

Joseph Helps His Brothers

Materials

- Slips of paper with one of each of the following letters on each: HARMGOOD
- Strip of paper with "GOD" written on it in large letters

Introduction

Using the maps at the back of the Spark Bibles, find Egypt on the map. Remind the students that when we last left Joseph, he had been sold into slavery and taken to Egypt. Today we are going to learn how his brothers came to join him.

Shuffle, and hand out the letter papers. Explain that the letters spell two words that are opposites of each other. Allow time to unscramble the letters (HARM GOOD). Briefly discuss what each word means. Place the letters spelling HARM at one end of the table and the letters spelling GOOD at the other end. On another piece of paper, write GOD in big letters. Place the paper in the middle of the table, between HARM and GOOD.

Explain: Today our Bible story is going to show us how God fits in between harmful actions and good actions. God is always working for us to experience something good. Even when something bad happens, God is with us working to make something good out of it. Let's look up our memory verse for today and see what kind of hint it gives us. Today's verse is Genesis 50:20.

Help kids find the verse on page 58 and read it together several times. They can place one of their *I Read It* stickers near the verse.

Opening Prayer

Cue kids to say the word *good* at the end of each sentence as you point to them.

Dear God,

You can change bad times to _____. (good)

You can change sad days to _____. (good)

You can turn harmful actions to something _____. (good)

Thank you for how you take care of us. Amen.

Story

Let's read our story to find out what harmful action turned out for the good for many people. The story is in chapters 45 and 50 of Genesis. Let's find those two chapters (starting at page 51). The story becomes complete when we read the part in chapter 50.

Joseph's brothers had come to see him before, wanting to get food because there was a big famine. His brothers didn't recognize him, and he didn't tell them who he was. Now Joseph's brothers are back, and he is going to tell them who he is.

Read Genesis 45:1-15 and 50:15-21. Read the *Know It! And Think About It!* Questions from page 52 and see what answers kids provide.

Discuss:

- Did Joseph do a good job handling the situation? Why would Joseph forgive his brothers for their crime against him? Would you? Have the kids go back and underline each time “God” is named in this story. Explain, Joseph was intent on giving God the credit for everything that happened.
- How did God use the harm the brothers intended toward Joseph to do something good for many people? God didn’t want Joseph to be hurt or to be sold as a slave, but when it happened, God used the situation to eventually help others.
- God promises to forgive us. Let’s look at an example of how great God’s forgiveness is. Look up Psalm 103:8-13 on pages 650-651. We can forgive others just as God forgives us and as Joseph forgave his brothers.