

## **Personal weekly Bible readings to go deeper into Scripture.**

*Memory Verse: Exodus 15:2*

Day 1—Chapter 4 of “The Story”

Day 2—Exodus 1-3

Day 3—Exodus 4-7

Day 4—Exodus 11:1-13:16

Day 5—Exodus 13:17—end of chapter 17

## **Questions to consider while reading the Bible:**

Is there an example to follow?

Is there a sin to avoid?

Is there a promise to rely on?

Is there a command to obey?

Is there a challenge in which to respond?

## ***Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh***

*September 29-30*

*“The Story” Chapter 3; Genesis 45:1-8; Romans 8:18-25, 28*

Please use this space to take notes during the message today.



But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. Genesis 45:7

Scan to go to  
the message blog or go to  
[www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.wordpress.com).

## Adult and teen small group discussion points

Please use these discussion questions in your small group or with your teens.

1. What is the best promotion you ever received? How did you earn it?
2. From a human standpoint (the lower story), Joseph was in the worst place; abandoned by family, sold into slavery, cast into prison (Genesis 39:20-23; “The Story,” pp. 29-32). From a divine perspective (upper story), he was in the best place. How do you see God working in Joseph and showing blessing, even in the pain of these moments of his life?
3. If Jacob had learned from his parent’s mistakes, he might not have torn his family apart by showing Joseph favoritism. What are some practical lessons families can learn from their stories?
4. Even though Joseph experienced betrayal, he went on to enjoy a full and purposeful life in Egypt. What factors or spiritual understandings do you think made this possible? How was it possible for Joseph to forgive his brothers?
5. What are the benefits experienced by Joseph’s employers, Potiphar and the prison warden (p.24-25)? How would your workplace benefit if you allowed God to work through you there?
6. List the injustices Joseph suffered. What sustained him? Recall a time in your own life that you suffered unjustly for doing the right thing. What sustained you?
7. Twenty years after his brothers sold him into slavery, they came to Joseph to buy grain. Do you see evidence they had changed over the years? Why do you think Joseph did not reveal his true identity at first? What was he waiting for?
8. Over the course of twenty years, Joseph had risen to a place of power and prestige as Pharaoh’s governor. Why do you suppose he never returned to his home?
9. Jacob’s whole family lived in Goshen for seventeen years before he died (p. 33-34). Do you think the family relationships were every truly restored?
10. Romans 8:28 tells us, “In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” What is one situation in your life where you need to embrace and experience this truth? How can your small group pray for you as you walk through this season?

Pray together.



For additional resources go to [www.gloriadeionline.com](http://www.gloriadeionline.com).

## Family’s with kids discussion points

Please use these discussion questions with your children.

**Key Verse:** Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid... You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good.” Genesis 50:19-20 NIRV

1. Can anyone remember a weird or funny dream you’ve recently had?
2. Do you think that dream has any chance of coming true? Would you like it to come true?
3. What do you think is the difference between your dreams and Joseph’s dreams?
4. What are your hopes and dreams for your life? (Let children share and then tell them some of your hopes; that they will always follow God; that you’ll always have a strong relationship and love them; that they’ll use their talents to serve God.)
5. What can you learn from Joseph about patience and continuing to believe in God’s plan during difficult times?
6. Read the fourth petition of the Lord’s Prayer and its meaning from Luther’s Small Catechism and talk about what it means that God provides our daily bread. (*You can find the text of the Small Catechism on pages 321-330 of the Lutheran Service Book or online at: <http://bookofconcord.org/smallcatechism.php>*).

God gave Joseph wisdom to prepare for the coming famine. Through God’s provision, people were saved when there was no food. Think of a way your family can gather some nonperishable food for a community food bank. You could choose to go door-to-door in your neighborhood to collect food. If you choose to do this, have your children explain to the neighbors exactly where the food will go and who it will benefit. Make sure to visit houses of people you don’t know. After you deliver the items to the food bank, write a thank-you note to the neighbors that contributed and revisit those homes to let them know the results of your family food drive.

Pray together: Dear God, thank you for remembering us even when we sin. Thank you for meeting all of our needs and especially for forgiving us when we need it. Help us share the wonderful news of Jesus with others.

Amen!

