



GOD INTENDED IT FOR GOOD.

A summer series through
the life of Joseph

Week #7: How the Story Ends

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

²² Joseph stayed in Egypt, along with all his father's family. He lived a hundred and ten years ²³ and saw the third generation of Ephraim's children. Also the children of Makir son of Manasseh were placed at birth on Joseph's knees.

²⁴ Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid and take you up out of this land to the land he promised on oath to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

²⁵ And Joseph made the Israelites swear an oath and said, "God will surely come to your aid, and then you must carry my bones up from this place."

²⁶ So Joseph died at the age of a hundred and ten. And after they embalmed him, he was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Genesis 50:15–26 (NIV)

Lessons From The End:

- Undealt with _____ distorts _____. (vv. 15–18)
- Joseph's secret sauce of success: (vv. 19–21)
 1. Believe God is in _____. (v. 19)
 2. Trust God uses bad _____ to bring about good _____. (v. 20)
 3. Live like God uses _____ to help other _____. (v. 21)
- Finish _____, while holding onto the _____ of God. (vv. 22–26)

Discussion questions:

1. What unresolved guilt, shame, or fear are you carrying that is distorting the way you see God, others, or yourself? What might it look like to bring that honestly before God?
2. Where are you tempted to play God's role, through resentment, control, anxiety, or the desire to make someone "pay" for what they've done? How can you entrust justice to God?
3. Where do you recognize God's redemptive work in your life, even if the pain has not completely disappeared? How might your story become a source of hope for someone else?

Recommended resources:

[Choose Joy: Because Happiness Isn't Enough](#), by Kay Warren

[Walking With God Through Pain and Suffering](#), by Timothy Keller

[Even If: Trusting God When Life Disappoints, Overwhelms, or Just Doesn't Make Sense](#), by Mitchel Lee

(NIV) New International Version

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Genesis 50:15–26 (NIV)

Lessons From The End:

- Undealt with guilt distorts reality. (vv. 15–18)
- Joseph’s secret sauce of success: (vv. 19–21)
 1. Believe God is in charge. (v. 19)
 2. Trust God uses bad events to bring about good results. (v. 20)
 3. Live like God uses people to help other people. (v. 21)
- Finish well, while holding onto the promises of God. (vv. 22–26)

Discussion questions:

1. What unresolved guilt, shame, or fear are you carrying that is distorting the way you see God, others, or yourself? What might it look like to bring that honestly before God?
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