Children: Lessons from Joseph's Forgiveness and God's Plan



Explore God's purpose through Joseph's story of forgiveness, trust, and growth as a child of His promises over seven inspiring days.





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Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day Bible study exploring the theme of *Children* through the remarkable story of Joseph. As a child, Joseph faced betrayal and hardship but grew to embody forgiveness and trust in God's divine plan. His story serves as a powerful example of how God works through our challenges from childhood into adulthood.

Throughout this study, you will discover how God shapes the lives of children and guides them towards His greater purposes. We will reflect on themes of forgiveness, resilience, faith, and the fulfillment of God's promises as seen in Joseph's life.

As you journey through these seven days, let Joseph's experience inspire you or the children in your life to embrace God's plan with hope, courage, and love. Each day offers Scripture readings, a devotional reflection, and questions to deepen your understanding and spiritual growth. May this experience bring you closer to God's heart for children and His unwavering purpose for every life.









Day 1: Odo's Gift of Children









Day 1: O God's Gift of Children

Your Verse

Psalm 127:3 - "Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him."

Supporting Scriptures

- Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."
- Matthew 19:14 "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."







Day 1: O God's Gift of Children

Devotional: Embracing Children as God's Heritage

Children are a precious gift from God, a true heritage from the Lord. In Psalm 127:3, we are reminded of how valuable children are in God's eyes. Joseph's story begins as a beloved son, cherished by his father Jacob. Though circumstances around children can be challenging, often they are full of promise and purpose.

From the beginning, children are meant to be nurtured, guided, and protected within God's plan. Jesus himself welcomed children warmly, highlighting their importance in the kingdom of heaven. As we reflect on Joseph's early years, let us remember that every child is uniquely crafted by God and intended for a meaningful journey in His hands.

Think about the children in your life or your own journey as a child under God's care. Trusting Him as Joseph's family did sets the foundation for growth, resilience, and purpose.







Day 1: 🧑 God's Gift of Children

Reflect and Apply

1.	How do you see children as a gift from God in your life or community?
2.	What can we learn from Jesus' attitude towards children?
3.	In what ways can we support children in following God's path?







Day 1: 🧑 God's Gift of Children

Journaling Prompts

1.	Describe a childhood memory where you felt God's presence and care.
	Write a prayer asking God to help you nurture children with love and wisdom.
3.	Reflect on how you can encourage children around you to trust God.







Day 1: O God's Gift of Children

Prayer for Today

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the blessing of children, for the joy and hope they bring. Help us to see them as You do—precious and full of potential. May we nurture them with Your love and guide them in Your truth. Give us wisdom and patience to care for them well, and may every child grow to fulfill Your good purposes. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* \swarrow















Your Verse

Genesis 37:5-6 - "Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more."

Supporting Scriptures

- Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
- Psalm 33:11 "But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."







Devotional: Trusting God's Good Plans in Childhood

Joseph's story begins with a dream that set him apart and even caused friction with his brothers.

God's promises often come with challenges, especially when we are young and still growing in faith. Joseph's faith in God's plan helped him persevere through betrayal and hardship. Like Joseph, every child can learn to trust that God's designs are good, even when circumstances are confusing or difficult.

Remember that God's plans are perfect and will bring hope and a future, just as He declared through Jeremiah. Joseph's early dreams remind us that God sees far beyond our immediate trials and prepares us for His greater work.







Reflect and Apply

	How can children learn to trust God's promises even when they face rejection?
-	
2.\	What dreams or hopes has God placed in your heart?
-	
	How does Joseph's example encourage you to remain faithful in difficult imes?
-	







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write about a time when you had to trust God despite uncertainty.
2.	List dreams God has given you and ways to nurture them patiently.
3.	Describe how Joseph's story inspires you to persevere in faith.







Prayer for Today

Lord God, thank You for Your perfect plans for each of us. Help us, especially the children in our lives, to trust in Your promises even when things feel tough. Strengthen their faith and give them courage to hold onto the dreams You place in their hearts. May Your purposes be fulfilled through their lives. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*

















Day 3: V Betrayal and God's Sovereignty

Your Verse

Genesis 37:28 - "Then Midianite traders sold Joseph in Egypt to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh."

