



# HIGH SCHOOL MINISTRY

May 24, 2020

**Main Point:** God can bring good out of evil circumstances.

## 1. Listen to this Spotify playlist

[https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2PFq9EG6qySS7pasjKKAxB?\\_php=1](https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2PFq9EG6qySS7pasjKKAxB?_php=1)

## 2. Read this passage two times - Genesis 42:1-6; 45:4-8; 50:15-21

## 3. Process

**42:1-6.** Jacob and his family were not exempt from the famine. Their situation, like that of many others, was dire: They were on the brink of starvation. While the sons sat and looked at each other—either unable or unwilling to act to save their own lives—their elderly father with poor eyesight could see what they could not. Egypt had food. Little did they know the reason Egypt had grain—only because of the vision God had given Joseph. Jacob and his family were not exempt from the famine. Their situation, like that of many others, was dire: They were on the brink of starvation.

**42:6.** When the brothers stood before Joseph, the first thing they did was fulfill Joseph's dream—the very one they had detested. They bowed low to the ground before their brother. Joseph's first dream had been of sheaves of grain—his stood while his brothers' bowed down. In Egypt, the brothers came in need of grain (their sheaves had fallen), while Joseph had plenty of grain (his sheaf stood tall). With that simple act, the brothers did what they believed they would never do and what had driven them to such fury. Though they didn't know at the time, bowing would preserve their lives.

**50:15-21.** Joseph encouraged them not to be afraid and indicated that he trusted in God's justice. He said he was not in God's place—what they intended for evil, God used for good to save many lives. So Joseph forgave them, comforted them, and took care of them and their families. He showed amazing grace to his brothers.

Joseph kept his eyes on God and not on his circumstances or the people who had sinned against him. He did not hold his exalted position over his brothers or hold a grudge against them. He did not lament the time lost with his father and brothers or the time he spent in jail. He looked toward God and trusted God's plan for his life. He knew God turned what his brothers meant for evil into good.

God's salvation plan included two scandalous events in salvation history—Jesus' birth and crucifixion. Both were unconventional according to human reasoning: the Savior being born in a manger and then being crucified among criminals. But both were necessary parts of God's plan of redemption. The path to the empty tomb ran through the manger and Calvary. Without each, there could be no forgiveness of sin.



## 4. Think About It

- What makes reading the Bible meaningful and enjoyable for you?
- How would you have responded if you faced a similar situation? Would you want revenge or extend mercy?
- Why do you think we find it difficult to forgive those who have offended us?
- How can we show love and mercy to those we disagree with? How is this an expression of God's love for us?

**Join Lauren & Nathan in a Zoom Call!**

**Sunday, May 24 at 7:00 pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/4144653655?pwd=SkYyNVVVKaS9OdGQxSTJaeUFpSU5yUT09>

**Meeting ID: 414 465 3655**

**Password: 853104**



**We are here for you!**

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