

## 万事互相效力

我们晓得万事互相效力，叫爱神的人得益处，也叫那些按他旨意蒙召的人得益处。——罗马书 8:28

嗨，孩子们！今天，我们来聊聊电影吧！你喜欢看哪种类型的电影？是有关可爱动物的，还是充满神奇冒险故事的？我呢，我喜欢看有大团圆结局的，比如那些好人总能获胜的电影。但如果你看过很多电影的话，你就会知道，故事情节并不总是按照你所期望的方向发展。有时候，好人会陷入困境，你会想知道他们是否会成功；有时候，即使电影中的主人公开局很好，但突然无缘无故地剧情发生巨变——英雄被俘，在你还没弄清楚发生了什么事之前，它就“结束”了！“什么？”你会大声尖叫，为主人公鸣不平，“这故事不应该是这样的结局！”值得庆幸的是，我们知道这只是一部电影，很快就把它抛在脑后了。



但如果这不是电影呢？如果在我们的生活中，有意想不到的情节辗转发生在我们身上时怎么办？当不好的事或者事情没有按照我们期望的方式发展时，这是否意味着我们的人生会得不到我们想要的大团圆结局呢？答案绝对是：不！绝不会是这样！因为，好消息是我们是上帝的子民，所以无论在现实生活中发生了什么，我们都可以确定：一切最终都会转化成为美好的结局。我们为什么可以这么确定？因为是圣经告诉我们的！

今天圣经故事讲述的这个人，他的人生充满着大起大落，以至于我们几乎无法猜测他的最终结局会是怎样。这个人就是约瑟。相信你已经听过一些约瑟的故事了。约瑟的父亲雅各非常爱他。在约瑟还是孩子的时候，给他作了一件非常漂亮的彩衣；上帝也在那时候给了约瑟大大的梦想，让他看到他将会拥有一个美好的未来！在一个梦中，约瑟梦见他和他的兄弟们正在田间捆小麦，他所捆的小麦笔直挺立着，而他兄弟们所捆的小麦在弯着腰围着他的小麦鞠躬。在另一个梦中，约瑟看到太阳、月亮和十一颗星星都向他下拜。哇，很明显，约瑟将会成为他兄弟们的领袖！



但后来事情出现了状况。约瑟的哥哥们太嫉妒他了，他们竟然把他卖给了一些奴隶贩子。这些奴隶贩子把他带到了埃及。就这样，“最得宠儿子”约瑟变成了“奴隶”约瑟。这也太糟了，事情看起来大为不妙！虽然约瑟已经身为奴隶，看起来已经毫无出路了，但在创世记 39 章 2 节的经文告诉我们：“**约瑟住在他埃及主人的家中，耶和华与他同在，他就百事顺利。**”原来天父上帝在幕后动工，为他的成功铺平道路！

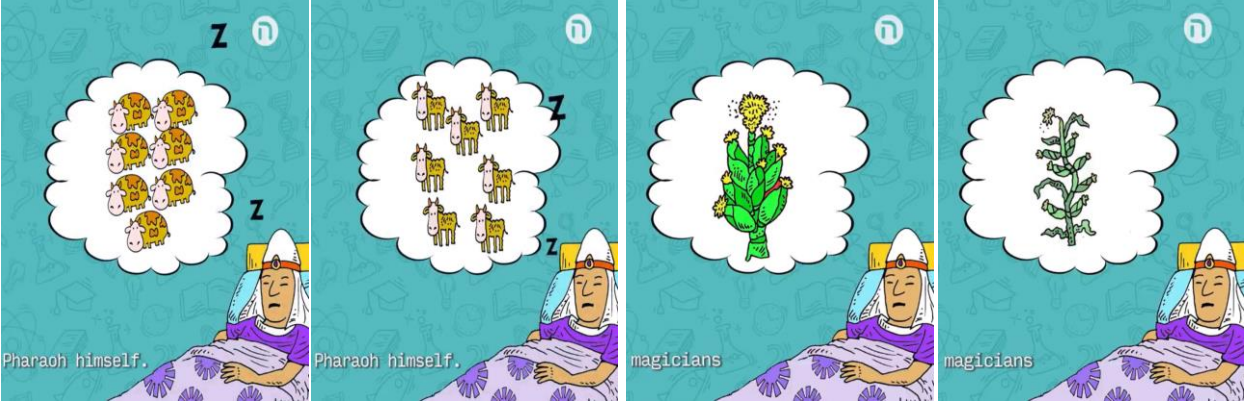


那么，约瑟就自此一帆风顺了吗？并没有。相反，更糟的波折临到了他身上。约瑟受到冤屈，被不公平地关进了监牢里，“奴隶”约瑟成了“囚犯”约瑟！到这里，约瑟的人生跌到了低谷，看起来他的人生已经没戏了。但在创世记 39 章 21 节告诉我们：“**但耶和华与约瑟同在，向他施怜悯，使他在司狱长面前蒙恩。**”原来天父上帝再一次在背后运作，使得凡约瑟他手里所做的都顺利亨通！



