

UNIT 3#4

THE PATRIARCHS

2ND/3RD GRADE

EVIL TO GOOD

CONCEPT

God is sovereign over individuals and nations.

GOAL

Christian students will learn that God can use ALL circumstances to accomplish his plan, and His plan is one of love towards us.

Non-Christian students will learn that God has worked through nations and individuals throughout history to make salvation available to all people.

PASSAGE: GENESIS 41-49

Key Verse: "You meant to hurt me, but God turned your evil into good to save the lives of many people." Genesis 50:20 (NCV)

PLANNING AHEAD*

Lesson Supplies

Introduction:

- World map

Learning Activity #1:

- 4 sticks
- Bucket
- Bibles
- Large bag of popcorn
- Coffee filters, 1/student

Craft Supplies

Activity Stations:

- Salvation verses
- Various colors of construction paper die-cut "candy" boxes, 1/student
- Diamond cuts from "candy" boxes to use as decoration
- Various shapes, stickers
- Stampers/stamp pads
- Yarn, 24"/student
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Construction paper for card, ¼ sheet/student
- Markers
- "History of Israel" worksheet, 1/student
- "History of Israel" reference sheet, 1/student

* **Teachers please note:** For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag. **Items followed by an asterisk* are to be supplied by the teaching team.**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION / TEACHER HELPS

How often we forget or choose not to believe that God is in control and that all trials have to pass through the screen of His permission before they come into our lives. The same is true with nations. No matter what leaders plot or scheme, God has the final say over what actually happens (Psalm 2).

"The most trivial and the most important, the most likely and the most unlikely circumstances are made to minister to the development of God's purposes. In [Genesis] chapter 39 Satan uses Potiphar's wife, and in chapter 40 he uses Pharaoh's chief butler. The former he used to put Joseph into the dungeon; and the latter he used to keep him there, through his ungrateful negligence; but all in vain. God was behind the scenes. His finger was guiding all the springs of the vast machine of circumstances, and when the due time was come, he brought forth the man of His purpose, and set his feet in a large room. Now, this is ever God's prerogative. *He is above all*, and can use all for the accomplishment of His grand and unsearchable designs. It is sweet to be able thus to trace our Father's hand and counsel in everything. Sweet to know that all sorts of agents are at His sovereign disposal; angels, men and devils—all are under his omnipotent hand, and all are made to carry out His purposes...

"... That 'all things *work together for good* to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose,' is writ large across our lesson. And well for us if we take this to heart. But the trouble is, we grow so impatient under the process, while God is taking the tangled threads of our lives and *making them 'work together for good.'* We become so occupied with present circumstances that hope is no longer exercised, and the brighter and better future is blotted from our view. Let us bear in mind that Scripture declares, '*Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof*' (Ecc. 7:8). Be of good cheer, faint heart; sorrow may endure for a night, but *joy cometh in the morning*. So it was with Joseph. For a season he suffered wrongfully, but at the last God vindicated and rewarded him. Remember Joseph then, troubled reader, and 'let patience have her perfect work.'"¹

As Joseph trusted God, God worked mightily in and through him. Through Joseph God saved many, many people, including his own family, from the 7-year famine! God's greater purpose was accomplished through the sin of his brothers. And because Joseph trusted God, he experienced God sovereignly working through these trials in his own life. Seeing God's greater purpose enabled him to forgive his brothers and to provide for them and their families.

"[Joseph's]. . . rise to power and prominence in Egypt was an important part of God's Incredible Plan because it resulted in Joseph bringing his entire family—seventy people—to Egypt. The reason for the move was to preserve them from famine and to unite them once more, but the result was also to take them out of God's land and into the world system . . . God caused the famine to keep His Chosen People from intermarrying with the Canaanites who were so depraved. In Egypt the Hebrews lived separately and became a race."²

This race, after many centuries, provided the world with the Messiah—the Savior for all mankind. In a culture so intent on personal peace and affluence, it is essential that we develop a category for the sanctifying work of God through suffering as well as patience that His purposes are being worked out in His perfect timing. As you prepare this lesson, consider the areas of your own resistance to the sanctifying work of suffering in your life. Consider your own impatience and unbelief that He will work out His purposes in and through you. Your ability to teach these truths with authority is dependent on the extent to which you believe and have incorporated them into your daily life.

