

# Is God in Control?

## **READ: Genesis 50:15-21**

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. <sup>18</sup> Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said. <sup>19</sup> But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. <sup>21</sup> No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

## **REFLECT:**

**Do you think Joseph thought God was in control while he was in Egypt? How do you know? (v. 20)**

**How do you think Joseph would have acted in Egypt if he didn't believe God was in control?**

Joseph was sold by his brothers, lived as a slave and then a prisoner for years in Egypt. Joseph could have been tempted to become bitter and not believe that God was in control or had a purpose for him. When his brothers came for grain he could have taken revenge upon them for how badly they treated him. Instead, Joseph forgave them because he believed God was in control of the events in his life. He trusted that the God over all the earth would do right, even though He wouldn't see the full picture of what God was doing until many years later.

Do you believe God is in control? If you believe He is in control, are you following His plan for you? Even when you don't know what is going on in your life and our world, God does. He is the one who made the earth, keeps all things going and is in control of everything. You can trust in His plan just as Joseph did and know follow His plan.

**RESPOND: When have you struggled with trusting that God is in control?**

**Talk to God about it today. He is always in control, even when we don't know what He is doing. Ask God to help you be thankful during the times that are hard and to trust in His plan.**

Thank God for \_\_\_\_\_

Pray for \_\_\_\_\_