

## Keeping Your Spiritual Perspective

**Quiet Time Study Outline 5:**  
**When the only light at the end of the tunnel is a train coming to get you (Genesis 41:53–42:28)**

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The story of God's provision through Joseph is one of the most fascinating in scripture. Imagine Joseph's despair, confusion and fear when, as a teenager, he was sold by his brothers and ended up as a slave in a country whose customs and language were foreign to him. Not only that, but he was imprisoned – apparently indefinitely – for something he didn't do.

Yet, about 20–25 years after his brothers sold him to the travelling Ishmaelites, Joseph was responsible for preserving his family's life during the famine and so protecting the lineage of the Messiah. As Joseph looked back over his life, he commented to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives".

**ACTION POINT** List any situations in your financial support team development that are confusing you, causing you fear or tempting you to despair. Thank God that even if you don't understand what's happening, he does and he will work it out for good. Then do as Joseph did: continue to honour God and trust him not only to provide for you, but through you to provide for the needs of others.