Supporting Scriptures

- Romans 8:28 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him..."
- Genesis 50:20 "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good..."







Day 3: V Betrayal and God's Sovereignty

Devotional: Finding Hope in Betrayal and Hardship

Joseph's childhood took a tragic turn when his brothers betrayed and sold him into slavery. This act of betrayal could have destroyed his spirit, yet through it, God's sovereignty was at work. Joseph's story teaches us that even in the worst circumstances, God can bring about good.

When children face betrayal, hardship, or rejection, it can be painful and confusing. Joseph's response shows us the power of trusting God's control over all situations. Romans reminds us that God works for the good of those who love Him.

Joseph later recognized that his suffering served a greater purpose in God's plan—saving many lives during famine (Genesis 50:20). This gives hope to every child and adult enduring trials: God is present and working behind the scenes for good.







Day 3: 🎔 Betrayal and God's Sovereignty

Reflect and Apply

1.	Have you experienced a time when someone betrayed or hurt you? How did it affect your faith?
2.	How does knowing God's sovereignty bring comfort in difficult childhood experiences?
3.	What can Joseph's attitude teach us about forgiveness and trust?







Day 3: 🎔 Betrayal and God's Sovereignty

Journaling Prompts

	Write about a challenging experience and how God might be using it for good.
	Reflect on how Joseph forgave his brothers and how you might do the same.
	Describe ways to encourage children going through tough times to trust God.







Day 3: Betrayal and God's Sovereignty

Prayer for Today

Heavenly Father, it's hard to understand pain and betrayal, especially for a child. Help us to trust that You are sovereign over every situation. Thank You for transforming evil into good through Joseph's life and Yours. Please comfort and strengthen those who feel hurt today, and teach us to forgive as You forgive. *In Jesus' healing name, Amen.*

















Your Verse

Genesis 50:19-21 - "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good..."

Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other..."
- Colossians 3:13 "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance..."







Devotional: The Power and Freedom of Forgiveness

One of the most inspiring parts of Joseph's story is his choice to forgive his brothers instead of holding onto bitterness. After years of trials, Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and reassured them with kindness and forgiveness. This demonstration of grace changed hearts and restored relationships.

Forgiveness is often especially challenging for children and those hurt deeply. Yet Joseph's example shows us that forgiveness releases the power of hatred and opens the door for healing.

God calls us to forgive as He forgives, extending kindness and compassion even when we have been wronged. This freedom lifts burdens and invites us to participate in God's restorative work. May Joseph's forgiveness inspire you to forgive as well.







Reflect and Apply

1.	Who do you need to forgive in your life or know forgiveness for?
2.	How can forgiveness bring healing to broken relationships, especially in families?
3.	What can Joseph's story teach children about mercy and grace?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Reflect on a time when you forgave someone and how it changed you.
2.	Write a letter of forgiveness to someone (even if not sent).
3.	Pray for the strength to forgive and for healing where needed.







Prayer for Today

Gracious God, thank You for the forgiveness You have shown us through Jesus. Help us to follow Joseph's example and forgive those who hurt us. Teach us to release anger and bitterness so healing can begin. May Your kindness and compassion flow through our hearts today and always. *In Jesus' forgiving name, Amen.* 💝 🏖 🚨

















Day 5: F Growing in God's Purpose

Your Verse

Philippians 1:6 - "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

Supporting Scriptures

- Isaiah 54:13 "All your children will be taught by the LORD, and great will be their peace."
- 2 Timothy 3:15 "From infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures..."







Day 5: F Growing in God's Purpose

Devotional: Trusting God's Work in Every Season

Joseph's journey teaches us that God prepares children through every season of growth. Though his path was difficult, God was steadily at work shaping Joseph's character and destiny. Similarly, God begins a good work in each child and promises to complete it.

Teaching and nurturing faith from a young age is vital as Scripture tells us. Isaiah reminds us that children taught by the Lord will experience great peace. This encourages parents, teachers, and mentors to invest in the spiritual growth of children.