¹ Arthur W. Pink, *Gleanings in Genesis*, © 1922, 1950 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, pp. 372-374.

² Martha McCallum, Jane Hamblin, *God's Incredible Plan*, p. 41.

LESSON PLAN

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| INCORPORATION 15-20 MIN | Activity Stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Craft – Gift Box Goal: What Joseph's brothers intended for evil, God meant for good for the nation of Israel and eventually for all mankind. Jesus, the Savior that God promised, descended from the family of Joseph. What man intended for evil in the crucifixion of Jesus, God meant for good for all mankind. The gift of salvation is the greatest gift we can give. Instructions: On a piece of construction paper create a small greeting card/message using your favorite verse about salvation, or pick one from the provided list, to remind themselves that salvation is a gift or to give to someone who doesn't know Jesus. Use provided stickers, stamps, markers, diamond cuts to decorate one side of the first four sections of the die-cut "candy" box. Spread glue on the 5th section, fold the box along the perforated lines and secure this section under the 1st section. Pull the ends together and tie one end with yarn. Put the small greeting card in the other end and tie that end with yarn. ● Research Instructions: Give each student a "History of Israel" reference sheet and a "History of Israel" worksheet. Follow the instructions on the worksheet. ● Missions Prayer Instructions: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign and adopted missionary child. |
| INTRODUCTION LG GROUP 2 MIN | Last week we learned about Joseph. His brothers were jealous of him so they sold him as a slave to some Egyptians. He was taken far away from his family. He was here (point to Egypt on the map). All the rest of his family was here in Canaan (point to Israel). Today Canaan is called Israel. So you see how very far Joseph was from his father and brothers. Joseph thought he would never see his family again. But God had a plan that neither Joseph nor his brothers knew. While Joseph was in Egypt, God made him very wise and powerful. God told Joseph how to prepare for the famine that came to Egypt and Canaan. Who knows what a famine is? The Puppet Team is ready to do a skit to tell us about God's plan for Joseph and his brothers. |
| TRANSITION – 2 MIN | We'll join the other classes to learn about the next years of Joseph's life. |
| LEARNING ACTIVITY #1 – LG GROUP 10 MIN | DRAMA - "A Reunion Remembered" presented by Puppet Team |
| TRANSITION – 2 MIN | Let's go back to our classrooms to read more about Joseph. |
| LESSON LG GROUP 5 MIN | Our key verse is, " You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20) . Why did Joseph say that? Joseph's brothers were jealous. They hated him because he was their father's favorite, so they sold him as a slave. But when Joseph met them again 20 years later he didn't punish them. Instead, he tested them to see if they were still filled with jealousy and hate. Benjamin was Jacob's next favorite son after Joseph. Joseph wondered if they would treat Benjamin the way they had treated him. Follow along as I read verses 1-4 in Genesis 45 . How did Joseph react when he saw that they'd changed? Why did Joseph forgive his brothers? Read Genesis 45:5-8; 50:20 . Our key verse is, " You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20) . What was that big picture? Who did the "History of Israel" worksheet when you came in? Read Genesis 46:1-4 to see that |

