

# BUT GOD Meant it for Our Good

The story of Joseph - *Genesis 37-50*

*Genesis 50:20 (niv)* You intended to harm me, **BUT GOD intended it for good** to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Instead of revenge, Joseph offers forgiveness to his brothers and protection for their families.

**Big Idea: God can take what was meant for our harm and use it for His greater purpose.**

Our painful experiences can be used by God for our good.

When life seems unfair, God can turn injustice into a new purpose.

Joseph's suffering led to the **salvation for thousands** - his family and a nation during a famine.

**God's rescuing power is far reaching.**

*Romans 8:28 (niv)* “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”

This verse doesn't mean everything that happens is good - but that **God can bring good out of anything.**

When circumstances are painful or unjust, **God is still at work behind the scenes.**

*Acts 7:9-10a (niv) "Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. **BUT GOD** was with him <sup>10</sup> and rescued him from all his troubles...*

**Although suffering is not good, God can use it to accomplish good.**

God uses our pain to develop our character in becoming more like Jesus.

*Romans 5:3 (niv) "We also rejoice in our suffering because we know that suffering produces perseverance, perseverance character, and character hope."*

Our character is often refined and defined through hardship, and setbacks.

*Hebrews 5:8 (tev) Even though He was God's Son He learned to be obedient because of His sufferings.*

Jesus learnt to be obedient through His sufferings.

Difficulty, hardship, disappointment are necessary in the formation of our character.

**We decide whether to turn bitter or turn to God for His intervention.**

We get to choose – bitterness or **But God!**  
We choose to either run **to** God or **from** God!

Jesus said *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart (take courage)! I have overcome the world.”*  
**John 16:33 (niv)**

**Jesus is the answer to the question of enduring suffering.**

Corrie Ten Boom writes whilst in a Nazi concentration camp, *“No matter how deep our darkness, God is deeper still.”*

**Psalm 34:18 (niv)** *The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.*

Joseph said, *“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 (niv)***

**Joseph’s story reminds us that...**

- God can use what others meant for our harm ultimately for our good and for God’s purposes.
- When life feels unfair, God’s plan is still unfolding - not to destroy us, but to develop us.

Whatever you're facing today, remember, you may not see it yet, **BUT GOD** is working behind the scenes.

***Romans 8:28** (eeb) We know that God works to help those people **who love Him**. He uses everything that happens to them to bring something good. He does this for those people that He has **chosen to serve Him**.*