真是难以想象，约瑟即使在监狱里也是这么成功！但，这就是约瑟所期望的光明前途吗？我们这是在糊弄小朋友吗？上帝在梦中给他的伟大应许在哪里？到此，你们有疑惑是合理的。好吧，让我们来到故事的高潮部分，这也是最令人兴奋的部分。孩子们，接下来的情节发生了剧变，这会令你大吃一惊！

原来上帝安排约瑟入狱是有原因的。因为刚好在那个时候，法老的总管家也被下到监狱里，和他关在同一个地方。一天夜里，这位管家做了一个奇怪的梦，使得他很愁闷。当他告诉约瑟时，约瑟向他解释了这个梦的含义。但这对约瑟的前途有什么帮助呢？让我们快进到两年之后的事。这时也有一个人做了一个梦，这次做梦的人就是法老本人。事实上，法老做了两个梦，他召集他的所有术士和智者来帮他解梦，但没有人能解。这时，法老的总管家进来，他想起了约瑟，并把他在狱中约瑟为他解梦的事告诉了法老。接下来，你知道的，约瑟被带出监狱，听法老讲述他的梦。约瑟对法老说：“法老的梦乃是一个，上帝已将所要做的事指示法老了。七年的饥荒即将来临，没有食物可吃。但在此之前，还有七年的大丰收。所以法老当拣选一个有聪明有智慧的人，派他管理埃及地。”



现在，想象一下当时的场面：所有的目光都聚焦在法老身上，等候他的指令。想必法老沉默了一会，然后定睛在约瑟身上，说：“看哪，我派你管理埃及全地。”此刻，所有法老宫廷中的埃及人口瞪目呆、大跌眼镜。“什么？！约瑟？让一个希伯来囚犯来统治整个埃及地？”当大家还在一肚子狐疑的时候，只见法老已摘下他的印章戒指，戴在约瑟的手中，并给他穿上华丽的细麻衣，还把金链戴在他的颈项上。



哇，太难以想象了，一天前还呆在监牢的“囚犯”约瑟，摇身一变，成了戴上皇家印章戒指的“宰相”约瑟，且在场观看的每个人都向他鞠躬！这才是我们所期待的约瑟的光明未来！而这一切都是出于我们良善而奇妙的上帝，祂在运筹帷幄，调动万事万物都是为了使约瑟能最终得益处，这才给约瑟的人生带来圆满的结局！由于上帝赋予了约瑟权力和地位，使得约瑟能够将埃及从可怕的饥荒中拯救出来。上帝也恩待约瑟，使他从饥荒中拯救了他的父亲和他的兄弟们，并将他的全家带到他身边。对于这样一个充满曲折、跌宕起伏的真实故事来说，这是一个多么伟大而激动人心的美好结局啊！



约瑟的生平应验了罗马书 8 章 28 节的经文：“**我们晓得万事互相效力，叫爱神的人得益处，也叫那些按他旨意蒙召的人得益处。**”因为我们属于一位良善而信实的天父上帝，所以我们可以肯定，当祂说万事互相效力时，祂是真的参与了我们生命中的大事小事所有事！

接下来，我们来分享一个见证。一位我们教会主日学的男孩，他从他的医生那里听到了坏消息。他被告知他患有的一种叫做“学习障碍”的疾病，这意味着他学习有困难。他每次的考试分数都很低，大家都担心他小学毕业会考得不好，但他的妈妈一直告诉他：“上帝会为你安排好一切的！”

当毕业考结果出来的时候，他居然通过了数学考试！但他的总成绩仍然不够好，无法进入他第一志愿或第二志愿的学校。起初他很震惊，但很快他提醒自己：**天父上帝会使万事互相效力使我得益处的。**于是，他拒绝与朋友比较，选择不悲伤也不气馁。当他去到新学校时，天父上帝给了他和蔼的老师和友善的朋友。很快，在新的学校里，他被选为学生领导，且代表他的学校参加机器人竞赛。他还参加了一个非常棒的学校项目，该项目是教导学生如何在建筑业中创业并取得成功。上学对于他来说成了一件很有趣的事，他成为了一名成功的学生。

