouldn't have learned in a deep way that God is trustworthy.) What happens to us is not always just about us, but God wants to use what happens to help other people.
- Can you look back on any of your bad circumstances in the past and seen how God worked in them? Do your parents ever talk to you about how they see God working in bad circumstances?
- Has anyone ever made a decision to forgive someone even though they didn't deserve your forgiveness? What happened? As we learn what the Bible says, we get to know God and decide to live the way God designed us. Instead of getting angry, we can be excited about all that God is doing in our lives and in the lives of others.

Let's pray now and thank God for His Incredible Plan to save us!

Now let's have a mock game show to see how much you learned today.

Drama - Game Show

Instructions: Divide the class into equal groups. Give each team a stick and several Bibles. Place the bucket across the room. A teacher will be the moderator and will ask a question. Each team will work together to figure out the answer. When a team has an answer, one member runs up, beats the bucket with the stick and gives the answer. If the answer is correct the team receives 20 points. If it is wrong they lose 10 points.

Transition

Learning Activity# 3 Sm. Groups

Learning Activity#3 Continued

The object is to be the quickest to come up with the correct answer. A teacher should keep a running total of each team's points on the white board. If the answer is wrong, continue on until another team has the right answer. Go through all of the questions. Total each team's score. The winners receive some Egyptian grain (popcorn) which they may share with the rest of the class if they like. Use the coffee filters to hold individual servings.

Moderator's Questions:

- Look in Genesis 42:3,4,13 to find the names of Joseph's father and youngest brother. (Jacob, Benjamin)
- Name 2 things that happened because Joseph was sold as a slave. (Did not starve, became a nation)
- What is today's key verse and where is it? ("You meant to hurt me, but God turned your evil into good to save the lives of many people" (Genesis 50:20).)
- Name Joseph's grandfather and great grandfather. (Isaac and Abraham)
- Name Joseph's mother (Rachel)
- What country was Joseph taken to after he was sold? (Egypt)
- Who was jealous of Joseph? (his brothers)
- What person forgot about Joseph in Gen. 40:9-14, 23?

Optional Activity

Research

- **Instructions:** Give each student a "History of Israel" reference sheet and a "History of Israel" worksheet. Follow the instructions on the worksheet.