



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Story is a series designed to help us discover how the Bible all fits together and points to Jesus. This week we see God's sovereign plan at work in the life of Joseph to bring good out of his suffering (Genesis 37-50).

1. What was one of your favorite childhood stories or books? Who was your favorite character in the story and why?
2. Although the family of Jacob was a mess, they were part of God's sovereign plan all along. God is always in complete control. Watch this short video *Families and Failures: Genesis Part 2* on RightNow Media in the River City Christian library to gain a better understanding of Genesis. What amazes you about the sovereignty of God?
3. In Genesis 37-41, Joseph is betrayed and imprisoned. He endured several years of great suffering, but behind the scenes, God's sovereign plan was at work. Why do you think a sovereign God would allow a good man like Joseph to suffer?
4. Jesse said again this week that your plan B in your timing is never as good as God's plan A, even if you have to wait for it through difficulty. Discuss a time in your life when you struggled with trusting God's sovereignty amidst difficult circumstances. How did your trust in God grow through the experience?

Read Genesis 50:20, Romans 8:28 and 1 Peter 5:10.

5. At the end of Joseph's life, he had seen God's hand at work through much intended evil and suffering. How do these verses encourage you personally?
6. Jesse offered four practical ways to overcome adversity: 1) remember that prosperity is often temporary, so be thankful, 2) realize that adversity is inevitable, 3) be prepared for adversity, and 4) since God is faithful, be faithful. Which one of these points do you most need to focus on at this stage of life?

PARENTS:

Take turns around the table defining what it means to struggle and how God can help us to remain faithful through any struggle.



Joseph | Jesse Smith | September 9, 2018

THE UPPER STORY

God is sovereign even when:

- Bad things happen and no one is at fault.
- People either intentionally or unintentionally make sinful decisions that hurt you.
- Your decisions cause you pain.

THE LOWER STORY

Four practical ways to overcome adversity:

- Remember that prosperity is often temporary, so be thankful.
- Realize that adversity is inevitable.
- Be prepared.
- Since God is faithful, be faithful.

For Next Week: Read chapter 4 of *The Story*.