

Joseph's Really Good Bad Story

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When Joseph was a boy, his father loved him dearly.

That's good!

His father gave him a beautiful coat, and his brothers were jealous of Joseph.

That's bad!

He had dreams from God that he would be a great leader someday.

That's good.

But he shared the dreams with his brothers who wanted to kill him.

That's bad.

Then his oldest brother talked them out of it.

That's good.

Instead, the brothers sold Joseph into slavery.

That's bad.

He eventually became a leader in the house of Potiphar, an important man.

That's good.

Then Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph, and he was thrown into jail for a terrible crime.

That's bad!

While in jail, he told two men what their troubling dreams meant, and one man said he would tell the king to let Joseph out of jail.

That's good!

But he forgot!

That's bad!

One day the king had some strange dreams of his own, and the man remembered to tell the king about Joseph.

That's good!

When Joseph explained the king's dreams, he told him they would have seven years of no food.

That's bad!

But first they would have seven years with lots of food and should prepare for the years of no food, so the king put Joseph in charge of the preparations.

That's good!

As time went on, Joseph's family was starving because of the years with no food.

That's bad!

Joseph saw his brothers, and he learned they were sorry for what they did to him.

That's good!

When he finally told them who he was, they were afraid he would kill them.

That's bad!

But he forgave his brothers. And they all came to Egypt to live together.

That's good!

Joseph told his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good..." (Genesis 50:20) Life is sometimes good and sometimes bad. How do we respond: Do we pray? Do we trust God? Do we praise? Do we have a good attitude? Joseph did, through good and bad.

*And we know that God causes everything to work together
for the good of those who love God
and are called according to his purpose for them.
(Romans 8:28, NLT)*