

What's Your Problem?

God's Word tells us, "Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator" (1 Peter 4:19). It tells us that even though Christians may go through times of "suffering," we know that we can trust God to make everything turn out alright. Joseph was a man who proved that God is the answer to every problem. Follow through the paths of the maze below which tells about Joseph's life, and show how a ,seemingly, bad thing worked out to be good for everyone.

BEGIN

Joseph's brothers sold him to a group of merchants who

sold him as a slave in Europe.

Joseph escaped from the prison.

Joseph explained Pharaoh's dreams.

A famine was coming to Egypt!

Joseph told his brothers they could not have any food.

Joseph forgave his brothers.

Jacob (Joseph's father) moved to Egypt with all his children.

sold him as a slave in Egypt.

Joseph was later put into prison.

Pharaoh heard about Joseph.

Joseph told Pharaoh to store up plenty of food.

Joseph's brothers came to Egypt for food.

Joseph told his brothers to bring Benjamin to Egypt.

Joseph's brothers did not bring Benjamin back to Egypt.

BEGIN

Use the empty maze of boxes below to make up a good/bad situation that might happen in today's world.

Have We Got a Problem?

Do you have problems in your life? How do they make you feel? Read through each of the statements below? If you agree with a statement, write the word "True" on the line next to it. If you don't agree with it, write the word "False" on the line.

1. _____ My mom can always solve my problems.
2. _____ Jesus cares if I feel sad when I have a problem.
3. _____ Problems only come when I do something bad.
4. _____ There is nothing I can do about my problems.
5. _____ God cares about me even when I have a problem.
6. _____ If I love Jesus I won't have any problems.
7. _____ There is nobody I can talk to anyone about my problems.
8. _____ It is normal for problems come into everyone's life.
9. _____ If I ignore my problems they will all go away.
10. _____ I can always tell Jesus about my problems.

Who is your greatest problem solver? His name can be found in these scrambled letters.

SUEJS _____



List some common problems for Christians your age:

Have you ever heard the phrase “They have the patience of Job”? God allowed Job to experience some desperate times even though he was a faithful man. Read Job 23:10 and describe what Job saw beyond his problems.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9. Give an example of how a trial in your life or someone else’s where weakness became strength.

What reason is given for suffering in Psalm 119:67? _____

How is God’s work helped when Christian’s suffer? _____

“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed...2 Corinthians 4:8,9”.

Personal Problems

For Fourth and Fifth grades, use a Flannelgraph *but have the students* tell the story!

-OR-

After relating the story of Joseph, have students draw a Storyboard or create a Mural for the classroom wall. Assign each student a portion of the story to draw, and encourage stick-figures to save class time.

End the class session with a personal story how the Lord helped you overcome in a personal problem, especially when you were a child. Encourage each student to pray and ask the Lord to help them when faced with problems at home or at school.

Personal Problems

Christians will face tests and difficulties in life, but God helps those who trust Him. God has the solution to every situation – big or small.

Our attitude has a lot to do with how we handle problems. Look up the verses below and write what attitude we should show *toward others* which will help reduce or avoid problems.

Romans 12:10

Romans 12:14

Galatians 5:14

Colossians 3:13

Read Genesis 37:3 - 36. What major problems did Joseph have in his life?

Joseph faced many difficulties and problems in his young life, after these. He was jailed for something he didn't do, and forgotten by his friends. But God had a plan! He made Joseph the second-highest ruler in the kingdom and saved the land (and Joseph's own people) from starvation.

Joseph didn't understand why God was allowing these things to happen to him until the very end. When you are a Christian will you still face problems and difficulties in your life? _____ Can you know that God has a plan for your life?

The Bible says that "those who suffer *according to the will of God*" should trust Him in their trials. Troubles and problems may come when someone is outside of God's will. How can you know the difference? (Read I John 3:20 - 21)

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Problems!



What kind of problems did these people have?

Paul (Corinthians 11:21-27) _____

Daniel (Daniel 6) _____

Peter (Acts 12:1-5) _____

Jacob (Genesis 29:14-25) _____

Stephen (Acts 7:59) _____

John the Baptist (Mark 6:17-29) _____

David (2 Samuel 15:1-13) _____

Job (Job 1:6-2:8) _____

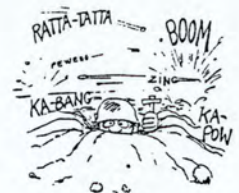
Mary (John 11:1-44) _____

God allows problems in our lives to accomplish certain purposes. When we handle our problems correctly, what positive results can come about to:

benefit us? _____

benefit others? _____

benefit God? _____



With God all things are *possible*, not necessarily easy. Even though problems are not enjoyable we can appreciate that God is working in our lives and there is a certain amount of excitement when you see things begin to come together.



What does 2 Timothy 1:12 have to say about trusting in God's plan?

