

## THE THREAD | BEGINNINGS

### Lesson 8: Joseph And His Brothers

Dear Parents,

Hello again! We just wrapped up the eighth of our 13 lessons, looking at *Beginnings* in our study of the big-picture story of the Bible called *The Thread*. This lesson was entitled “Joseph and His Brothers.” We looked at how Joseph’s life was a part of God’s master plan to carry out the covenant promise handed down from Abraham, Isaac, and now to Joseph’s father, Jacob. Through the turbulent circumstances in Joseph’s life, we see that God redeems suffering and turns our loss into gain. For those who follow Christ and trust His promises, we have hope in the midst of pain.

**Lesson Overview:** All of Scripture tells a single story. It is the story of man’s sinfulness and God’s faithfulness to redeem us as His own. In the continuation of the first covenant with Abraham, we see his grandson Jacob receive the same promise: from his line, God will make a great and royal nation that will bless all men, and they will return to their land. While the timeline may not be what any of them expected, we see from a big-picture perspective that the events along the way are always moving toward the fulfillment of that promise. The beauty of it is that while there are victories along the way that encourage God’s people, God’s plan is bigger than they could have ever imagined. We see Joseph rise up, save his people from certain death, and redeem his family. At the same time, we understand that this is just a shadow of the ultimate Redeemer that will rise up from this family as the living Christ!

**What We Want Your Teenager To Learn:** See how God’s faithfulness continued to extend to Abraham’s descendants and understand that the Gospel is all about God redeeming our suffering—turning our loss into great gain.

**What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They’ve Learned:** Commit to turning to God in the midst of their tough times, trusting that He will redeem their suffering.

**Scripture Passages We Studied:** Genesis 35:9-12; Genesis 37; Genesis 41:37-49; Matthew 5:10-12

*Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.*

## NEXT STEPS...

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- Joseph had it pretty rough with his brothers. What did you learn about how God used those tough times to keep His promise?
- There are a lot of believers suffering pretty severely around the world. How do you think God’s promise to redeem our suffering might give those believers strength to still follow Christ?
- Share with your child how you have trusted God’s promises in a time when your family may have been suffering.

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I’m praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don’t hesitate to let me know.