

Together Again

Genesis 45:16-47:12; 50:15-21; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 231-240

When his parents were sick, Ethan stepped up and took care of his little brother so his parents could rest awhile. Ethan served meals to his little brother and helped him clean up. Do you help to serve others in your family? Today's story is about what Joseph did for his family.

After being away for many years, Father Jacob had returned to Canaan with his wives and 12 sons. Joseph was the second-youngest and his father's favorite. Because of this, his older brothers hated him and decided to sell him to slave traders going to Egypt.

In Egypt, Joseph had remained faithful to God even when bad things had happened to him. Eventually, God had helped him to become the governor. When a famine came on all the land, Jacob sent his 10 sons to Egypt for food. Joseph was in charge of the food. Joseph's brothers did not know who he was, but Joseph knew them, and finally he made himself known. He told them that he had forgiven them for selling him into slavery. He promised to take care of the entire family, and now the

brothers were on their way back to Canaan with the good news.

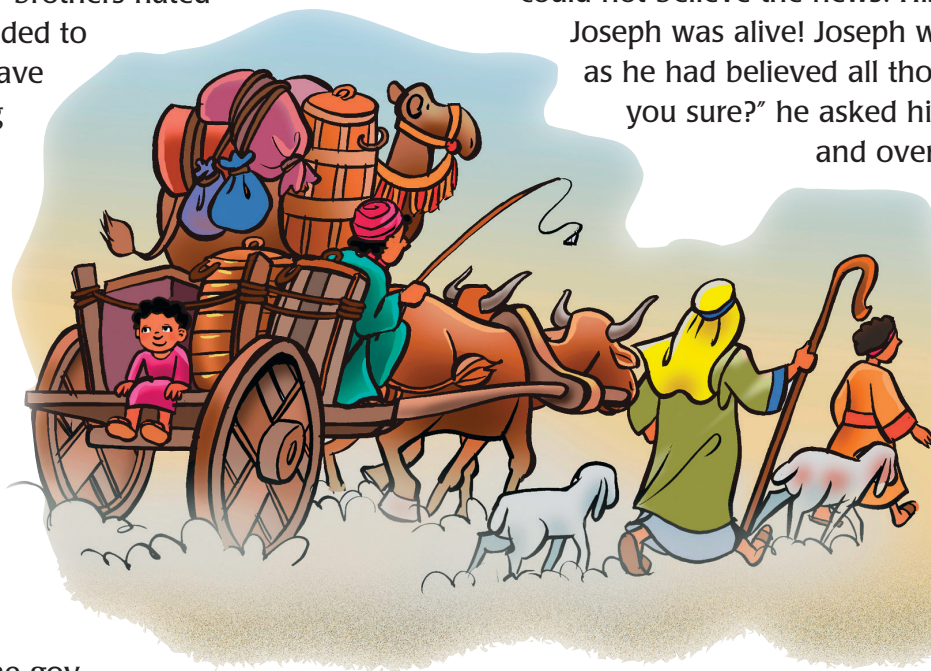
What a grand trip it was! They had carts loaded with food. They had new clothes and money that Joseph had given them. They had many donkeys loaded with presents for their father. And they had Pharaoh's special invitation to come and live in Egypt. He had promised that their families would have food to eat during the rest of the famine.

When they got home, their father, Jacob, could not believe the news! His favorite son Joseph was alive! Joseph was not dead, as he had believed all those years. "Are you sure?" he asked his sons over

and over. "Are you sure Joseph is alive? And you say he is the governor of Egypt? Tell me again! Tell me again!"

Finally Jacob and his family set out for Egypt. Jacob,

his children, his in-laws, his grandchildren—everybody went! Some rode comfortably in the carts that Pharaoh had provided for them. Jacob's sons rode beside the carts on Pharaoh's plump donkeys. It was a long journey, but they had plenty of food for the trip. Jacob's heart sang the whole way! He was really, truly going to see his son Joseph once again!



The Message

God helps me serve my family.

Memory Verse

"Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers"
(Galatians 6:10).

