

Welcome to the ninth week of  
**25 Weeks of Advent!**

*The stories of Advent all give us  
some insight as to the point and  
value of Jesus' life for us.*

Joseph, one of Jacob's twelve sons, was well-loved and favoured. You have probably heard of Joseph's coat of many colours? This was a gift from Jacob, to demonstrate his favour. Joseph was so painfully obviously the favourite son that it created a rift between him and his brothers - they hated him! In fact, they hated him so much, they sold him into slavery in Egypt.

Can you imagine your siblings selling you, to be a slave in a foreign land?

But, you know what?  
God worked even this, **for good.**

Joseph was a slave, a prisoner, framed, forgotten. But, as you'll read in his story, that wasn't the end! God used Joseph's lowly position, to put him in the right place at the right time, for God to use. "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done," Joseph tells his brothers (Gen. 50:20). He realised God at work throughout the worst of situations.  
*Can you?*

## Week 9: Surprise Gifts

**Read: Genesis 37—50.**

(Or, read Genesis 37, 41:14-57, 42:1-8, 45:1-15, 50:16-21, for the highlight reel. But fourteen chapters doesn't take as long as you think to read, and you'll probably enjoy it. It will give you the whole picture of the story, too.)

Joseph was sold out by his brothers, into slavery; that God would be able to protect his people during the famine through Joseph. Jesus would be sold out by his friends, and crucified; that God would be able to redeem and protect many through his death and resurrection.

*When have you experienced God bringing good from a bad situation?  
Has God been able to use you for a 'greater good' through a situation of  
lowliness you have been in?*

*Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* taught us: "From the ashes of disaster grow the roses of success!" Can you picture God is the gardener, growing roses of goodness from ashes of disaster? He is the God of the impossible; the God of the miraculous; the God who turns mourning to dancing; bringing good from all things.

*Teen Missions* teaches the story of Joseph in the Bible class, "God's Way Up Is Down." Jesus taught about the way to greatness—through servanthood! *Can you see how God worked this out in Joseph? Can you see God working this out in your life, too?*



### Readings for your Week

*Good is coming!*  
**Romans 8:18—30**

*You brought goodness "that my  
heart may sing your praises!"*  
**Psalms 30**

Remember to add this  
picture to your Jesse tree!