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| | <p>God had a bigger picture in mind. What did God tell Jacob when he started on his way to Egypt? This is the continuation of God's Incredible Plan.</p> <p>Who can tell me God's Incredible Plan? (God wants to have a relationship with every person. But we are separated from Him because of our sin. His plan was to work through the nation of Israel and through that nation to send His son, Jesus, to pay the penalty we owe for our sins so that we can have a relationship with Him.) We don't have a relationship with God until we admit we need forgiveness and ask that Jesus' death count for our sins. When Jesus was killed on the cross His followers thought it was the worst thing that ever happened. Indeed, it was the most evil thing ever done. Our key verse is, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20). But God meant even the most evil thing for good to save the lives of many people for eternity.</p> |
| TRANSITION – 2 MIN | Let's get into small groups and discuss what it looks like for us to respond like Joseph. |
| LEARNING ACTIVITY #2 - LG GROUP 10 MIN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What about you—what happens when someone is cruel or mistreats you? I know my first response is to want to get even. I want to make that person see how wrong they were and to make them pay. I sometimes get consumed in my thinking with what should happen to that person that I don't think about talking to God about it. But our key verse says, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives" (Genesis 50:20). <p>Joseph may have thought those things, but he chose to look to God and obey Him in all his bad circumstances. He decided to believe that somehow God would help him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can do that, too, but how? • Since God had a plan to send Joseph to Egypt, do you think it was okay that Joseph's brothers were mean to him? (No it wasn't okay! What they did was VERY wrong. The point is that God can even use the sin of others to accomplish His plan.) • When you have hard circumstances do you ever think about talking to God? If you do, what do you say to Him? Do you ask Him to take your bad circumstances away? Do you ever think that God could use those bad circumstances to impact others? • Is it wrong to ask God to take your bad circumstances away? (NO.) Does He always do that? (NO) What would have happened to the Israelites if God had taken Joseph's bad circumstances away? (He wouldn't have gone to Egypt, he wouldn't have learned in a deep way that God is trustworthy.) What happens to us is not always just about us, but God wants to use what happens to help other people. • Can you look back on any of your bad circumstances in the past and seen how God worked in them? Do your parents ever talk to you about how they see God working in bad circumstances? • Has anyone ever made a decision to forgive someone even though they didn't deserve your forgiveness? What happened? As we learn what the Bible says, we get to know God and decide to live the way God designed us. Instead of getting bitter, we can be excited about all that God is doing in our lives and in the lives of others. <p>Let's pray now and thank God for His Incredible Plan to save us from our sin.</p> |
| TRANSITION – 2 MIN | Now let's have a mock game show to see how much you learned today. |
| LEARNING ACTIVITY #3 – SM GROUP 10 MIN Rationale: to apply | DRAMA - Game Show Instructions: Divide the class into equal groups. Give each team a stick and several Bibles. Place the bucket across the room. A teacher will be the moderator and will ask a question. Each |

scripture to real life.

team will work together to figure out the answer. When a team has an answer, one member runs up, beats the bucket with the stick and gives the answer. If the answer is correct the team receives 20 points. If it is wrong they lose 10 points. The object is to be the quickest to come up with the correct answer. A teacher should keep a running total of each team's points on the white board. If the answer is wrong, continue on until another team has the right answer. Go through all of the questions. Total each team's score. The winners receive some Egyptian grain (popcorn) which they may share with the rest of the class if they like. Use the coffee filters to hold individual servings.

Moderator's Questions:

- Look in **Genesis 42:3,4,13** to find the names of Joseph's father and youngest brother. (Jacob, Benjamin)
- Name 2 things that happened because Joseph was sold as a slave. (Did not starve, became a nation)
- What is today's key verse and where is it? ("You meant to hurt me, but God turned your evil into good to save the lives of many people" (Genesis 50:20).)
- Name Joseph's grandfather and great grandfather. (Isaac and Abraham)
- Name Joseph's mother (Rachel)
- What country was Joseph taken to after he was sold? (Egypt)
- Who was jealous of Joseph? (his brothers)
- What person forgot about Joseph in **Gen. 40:9-14, 23**?

History of Israel
Answer Master

Instructions: Use the History of Israel reference sheet and a Bible to answer the following questions.

God sent Abraham from Ur to Canaan.

Abraham's family grew to 70 in number over four generations in Canaan.

God made a promise called the Abrahamic Covenant with Abraham in Genesis 12. What did God promise Abraham?

- **To give his descendants land**
- **To make his name great**
- **To make a nation of his descendants**
- **The entire world would be blessed through his descendants**

What are the names of the fathers of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th generation descendants of Abraham?

- **Isaac, Jacob, Joseph**

How many years were there between the birth of Abraham and the birth of Joseph?

- **251**

What is the same about Genesis 12:2,3; 46:3,4 and 50:24?

- **The Abrahamic Covenant**

What does this tell us about God's Incredible Plan?