In Joseph's home his servants brought him the good news. "Your family is almost here," they announced.

"Hurry! Get my chariot ready!" Joseph ordered. He drove as fast as his horses could gallop to meet his father. When he got to where he was, Joseph ran to Jacob and hugged him. Together they cried for joy.

Soon after, Joseph took five of his brothers to the palace to meet Pharaoh. "What is your occupation?" Pharaoh asked them.

"We are shepherds," the brothers answered.

"Your brothers may live in Goshen," Pharaoh told Joseph. "It is the best of my land. And I will also hire your brothers to take care of my cattle, if they wish."

Joseph took his father to meet Pharaoh too. Then Jacob, the great man of God, blessed Pharaoh, the mighty king of Egypt.

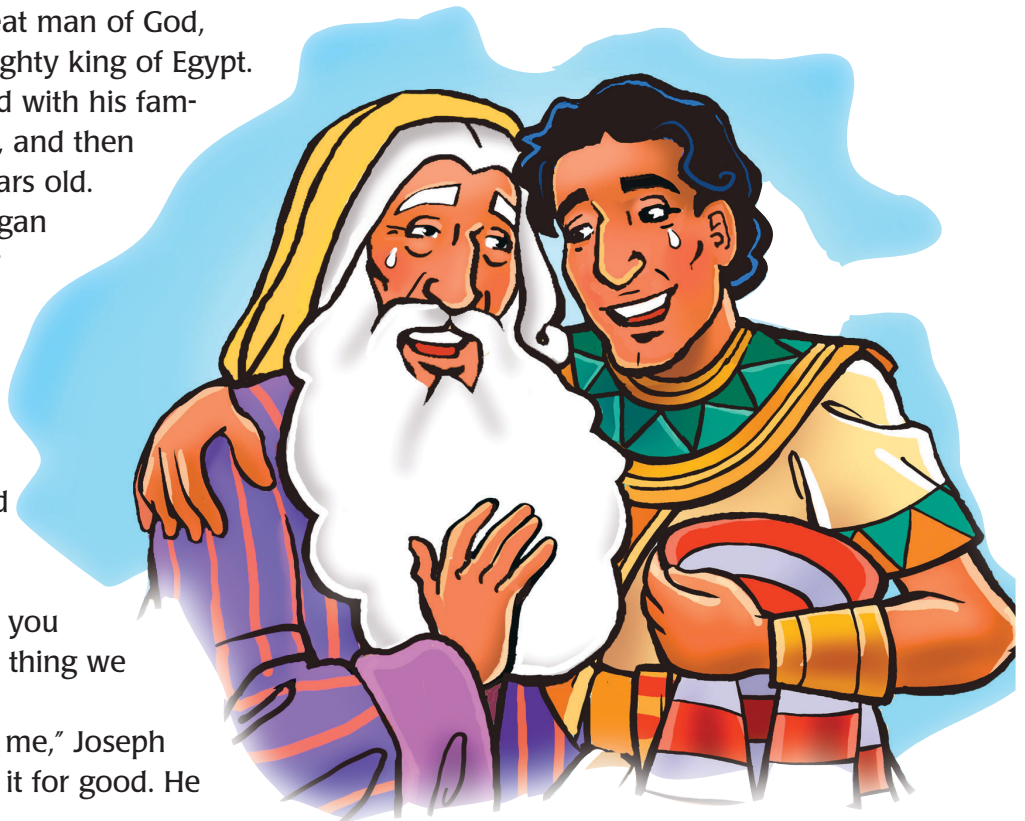
After that, Jacob lived with his family in Egypt for 17 years, and then he died. He was 147 years old.

Joseph's brothers began to worry. Now that their father was dead, what would Joseph do? Would he finally get even with them for the terrible thing they had done? They decided to send Joseph a message. "Before our father died, he said he wanted you to forgive us for the evil thing we did to you."

"You meant to harm me," Joseph replied. "But God meant it for good. He

made it possible for me to help all of you."

