



God is Accomplishing His Purposes

MAIN IDEAS

- **God has a plan for each person and works to fulfill it.**
- **God always accomplishes His plans and works out His eternal purposes.**
- **God always keeps His promises.**

MEMORY VERSE

The LORD of hosts has sworn: "As I have planned, so shall it be, and as I have purposed, so shall it stand."—Isaiah 14:24

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Genesis 41:51, 52
- 2) Genesis 41-45 (portions)
- 3) Genesis 45:5-8
- 4) Genesis 50:20
- 5) Isaiah 14:24
- 6) Psalm 34:17
- 7) Romans 8:28



LESSON SUMMARY

We left Joseph in prison, yet on the threshold of seeing the amazing purposes of God unfold in his life. God, in His astounding providence, purposed for Joseph to save His children from famine, preserving their lives and thus fulfilling God's promise to make of Abraham a great nation. All the events of Joseph's life fit together to move him toward this great purpose. From our perspective of seeing the whole story, we marvel at God's wisdom and goodness.

Yet, what must have it have been like for Joseph serving in Potiphar's house and sitting in prison? His dreams were given to him as a young boy. At 17, he was sold into slavery. At 30, he became the overseer of Egypt, and he was almost 40 when he saw the dream fulfilled. What must that 23-year wait have been like for Joseph? Was it faith-filled, or did he question God's purposes and promises?

Surely we have some hints in his declarations to his brothers that Joseph was keenly aware of God's purpose in his suffering. God had sent him to "preserve a remnant to keep alive for you many survivors." He understood that his brothers were not in charge, but God sovereignly reigns—"So it was not you who sent me here, but God...As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive..." What a biblical perspective he had on the work of God in his life. Surely he would affirm the truth of Romans 8:28, that "all things work together for good" for the people of God. Oh that we might also look beyond our microscopic view of ourselves to the great and glorious purposes of God!

Pray that God would give you a confidence in His purposes in your life and that you would rest in His wisdom and goodness. Ask Him to give your child a desire to be a part of His kingdom purposes and to glorify Him in his or her life.

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- Ask your child to explain to you how Joseph came to be in charge in Egypt. *What was God's purpose in making Joseph in charge? Do God's plans always work out? Why?*

- *What does the life of Joseph show you about God? [Help your child to see that God is sovereign, faithful, all-powerful, good, etc.] Is it hard to believe these things about God sometimes? Why? When is it hard? Are they true, even when it is hard to believe them?*

ACTIVITY

Below is a word search of key words in Joseph’s life. Find the words that are in the word box in the puzzle. The words either go up and down or across. Then explain to Mom or Dad how each of these words is part of Joseph’s life and God’s purposes.

Word Bank: Coat, Dreams, Pit, Egypt, Brothers, Slave, Prison, Overseer, Pharaoh, Famine

P	U	D	Z	R	D	X	E	I	S	C	L	A	S	T
H	M	S	B	S	J	M	D	G	A	D	Y	L	O	E
A	S	X	N	F	A	M	I	N	E	C	U	P	O	G
R	O	V	E	R	S	E	E	R	F	M	W	R	A	Y
A	S	Z	J	P	C	Z	O	S	Y	P	M	I	S	P
O	O	M	X	D	J	B	N	R	T	I	Y	S	S	T
H	R	I	O	O	S	D	S	Q	E	T	Q	O	Q	R
B	F	T	B	Q	L	Z	K	H	V	Z	U	N	B	Z
K	I	D	R	W	A	R	Z	J	F	E	X	R	Z	E
Z	Z	R	O	W	V	J	J	B	C	S	O	P	G	U
Y	U	E	T	P	E	R	O	T	C	O	A	T	Q	X
W	P	A	H	J	C	E	L	M	A	R	J	X	U	L
E	Y	M	E	F	F	T	A	C	M	J	O	G	Y	R
M	N	S	R	F	B	R	G	A	Q	N	D	A	R	A
R	R	K	S	Q	W	L	X	A	L	M	G	X	I	A

Genesis 50:20—As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.