

*Beulah Baptist Church*  
*Rev. Jerry D. Black, Pastor*

*Sunday School Lesson for September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020*  
*Rev. Mark A. Seals, M.Div., Instructor/Teacher*

**Lesson: God’s Plan Revealed**

**Text: Genesis 45:1-15**

I. **Aim for Change / Learning Objectives...**

By the end of the lesson, we will...

**Learning Objectives:**

- A. *UNDERSTAND* how Joseph viewed his past mistreatment at the hand of his brothers,
- B. *RECOGNIZE* how God is at work in difficult circumstances,
- C. *RESPOND* to mistreatment not with vengeance but with creative, transforming initiatives.

**Unifying Principle—Love Prevails Over All.** Sometimes one is overwhelmed by tragic events in his or her life. What can keep hope alive after the struggle ends? Joseph tells his brothers what they meant as harm was God’s plan for saving them, a remnant of God’s people.

**Key Verse**—“*Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life*” (Genesis 45:5, KJV).

**People Places and Times**

**Joseph.** Of Israel’s twelve sons, Joseph was his favorite. He was Israel’s eleventh son and the first son of his favored wife, Rachel. This designation by his father and Joseph’s God-given ability to prophesy caused Joseph’s older brothers to hate him. Eventually, Joseph became a vizier, an officer second only to Pharaoh.

**Goshen.** A fertile river valley in the delta region of Lower Egypt where Israel and his family would live under Joseph’s watchful eye. Goshen was fertile because of its proximity to the Nile River and excellent pasturage for herds.

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II. **Background**

In today’s lesson, Joseph tells his brothers who he is and acknowledges that God is responsible for him being in Egypt. Later after Israel dies, Joseph will reassure his brothers that God had ordered his steps, and God did it for the good of all (Genesis 50:15–21).

**The Lesson At-A-Glance...**

1. Joseph Makes Himself Known (Genesis 45:1-8)
2. A Family Reunited (vv.9-15)

### ***III. In Depth with More Light on the Text***

#### ***1. Joseph Makes Himself Known (Genesis 45:1-8)***

After having held back his emotions as best he could for quite a while, Joseph tells his brothers who he really is. His brothers had known him by his Egyptian name, Zaphnath-paaneah, but now he boldly states, “I am Joseph” (v. 3). The brothers are afraid and stand in disbelief or amazement, unable to move or speak. Joseph assures them of God’s sovereignty. He understands that whatever they tried to do for evil, God meant for good and a lot of good came out of it. He does not want them to grieve or be angry with themselves for selling him (v. 5). Instead of having a vindictive attitude toward them, he gives recognition to God. God had a perfect plan in mind and was using the brothers’ sinful acts to preserve a remnant of His chosen people. Joseph’s statements are not meant to make light of sin or sinners, but rather to illuminate how God does things (vv. 7-8). This was not to give an excuse for sinning, but rather to appreciate and celebrate the almighty power of God in those things we could refer to as “misfortune.” God is in divine control.

*What can we do to remember, like Joseph, that God is in control even when situations seem evil or chaotic?*

#### ***2. A Family Reunited (vv. 9-15)***

Joseph promises to take care of his father and all his family during the next years of the famine. He urges his brothers to hurry back to Canaan to get this news to their father Israel and let him know about Joseph’s authority in Egypt. Joseph’s words and actions make his brothers realize that he was not holding a grudge and was genuinely affectionate toward them. Knowing what God has done for all of them and would do in the future; Joseph is compassionate toward the brothers who had hurt him so much. He does not let past experiences with his brothers defeat the purpose of all that the Lord allowed him to go through. Instead, Joseph is warm toward them, and they are able to reciprocate these feelings. Joseph’s reunion with his family was emotional and tearful.

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### **Liberating Lesson & Application for Activation—see Sunday School book...**

#### **Vocabulary Words You Should Know...**

*Revelation:* An extraordinary and supernatural disclosure made by God, whether by dream, vision, ecstasy, or otherwise, of truths beyond man's unaided power to discover. American Tract Society Dictionary

#### **Scripture Memory Verse...**

*2Corinthians 12:1 ¶ It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. (KJV)*