How has God made it possible for you to serve your family? You may never be an officer in your country's government. You may never have to save your family from starvation. But you are part of a family. What can you do now to help and show love to the people you live with? What can you do to serve your church family also?



S A B B A T H

DO With your family, take a walk near a field of grain or grass. Think about how some creatures need grain or grass to live.

READ Find a place to sit and read the Bible lesson story. Read Galatians 6:10 and tell what it means.

SING Sing "A Happy Home" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 136). Then thank God for your family.

M O N D A Y

READ Together with your family, read Genesis 46. Draw a picture of Joseph meeting his father. How do you think Jacob and Joseph felt when they saw each other again? How would you have felt?

DO Look on a Bible map and find Canaan, Egypt, and Goshen. About how far did Joseph's family travel to move to Egypt? If you could travel that far from home, where would you go?

PRAY Pray for people who are traveling today.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 50:15-21. Why were Joseph's brothers worried when their father died? Why do you think Joseph cried?

SHARE What kind of grain did you eat today? Was it bread? cereal? Look at your memory verse food container and say the verse. Look in your food cupboard. How many things are made of grain or corn? Thank God for food.

SING Think about how you really care for your family as you sing together "Love at Home" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 137).

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 45:16-28. Draw a picture of Joseph's brothers showing their father the carts, donkeys, food, and other gifts.

DO Why do you think Joseph gave his brother Benjamin more clothes than he gave his other brothers? Why did Joseph tell his brothers not to quarrel on the way? What kinds of gifts do you give your family?

DO Write your memory verse on gift wrap paper. Cut out each word, mix them up, then put the verse in the right order.

PRAY Thank God for the greatest gift of all—Jesus.

T U E S D A Y

READ For family worship, read and discuss Genesis 47:1-12. Draw a picture of Joseph's father meeting Pharaoh. Have you ever met a government officer or anyone with a job in government or a member of the royal family?

DO Write your memory verse on paper. Attach it to a cereal box or other food container you use often. (Don't forget the reference.) Each time you see it this week, say the verse.

T H U R S D A Y

READ With your family, read Genesis 47:1-12 again. How did Joseph serve his family?

DO List the five most important things you would do to care for a pet. Now think how much more your family does for you. Thank them for it.

F R I D A Y

DO Read Romans 12:13 together. If possible, plan to invite someone to Sabbath dinner tomorrow.

DO Say your memory verse for your family, then have them say it with you.

SING Sing happy family songs before prayer. Then thank God for a new Sabbath.

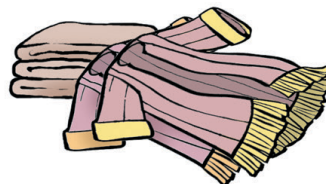
God wanted Jacob's family in Egypt to live in peace and grow into a great nation.



Together Again

PUZZLE


Directions: Look at the pictures to find out what Joseph gave his brothers. Write the words in the blanks provided.







SERVICE


Directions: Read the story and then look up the texts to find out what the Bible says about serving others in kindness. Write key words from the text on the lines provided. Pick a verse that will inspire you to help others as God has told us.



At age 8,  was blind and in a  . His brother

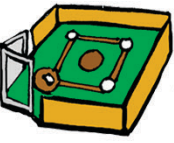


 was 5, and he was also blind and in a  .

But they both had good  , and like other children,

they were interested in sports  . One day they

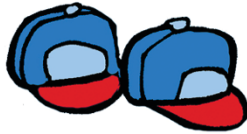
heard a  talk about a ball game for  .

 and  begged their  to take




them to the  . At the   told 

OUR FAMILIES HELP US LEARN HOW TO SERVE OTHERS

and  about the . Then the  told  and  that they were part of the .


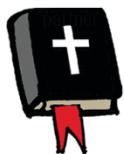
After getting uniforms and  they were each

teamed up with a partner player. Their partners would hit

the ball and then push  and  around the .

 asked why his partner would take time to include

him. "Because," his  said, "It is more fun!" At 

 read some  verses about helping.

Look up the following verses and write key words on the line provided:

James 2:8

James 1:27

Mark 1:31
