

JOURNEY

ADVOCATES

PARENT GUIDE

LESSON 7.3: SUFFERING

SCRIPTURE: GENESIS 37:12-36, 39, 41, 50:15-21

SUMMARY:

Joseph's story is a prime example of how God can use suffering to bring about a greater good. Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, but through a series of remarkable events was ultimately put in charge of all of Egypt, second only to Pharaoh. It is an incredible account packed with some important lessons.

First, sometimes we will suffer for doing what is right. Faithfulness to God may cause us trouble in this lifetime.

But God is always faithful to us. Second, God uses suffering for the greater good. Although it was difficult, the circumstances of Joseph's life brought him and his family to Egypt where he would help them through a great famine. God was with Joseph and his life served God's ultimate plans.

Likewise, we may never know why we face certain difficulties. But we can trust that God is in control and that He will use our harm and suffering for good.

CORE VERSE	CORE CONCEPTS
<p><i>But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.</i></p> <p>Genesis 50:20</p>	<p>God participates in our suffering, using it to direct the course of human history.</p> <hr/> <p>SUFFERING: Having physical or emotional pain or distress</p>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Talk to me about the most interesting thing you learned from this week's lesson.
- How have you seen God help you grow through suffering?
- Has suffering ever changed or impacted decisions you've made? Why or why not, and how?
- How have you been encouraged in times of suffering?
- Describe your next steps based on what you've learned. How can I help?