

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. Genesis 45:4-8 (NIV)

Never Alone

My life has been filled with twists and turns and ups and downs. It has felt like I have been on a roller coaster of discouragement, set-backs and disappointment. I have gone through so many difficult and trying circumstances. I have experienced heartbreak, rejection and loss. I have entered some deep and dark valleys surrounded by trouble of various kinds on every side. I have felt lost and alone. Looking back over my life I have a few things that I would like to say about all this hardship. **What's that?** First, I'm sure that I am being a little melodramatic. **How so?** I'm not positive that I have suffered any more hardship than the next person. I'm sure that others have lived a much more difficult life than mine. There is no doubt that you experienced far more pain, suffering and rejection in your life than I have or will ever experience. **That's true.** There is one thing that I now know without a doubt. **What's that?** I have never really been alone. You have been with me. You have carried me through every difficulty in life. You have lifted me up. You have comforted and encouraged me. You have sustained and strengthened me. I have found the promise that you are near to the brokenhearted to be most certainly true. You have been with me in every deep and dark valley. **That's true.** I have also learned another very important lesson. **What's that?** You have been able to use even the darkest days and most difficult moments of my life. Nothing has gone to waste. Where I have gone, what I have done, and what I have experienced has been redeemed in one way or another for your use. You have taught me. You have trained me. You have prepared me. You have placed and positioned me for your use. Now, you can use me to accomplish your purposes and fulfill your plans. **Yes, I have you right where I want you. Now, I will use you to bear fruit for my kingdom and bring glory to my name. Will you keep on loving, following and serving me?** Yes Lord, I will. **That is very good.**

Lord, I have been frustrated, and angry. I have faced discouragement and doubt. I have felt lost and all alone. I have wondered if I would ever be able to accomplish your purposes. I was wrong. You have had a plan. Thank you, that you are using me after all. Amen

Mixed Emotions

God Sent Me

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

NIV

Genesis 45:4-8

Mixed Emotions

God Who Sent Me

"Please, come closer," he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

NLT

Genesis 45:4-8

Mixed Emotions

God Sent Me

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

NRSV

Genesis 45:4-8

Mixed Emotions

God Sent Me

And Joseph said to his brothers, Come near to me, I pray you. And they did so. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt! But now, do not be distressed *and* disheartened or vexed *and* angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me ahead of you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years more in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a posterity *and* to continue a remnant on the earth, to save your lives by a great escape *and* save for you many survivors. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

AMP

Genesis 45:4-8

Mixed Emotions

God Sent Me

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come closer to me." And they came closer. And he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. "Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. "For the famine *has been* in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. "God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant in the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. "Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

NASB

Genesis 45:4-8

Mixed Emotions

God Sent Me

So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

ESV

Genesis 45:4-8

Mixed Emotions

God Sent Me

And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I *am* Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine *has been* in the land, and *there are* still five years in which *there will be* neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now *it was* not you *who* sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

NKJV

Genesis 45:4-8

Mixed Emotions

God Was Behind It

"Come closer to me," Joseph said to his brothers. They came closer. "I am Joseph your brother whom you sold into Egypt. But don't feel badly, don't blame yourselves for selling me. God was behind it. God sent me here ahead of you to save lives. There has been a famine in the land now for two years; the famine will continue for five more years—neither plowing nor harvesting. God sent me on ahead to pave the way and make sure there was a remnant in the land, to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance. So you see, it wasn't you who sent me here but God. He set me in place as a father to Pharaoh, put me in charge of his personal affairs, and made me ruler of all Egypt.

MSG

Genesis 45:4-8

Mixed Emotions

He Sent Me

"Come over here," he said. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother whom you sold into Egypt! But don't be angry with yourselves that you did this to me, for God did it! He sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. These two years of famine will grow to seven, during which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God has sent me here to keep you and your families alive, so that you will become a great nation. Yes, it was God who sent me here, not you! And he has made me a counselor to Pharaoh, and manager of this entire nation, ruler of all the land of Egypt.

TLB

Genesis 45:4-8

Mixed Emotions

God Sent Me

So Joseph said to them, "Come close to me." When the brothers came close to him, he said to them, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold as a slave to go to Egypt. Now don't be worried or angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you to save people's lives. No food has grown on the land for two years now, and there will be five more years without planting or harvest. So God sent me here ahead of you to make sure you have some descendants left on earth and to keep you alive in an amazing way. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. God has made me the highest officer of the king of Egypt. I am in charge of his palace, and I am the master of all the land of Egypt.

NCV

Genesis 45:4-8

God Sent Me

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Mixed Emotions – Genesis 45:4-8

In Context: Read Genesis 45

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

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Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Then Joseph | said to | his brothers, | "Come close | to me." | When they | had done so, | he said, | "I am | your brother | Joseph, | the one | you sold | into Egypt! | And now, | do not | be distressed | and | do not | be angry | with yourselves | for selling me here, | because | it was | to save | lives | that God | sent me | ahead of you. | For | two years now | there | has been | famine | in | the land, | and for | the next | five years | there | will not | be plowing | and reaping. | But God | sent me | ahead | of you | to preserve | for you | a remnant | on earth | and | to save | your lives | by a | great deliverance. | "So then, | it was | not you | who sent me here, | but God. | He | made me | father to Pharaoh, | lord of | his entire household | and | ruler of | all Egypt. Genesis 45:4-8 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, I have been frustrated, and angry. I have faced discouragement and doubt. I have felt lost and all alone. I have wondered if I would ever be able to accomplish your purposes. I was wrong. You have had a plan. Thank you, that you are using me after all. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When have you faced disappoints, discouragement and doubts have you have followed and served the Lord?
When have you been confused and frustrated and angry about the twists and turns and ups and downs of your life?
When have you wondered if God could possibly have a purpose and plan for your life?
When have you felt like you were all alone as you went through difficult struggles in life?

How has God's plan for your life unfolded as you have loved, followed and served Him?

How has God placed you in a unique position to accomplish His purposes and fulfill His plans?

How have you been able to understand God's plan for your life as you have looked back over your life?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Be faithful in doing what God has placed before you as His purpose and plan for your life unfolds.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that God has a purpose and plan for your life that will unfold even if you do not understand it now.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how you have come to understand God's purpose and plan for your life.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you faithfully do the work God has placed before you as His plan for your life unfolds.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, I will faithfully do the work you have placed before me as your plan for my life unfolds.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, what can you show me about your purposes and plans for my life as I faithfully serve you?