- **God continued His plan to make a nation that would bless all the people of the world through the generations of Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.**

HISTORY OF ISRAEL³

**Abraham
2000 B.C.**

**Joseph
1914 B.C.**

**Moses
1500 B.C.**

**Exodus
1445 B.C.**

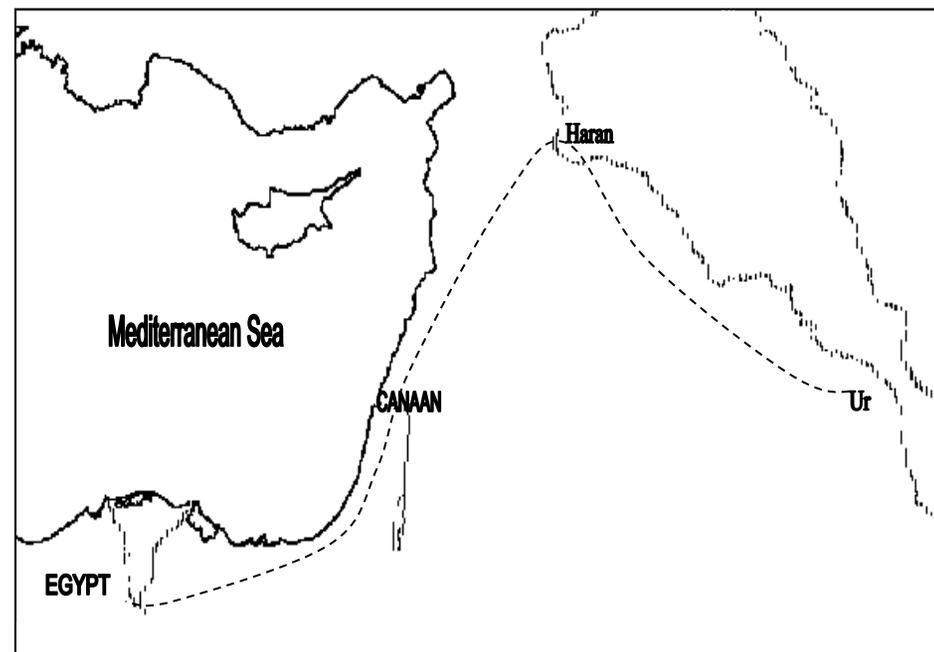
THE PATRIARCHS

BONDAGE IN EGYPT

(430 years until Exodus, Exodus 12:40; Galatians 3:17)

THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

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| Genesis 12:1-3 | God initiated His covenant with Abram when he was living in Ur of the chaldeans, promised a land, descendants, and blessing. |
| Genesis 12:4,5 | Abram went with his family to Haran, lived there for a time, and left at the age of 75. |
| Genesis 13:14-17 | After Lot separated from Abram, God again promised the land to Abram and his descendants. |
| Genesis 15:1-21 | This covenant was sealed when God passed between the sacrificial animals Abram laid before God. |
| Genesis 17:1-27 | When Abram was 99 God renewed His covenant. Name changed from Abram to Abraham ("a father of many nations"). Sign of the covenant=circumcision. |
| Genesis 22:15-18 | God confirmed the covenant because of Abraham's obedience. |
| This covenant was foundational to other covenants. | Land: Palestinian covenant (Deuteronomy 30) Seed: Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7) Blessing: "old" (Exodus 19) and "new" covenants (Jeremiah 31) |



Abraham traveled from Ur to Haran to CANAAN. In CANAAN Abraham's family grew to 70 in number over 4 generations. Joseph, Abraham's great grandson was sold into slavery in Egypt.

³ Adapted from HISTORY OF ISRAEL: THE PEOPLE, *Children's Ministry Resources Bible*, © 1993, Thomas Nelson, pp. 1120, 1121.

Salvation Bible Verses

Matthew 1:21

And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name.

John 5:24

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

John 6:29

Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

John 20:31

but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Acts 4:12

And there is salvation in no one else [Jesus]; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.

Romans 1:17

The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself--that it begins and ends with faith. As the Scripture says, "But those who are right with God will live by trusting in him."

Romans 3:23,24

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all need to be made right with God by his grace, which is a free gift. They need to be made free from sin through Jesus Christ.

Romans 3:26

And God gave Jesus to show today that he does what is right. God did this so he could judge rightly and so he could make right any person who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 4:5

But people cannot do any work that will make them right with God. So they must trust in him, who makes even evil people right in his sight. Then God accepts their faith, and that makes them right with him.

Romans 4:7-8

"Happy are they whose sins are forgiven, whose wrongs are pardoned. Happy is the person whom the Lord does not consider guilty."

