

## Week 6 Family Letter

### God Works through Sinful Families:

### Joseph's Father and Brothers

(Genesis 37:1-11)

Rachel and Jacob loved their son Joseph very much. They took good care of him. Joseph grew and grew.

When Joseph was a big boy, Jacob wanted to give him a special gift. Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat. Joseph liked his new, colorful coat. He wore it all the time.

One day, Jacob asked Joseph to do something for him. Jacob wanted Joseph to go and see if his brothers were okay. The brothers were away taking care of the goats and sheep. Joseph was glad to help his father, Jacob.

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him and hurt him. But Joseph forgave his brothers. And one day, a long time later, Joseph was able to help his family again, when they were very hungry and needed food. The brothers said they were sorry for what they had done to Joseph. They said "thank you" for the food, and everyone gave hugs. Everyone showed love to each other.

God loves and cares for us too. He gives us families to love and care for one another. We show our love by helping each other.

#### Bible Words

You, O Lord, are good and forgiving.

Psalms 86:5

#### Dear Family,

Look at the Bible picture. Point to the older brothers. Explain that they took care of sheep, so they were called shepherds. Shepherds trim the woolly fur on the sheep (which is much like getting a haircut!). Then the wool is woven into fabric to make clothing. Show your child a warm wool sweater or jacket. Ask your child to make Joseph's new wool coat very beautiful and colorful. (Accept your child's color choices, even if they are not the colors you would choose. Encourage your child's self-expression. There is not a right or wrong way to complete the picture.)

Seize the moment when your child does something for you (brings you something, picks up the toys, gives you a hug). Give him or her a hug and say, "I'm glad you love and care for me; I love and care for you too. And best of all, Jesus loves and cares for you and me!" Jesus gave *Himself* for us. Let's live each day for Him! Read the story on page 82 of *The Story Bible* together.