尽管这间学校只是他当初的第三志愿，并不是他当初心目中向往的学校，他并没有因此感到挫败，反而是感受到天父上帝如何调动一切最适合他的事物来促成他学业上的成功！



孩子们，我们今天学到了什么？我们了解到，真正的好故事总有意想不到的情节波动，跌宕起伏，常让人屏息以待，想知道接下来会发生什么。好消息是，我们不必对自己的人生故事感到疑惑，因为罗马书 8 章 28 节的经文，让我们可以窥探到正向我们迎面走来的幸福人生。请把你的圣经翻到 8 章 28 节，你可以把这节经文标记出来，是这样说的：“**我们晓得万事互相效力，叫爱神的人得益处，也叫那些按他旨意蒙召的人得益处。**”因此，即使有时候事情并没有按照我们预期的方向发生，即使有时候我们甚至感觉到事情好像已经朝着错误的方向发展了，就像“最得宠儿子”约瑟成为“奴隶”约瑟，接着又跌到“囚犯”约瑟一样，我们所要做的就是坚持住，不要放弃，继续信靠我们的天父上帝，仰赖祂的良善，并坚信这一定不是最终结局，因为天父已在背后运筹帷幄，使得“**万事互相效力**”，为我们扭转一切不利的局面，就像“囚犯”约瑟一下子成了“宰相”约瑟一样！



孩子们，如果有一天，你发现自己陷入了困境，令你开始怀疑这是否就是“结局”了，这时请记住你今天听到的好消息：**天父已使万事互相效力叫我们得益处！**这绝不会是你的最终结局，而且你可以确定你的人生故事会非常精彩。我们怎么知道的呢？是罗马书 8 章 28 节告诉我们的。赞美耶稣！

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孩子们，如果你正在听这个故事，你从来没有邀请耶稣进入你的生命，成为你的主和救主，你现在可以这样做，跟着我重复这个祷告：“亲爱的主耶稣，感谢你为我死在十字架上。你是神的儿子，你死了，也被埋葬，第三天又复活了。你宝血洗去了我所有的罪，使我得以永远与阿爸天父在一起。我请求你现在进入我的生命里，成为我的主和救主，我永远是个义人，永远是有福的，永远是神的孩子。奉耶稣的名，阿门！”

## **ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER**

**And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. –Romans 8:28, NKJV**

Hey, Rock Kidz! Let's talk about movies! What kind of movies do you like? The kind with cute animals? Or the kind with mystery and adventure? Me? I like movies with happy endings, like those where the good guy always wins. Or the time, where the boy meets the girl, and they fall in love. But if you've watched enough movies, you know that the story doesn't always go the way you expect. Sometimes things get rough for the good guys and you wonder if they are going to make it. And sometimes, even though the hero in the movies starts out well, suddenly for no reason, the plot changes! The hero is captured! And before you can figure out what happened, it's "The End"! What? That's not how the story is supposed to end. Thankfully, we know that it's just a movie and we get over it pretty quickly.

But what if it's not a movie? What if the unexpected plot twist happens to us in real life? When bad things happen in real life or when things don't go the way we want them to, does this mean that our story won't get the happy ending that we want? The answer is no! No, no, no. The good news for us is this, because we are God's people, no matter what happens to us in real life, we can be sure that everything will work out well for us in the end. How do we know? The Bible tells us so.

Today's Bible story is about someone whose life had so many ups and downs that we almost cannot guess how his story ends. This man was Joseph. You know his story. You know that his dad Jacob loved him so much, he gave him a coat of many colors. But did you know that right from the start, God gave Joseph big dreams, which showed him what a great future he would have. In one dream, Joseph and his brothers were in the field tying bundles of wheat together, when his bundle stood up while his brothers all bowed down to him. In another dream, Joseph saw the sun, the moon and eleven stars all bowing down to him. Wow! It was clear even then that Joseph was going to be a powerful man ruling over his brothers.

But then this happened. The brother were so jealous of Joseph, they sold him to some slave traders who took Joseph to Egypt. And just like that Joseph-the-favorite-son became Joseph-the-slave. Oh no, things were not looking good at all. But you know the story. And you know this verse in Genesis 39:2, it says, "The LORD was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian." Yes, he was a slave, but no, it was not the end of his story. While Joseph was still a slave, our Daddy God was working behind him and setting him up for success.

Wow! But even before the chapter ends, "Joseph-the slave" became "Joseph-the-prisoner" unfairly locked up for something he did not do. But even though he was down in a dungeon, it was still not game-over for Joseph. Genesis 39: 21 says, "But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison." And whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper. Once again, Daddy God was working all things out for Joseph's good.

