**DIGGIN’ WITH DOTTIE AND THE MYSTERIOUS DREAMS**

Preschool

Week 4

**PARENT BIBLE STUDY**

**Read: Genesis 41:53-45:15**

Joseph’s brothers completely altered the course of his life. Their actions sent him far from home and into a life of slavery and prison. But when he sees them again after a couple decades, a lot has changed. Joseph isn’t the immature and annoying little brother anymore. Hunger and need have softened the hearts of his brothers. Time can change a lot of things, can’t it? Here’s what Joseph says to his brothers after he finally reveals his identity to them in chapter 45:

“I am the one you sold as a slave to Egypt. Now don’t be worried. Don’t be angry with yourselves for what you did. It was God’s plan for me to come here. I am here so many people’s lives could be saved.”

Joseph is not focused on his own troubled past. He is in a position of authority, now, and he can see God’s hand over the hard things in his life. This is not to say that Joseph wasn’t hurt by his brothers’ actions towards him. When they first came to Egypt, he spoke harshly to them and put them in prison. We can relate to his wrestling and internal struggle to forgive them for what they did.

But Joseph, in faith, chooses forgiveness. He acknowledges that God knew that all the harm that came to him would eventually save his own family and thousands of others from starvation. He can see the bigger picture about how God used the wrongs for good.

This is where Joseph’s story points us to Jesus. Jesus – another son (God’s only Son) came to earth and was accused of crimes he did not commit, just like Joseph. Jesus was sent to die so that all of us could be forgiven and reconnected into relationship with God. All the pain and suffering was worth it so that we could have a way back to God.

Joseph’s life of suffering ensured life for any who came to him for food. Jesus’ suffering in death ensures eternal life for any who come to him for truth.

**Would it be easier for you to deal with people who have wronged you in the past, maybe even altered the course of your life, if you knew that God would use it for good**? Romans 8:28 says that “all things work together for good for those who love God.” **Can you forgive easier knowing this?**

**How does accepting God’s forgiveness through Jesus help you forgive others?**

**How would believing that your pain and suffering have a bigger purpose help you get through it?**