Romans 5:18

So as one sin of Adam brought the punishment of death to all people, one good act that Christ did makes all people right with God. And that brings true life for all.

Romans 10:13

as the Scripture says, "Anyone who calls on the Lord will be saved."

Ephesians 2:8-9

I mean that you have been saved by grace through believing. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. It was not the result of your own efforts, so you cannot brag about it.

1 John 4:10

This is what real love is: It is not our love for God; it is God's love for us in sending his Son to be the way to take away our sins.

1 Timothy 2:5

There is one God and one way human beings can reach God. That way is through Christ Jesus, who is himself human.

1 John 5:11-12

This is what God told us: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life, but whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

"A Reunion Remembered"

Cast: **Joseph** wearing fancy cloak & Egyptian headdress
Benjamin with beard, robe
Makir (great nephew to Benjamin and Joseph)

Setting: Using a window scene as the backdrop, an elderly Joseph & Benjamin are reminiscing at Benjamin's house in Goshen

Script:

Makir: Hello, Uncle Benjamin! Hello, Uncle Joseph!

Joseph: Hello, Makir. It's good to see you!

Makir: I'm glad I caught you two together, would you tell me about how we got to Egypt? My dad just told me that he used to live in Canaan.

Joseph: Well, you see, I was Rachel's son and my father's favorite. My older brothers were jealous of me so they sold me to some slave traders who brought me here to Egypt. I became the head servant to Potiphar, but was put in prison when I was falsely accused of a crime! But the Lord God was with me through it all. He protected me, blessed me and even put me in charge in the prison. Then when God told me the meaning of Pharaoh's dream, I was made the Prime Minister of Egypt. God gave me the wisdom to store grain to save thousands of people from the 7-year famine. I didn't realize that some of those people saved would be my own family.

How shocked I was when Reuben and some brothers came to buy grain! I hadn't seen any of my family for 20 years. I recognized my brothers right away—but they didn't recognize me.

Benjamin: I'm sure looking like an Egyptian didn't help matters any, Joseph. By the way, I've never asked you this, but why didn't you tell them who you were right away? Or if you were angry, why didn't you toss them all in prison?

Joseph: *[shakes his head]* Benjamin, I wasn't sure what I should do! I pretended to suspect them of being spies so I could question them. I found out that you and father were alive and I wanted to see you both so much I thought my heart would burst! But how could I get you here? That's why I cooked up that plan with the money in the grain.

Benjamin *[chuckles]* I remember! They were all pretty scared. They wondered what was going on.

Joseph: I couldn't accept money from my own family! Besides, I had to figure out a way to get you all back here.

Benjamin: That must be why you set the trap for me! You see, Makir, when we were almost out of food again, Father wanted to send the others back to buy more grain. But they knew it wouldn't do them any good unless I came too. For a long time father refused to let us go. He finally agreed because we were all going to starve to death if we didn't get more food.

Joseph: I was so glad to see you. But I couldn't make myself known to you until after I had sprung my trap.
[lowers voice and moves toward Makir]
I ordered my servant to load the sacks with as much grain as they could carry, to return their silver and to place my silver cup in Benjamin's sack.

Benjamin: When Joseph's servant raced after us and accused us of stealing we all denied it, but when he searched our sacks there it was in my sack! All they could think of was how terribly sad father would be. So they came with me to see if they could convince Joseph to keep anyone but me.

Joseph: *[very happy]* They had changed! They wouldn't leave Benjamin. Judah even volunteered to take Benjamin's place so all of the others could go back to your great grandfather, Jacob. I sent all of my Egyptian friends and servants out of the room and told my brothers who I was.

Benjamin: We all cried like babies! Soon everyone in Egypt, even Pharaoh, knew we were Joseph's family. He told Joseph to send for the rest of our family and even gave us carts for Father and the little ones to ride in. Father was amazed! We all returned to Egypt where Joseph has watched over us all ever since.

Joseph: Yes the Lord God watched over all of our family. And as God told our great grandfather Abraham, our grandfather, Isaac, and our father, Jacob, He will make us a mighty nation here in Egypt. And when the time is right He will send us back to the land He promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And you or your children or children's children will be the ones He will lead back to the Promised Land. Remember that! Whew, all that talking makes me thirsty. Come on, let's find something to drink.

[Exit]