Joseph's story motivates us to trust God with the growth process, even when the results are not immediately visible. God's timing and work are perfect, and He will carry us and our children through every step toward His purpose.







Day 5: 🍞 Growing in God's Purpose

Reflect and Apply

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Day 5: 🍞 Growing in God's Purpose

Journaling Prompts

Write about ways you have seen God work in your growth or a child's life.
List practical steps to nurture spiritual growth in children around you.
Reflect on how patience with growth reflects faith in God's timing.







Day 5: 🍞 Growing in God's Purpose

Prayer for Today

Father God, thank You for beginning a good work in us and in all children. Help us to be patient and faithful as You nurture and shape our lives. Teach us to trust Your timing and to participate in Your growth process with hope. May Your peace fill children being raised in Your truth. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* Your Power of the children being raised in Your truth. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* Your Power of the children being raised in Your truth. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* Your Power of the children being raised in Your truth.









Day 6: Other Living Out God's Plan









Day 6: O Living Out God's Plan

Your Verse

Genesis 45:7 - "God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant..."

Supporting Scriptures

- Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works..."
- Jeremiah 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you..."







Day 6: O Living Out God's Plan

Devotional: Embracing God's Purpose in Every Step

Joseph finally understood that his trials and triumphs fit perfectly into God's plan to save many lives. This powerful realization shows us that God's purpose carries far beyond our individual pain or struggle.

Each child is uniquely created by God, called to fulfill good works planned long ago. Jeremiah tells us God knows us even before birth. Joseph's life validates that God prepares each step and encounter for a divine purpose.

Living out God's plan requires faith and obedience, just as Joseph modeled. As children grow, they can be encouraged to discover and step into the plans God has prepared for them, confident that He equips and guides every part of the journey.







Day 6: Ott God's Plan

Reflect and Apply

1.	How does knowing God made you for a purpose affect your daily life?
	In what ways can children be reminded that their life has meaning in God's plan?
3.	How can Joseph's example inspire courage to live for God's calling?







Day 6: Ott God's Plan

Journaling Prompts

Describe what you believe is God's purpose for your life or a child's life.
Write about a step you can take to live more fully in God's plan today.
Reflect on how faith in God's purpose sustains you in difficulties.







Day 6: O Living Out God's Plan

Prayer for Today

Lord, thank You for knowing us intimately and calling us to unique purposes. Help us, and the children You entrust to us, to embrace the plans You have for our lives. Give us courage and clarity to follow Your leading. May we live with purpose, shining Your light in the world. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*















Your Verse

Psalm 100:4 - "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

Supporting Scriptures

- Colossians 3:17 "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."







Devotional: Living with Gratitude and Faithful Commitment

As we conclude this study on Joseph's story and God's plan for children, we are called to live with thankful hearts and committed faith. Gratitude opens our eyes to God's blessings and strengthens our resolve to follow Him.

Joseph's journey invites us to celebrate God's faithfulness through every step—from childhood dreams to adult fulfillment. Psalm 100 encourages us to enter God's presence with thanksgiving, recognizing His goodness in all things.

Let us commit to trusting God's plan continually, nurturing children, forgiving as Joseph did, and living with purpose and joy. Our thanksgiving becomes a testimony to God's unending love and perfect purpose.







Reflect and Apply

1.	What are you most thankful for in God's plan for your life?
2.	How can you encourage children to cultivate a heart of gratitude?
3.	What commitments will you make today to trust God more fully?







Journaling Prompts

1.	Write a prayer of thanksgiving for God's work in your life.
2.	List ways you can demonstrate faithfulness in daily living.
3.	Reflect on how Joseph's story strengthens your trust in God.







Prayer for Today

Gracious Father, we thank You for Your faithfulness and goodness throughout every season of life. Help us to live with hearts full of gratitude and commitment to Your plan. May we journey with joy and confidence, reflecting Your love to children and all around us. We commit ourselves to follow You fully. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* \bigwedge







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