

Joseph: Reveals Identity and Reunites Family

Genesis 45:1-47:12

Read Genesis 45.

Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers, and Pharaoh gives instructions for moving his family to Egypt.

- What did Joseph say to his brothers about God?
- What might happen when people think they have no purpose?

Principle: God has a purpose for every life.

Read Genesis 46:1-30.

Jacob and his household went to Egypt.

- What four things did God promise to Jacob in Beersheba?
- What does Scripture reveal about God's guidance and people's plans?

Principle: God guides His children for His purposes.

Read Genesis 46:31-47:12.

Jacob and his family were allowed to settle in Goshen.

- In what ways was this Pharaoh a wise and gracious ruler?
- In what ways might God be preparing you for His future purposes?

Principle: God prepares His children for future purposes.

Review Genesis 45:1-47:12.

- What truths about God's character in this lesson are most meaningful to you?

Main truth: God's purposes are always fulfilled.

Scripture Memory Verse

“ ‘But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.’ ”
– Genesis 45:7

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Exploring the Christian Faith

An Attribute of God

from this week's passage

Grace

Grace is God's kindness to those who do not deserve it. God is slow to anger and longs to forgive people. God's grace in salvation reaches out powerfully to sinful people and makes them alive in Christ when they were dead in sin. God shows grace to all people. He gives life, families, sunshine, rain, music, talents etc., as good gifts even to people who do not love Him.

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A Basic Truth of the Christian Faith

What does justification mean?

Justification means **God declares a sinner righteous because of the perfect life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.**¹ It means that Jesus Christ paid the price for all the sins of His children, saved them from God's wrath and adopted them into His family.² Justification means believers are in Christ and declared righteous.³ Therefore, God will never condemn His children.⁴

Romans 5:1-2, 9¹; Ephesians 1:4-5²; 2 Corinthians 5:21³; Romans 8:1⁴

Think About It

How can Jesus pay the price for another person's sin?

Only Jesus, God's Son, could take the punishment for all the sin of all mankind. The eternal, all-powerful Son of God became a man, truly human. While on earth, Jesus obeyed God's law perfectly. He never sinned. On the cross, Jesus offered the perfect sacrifice for sin. He took the full punishment for the past, present and future sins of His children. Jesus totally satisfied God's justice on behalf of those who believe in Him.

If God does not condemn Christians for their sin, does their sin still have consequences?

All actions, good or bad, have consequences. Those who believe in Jesus continue to sin in this life. Because Jesus fully paid for all His children's sin, God promises they are no longer condemned. There will not be even one word of condemnation in heaven. When His children sin, the loving Heavenly Father graciously disciplines them for their good. Often, the consequences of sin are used by God to teach important lessons.

If Christians have Christ's righteousness, does that mean I am "just as if I have never sinned"?

Justification does not mean that I am "just as if I never sinned." God's children have something better than a blank, clean slate — they have been credited with Christ's perfect righteousness! God declares His children righteous when they trust Christ as Savior. This means they are welcomed into His presence just as He welcomes His sinless Son. Christians will struggle with their sin nature as long as they are in this life; however, their guilt is removed, and they are covered by the righteousness of Christ (Romans 4:7). When believers sin, they can run to God and know they will receive His love and forgiveness.

To learn more Basic Truths of the Christian Faith, visit mybsf.org.