Imagine! Joseph was successful even in prison! But who are we kidding? This is not the bright future Joseph was hoping for. Where was the promise of greatness that God gave him in his dreams? Well, this

is where it gets really exciting! Rock Kidz, if you think you're heard it all before, this next plot twist will blow your mind.

Joseph was in prison for a reason. The reason was so he could meet Pharaoh's chief butler who was also locked up in the same place at the same time. This butler had a strange dream that troubled him. When he told it to Joseph, Joseph explained the meaning of the dream to him. Okay ... but how is this even helpful for Joseph? Let's find out. Fast forward two years later, and someone else had a dream. This time it was Pharaoh himself. Actually, Pharaoh had two dreams. Pharaoh got his magicians and wisemen together and demanded they tell him the meaning of his dreams. But none of them knew the answer. Now, here's where the chief butler comes in. He remembered Joseph and told Pharaoh about him. The next thing you know, Joseph was whisked out of prison and listening to Pharaoh tell him about his dreams. "Here is what it means," Joseph said, "seven years of famine is coming when there will be no food to eat. But before that there will be seven years of good harvest. So choose a man who is very wise and knows what to do. Put him in charge of the land of Egypt."

Now imagine the scene, all eyes are on Pharaoh waiting for his answer. Then Pharaoh says to Joseph, "See, I have set you over the land of Egypt." It must have been an eye-hopping, jaw-dropping moment for a moment for all the Egyptians in Pharaoh's court. What?! Joseph? A Hebrew prisoner to rule over all of Egypt? And that everyone in the Egyptian court understood that he meant what he said, Pharaoh took off his signet ring and put it in Joseph's hand. The signet ring with the royal seal on it. On Joseph's hand! Imagine everyone bowing to Joseph, who only a day ago was a prisoner stuck in a dark Egyptian jail. Imagine the fine clothes the servants put on him. Then to top it all off, Pharaoh placed a gold chain around Joseph's neck.

Now, this was the bright future we were expecting for Joseph. And guess what? Because it was our good and amazing God who worked all things together for Joseph's good, Joseph's story ends really, really well. Because of the position and power God gave him, Joseph was able to save the nation of Egypt from a terrible famine. God was also good to Joseph by letting him save his father and his brothers from starvation and bringing his whole family back to him. What a great and exciting ending to a real-life story full of twists and turns, ups and downs.

When we see the life of Joseph, we understand this verse better. Because we belong to a good and faithful Daddy God, we can be sure that when He says all things work together for our good, He really means all things.

Let me tell you about a boy from Rock Kidz who heard bad news from his doctor. He was told he had a condition called dyspraxia. This made school difficult for him. His scores were really low and everyone was concerned that he would do badly for his Primary School leaving Exams. But his mum kept telling him, "God will work all things out for your good."

When the results were out, he actually passed Math! But his total score was still not good enough to get into the school of his choice. He was shocked at first, but quickly reminded himself that Daddy God would work everything together for his good. He refused to compare himself with his friends and chose not to be sad or discouraged. When he went to his new school, Daddy God gave him teachers and friends who

were good to him. In his new school, he was chosen to be a leader. He got to represent his school in robotics competitions, and he got to join an exciting programme that taught students how to be successful in buildings and growing a business. School was fun and he was a successful student. Instead of losing out, he realized how Daddy God had worked everything for his good.

Hey Rock kidz, what did we learn today? We learned that really good stories have unexpected plot twists, ups and downs that make us hold our breath and wonder what is going to happen next. The good news for us is that we don't have to wonder about our own stories, because Romans 8:28 gives us the sneak peek into the happy ending coming our way. Now I want you to flip your Bibles to Romans 8:28. You can highlight it as well. It says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." So even when things don't happen the way we expect, even when it feels that things are all going the wrong way. Hang in there and don't give up. Don't give up believing in our good, good God. Hang on to his goodness and keep believing that it's not the end until He works all things together for your good.

And if you find yourself in a difficult spot, that makes you wonder if it's 'the end', remember the good news you heard today. It is not the end for you until He works all things together for your good. And when He does, you can be sure that your story will be simply amazing. How do we know? Romans 8:28 tells us so. Praise Jesus!

**Hey Rock Kidz, if you are listening to this story and you've never asked Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Saviour, you can do so now. Just repeat this prayer after me, "Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. You are the Son of God, who died, was buried and on the third day, you rose again. Your precious blood washed away all my sins making me forever right with Daddy God. I ask You now to come into my life to be my Lord and Saviour. I am forever righteous, forever blessed, forever a child of God. In Jesus' name," and everyone say, "Amen."**