

VBS 2017: Journeys of Joseph

by Wayne Goff

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generous and forgiving. Joseph's own brothers had a difficult time believing that their brother *could* and *would* forgive them. But Joseph comforted them with the words "*But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life*" (Gen. 45:5). Can you see the providence of God working in your life as Joseph saw it in his own? Sometimes it takes hindsight to see the hand of God, but it is there for all who will consider it! Is there a greater need today than that of a *forgiving heart*? Americans have become obsessed with themselves and are more bent on getting revenge than giving forgiveness. Maybe studying the life of Joseph will help us all learn to forgive one another as our heavenly Father forgives us! (Matt. 6:12)

5. **Reunion.** You know as they say, "all's well that ends well." But how *different* might this beautiful story of a family reunited have turned out without the hand of God?! It took over 20 long years of lies, grief, misery, and intrigue for the truth to come out! What Joseph's brothers did to Joseph and to Jacob seems almost **unforgivable**! When Jacob speaks with Pharaoh, he said: "*The days of the years of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years; few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not attained to the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage*" (Gen. 47:9). Many years of misery were caused by his sons, but then again Jacob himself had caused much grief and misery to his family in his own early years. He was not known as the "Supplanter" for nothing! There are so many lessons to be learned in this great family reunion of the people who would be known as the ancestors of Jesus Christ Himself! Don't you want to sit at the feet of a Bible teacher as he tells us some of these stories?

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