How did Joseph respond to hard times?

GENESIS 50:19-20

But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

Imagine being hated by your family. Imagine being sold as a slave. Imagine being put into prison for something you didn't do. Those hard things happened to Joseph in the Bible.

How did he respond? Did he get angry with God? Did he want to get even with his brothers? No! Even though it was hard, Joseph trusted and obeyed God. He worked hard and did the best that he could. After much suffering, Joseph became an important man in Egypt.

One day his brothers came to buy grain. They didn't recognize Joseph, but he recognized them. Joseph had the power to punish them. However, instead of punishing them, Joseph forgave his brothers! He said, "you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good" (Genesis 50:20). Joseph took care of his family the rest of his life.

Joseph saw that everything that had happened was part of God's plan. God had cared for him and worked out His purpose. Although people may have evil plans, God's good plans can never be ruined. Joseph responded to his hard times with forgiveness and trust in God's providence. How do you respond to your hard times?

THINK ABOUT IT!
What hard thing in your life do you need to trust God with?

TALK TO GOD

Thank God for taking the bad things in your life and turning them into good. Ask Him to help you forgive others.