

Civics: A Christian Worldview. Turning Evil into Good (10-15 minutes)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS/KEY

Instructions

1. **Objective:** Students see examples of how God turns the evil acts of mankind into good results.
2. Put students into pairs/groups (probably 3 per group at the most, so each has a chance to contribute).
3. Print copies of Page 2 for each student, and hand out.
4. Tell students (give them 5 minutes!) to read the handout and fill in the blanks, then discuss it with their table/group/partner. Then discuss as a class.

Answer Key

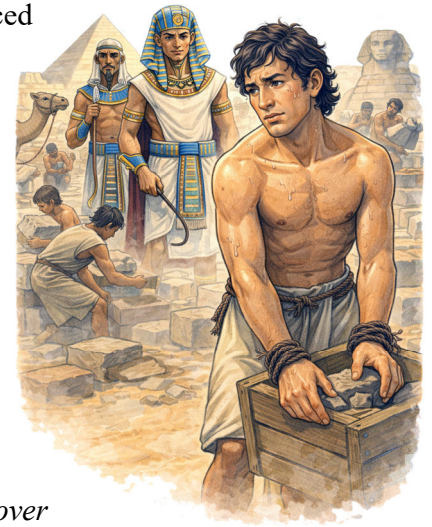
1. By becoming a slave in Egypt, Joseph was able to be put before the Pharaoh, saving many people's lives by interpreting the Pharaoh's dreams about a future famine and preparing for it.
2. Because Saul persecuted the church, they scattered abroad, spreading the gospel even more than before.
3. Through His death, Jesus paid for the world's sins. The Bible says, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

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We saw previously how the Bible says this: “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn” (Proverbs 29:2). We also read the Apostle Paul’s words, praising God for his persecution: “...[T]he things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; so that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; and many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear” (Philippians 1:12-14).

Explain briefly how God turned evil into good in these three instances:

1. Joseph’s brothers discussed killing him, and when his brother Reuben convinced them to sell him into slavery instead (intending to go back and rescue him), Joseph became a slave in Egypt for 20 years. How did God turn Joseph’s slavery into good?



2. Saul persecuted the early Christian church; the Bible puts it this way in Acts 8:1-4:

And Saul was consenting unto his [Stephen’s] death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.

As for Saul, he made havock of [devastated] the church, entering into every house, and haling [dragging off] men and women committed them to prison.

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

How did God turn Saul’s persecution of the Christian church into good?

3. The greatest injustice to ever come to anyone was the unjust crucifixion of Jesus Christ, who did no sin, and of whom Pilate said, “I find no fault in this man.” How did the death of Jesus benefit the world?
