

Week 8

Joseph and His Brothers

Jacob had a big family. But his sons were often unkind to each other. One day, Jacob gave his son Joseph a beautiful coat. The other brothers complained, "Why didn't we each get a colorful coat to wear?" They got even angrier when Joseph told them about his dreams. They said, "He thinks we will have to bow down to him someday."

They made an evil plan to get rid of him. They forced Joseph to be a slave in far away Egypt. Things looked very bad for him. But God blessed Joseph.

Then things went wrong again. Joseph was sent to jail for something he did not do. Again, God blessed Joseph. He was invited to see Pharaoh, the king.

Joseph spoke God's message. There would be years when food would grow. And then there would be years when no food would grow. Pharaoh needed help. He made Joseph an important ruler.

In the meantime, Joseph's brothers ran out of food. They heard that there was plenty of food to buy in Egypt.

(*) They traveled to Egypt to buy wheat to make bread. They bowed down to a great Egyptian ruler. They did not know

that this was their own brother who was now grown up and very powerful.

When Joseph told his brothers who he was, they were afraid Joseph would be mean to them. They were surprised when Joseph forgave them. Joseph learned about forgiveness from our Lord God, and he shared that forgiveness with his brothers.

Fold the family letter back so your child can focus on the big picture as you tell the Bible story. At the point indicated by an asterisk (), fold the picture strip forward, overlapping the big picture. Talk about what has changed in the picture as you continue the story.*

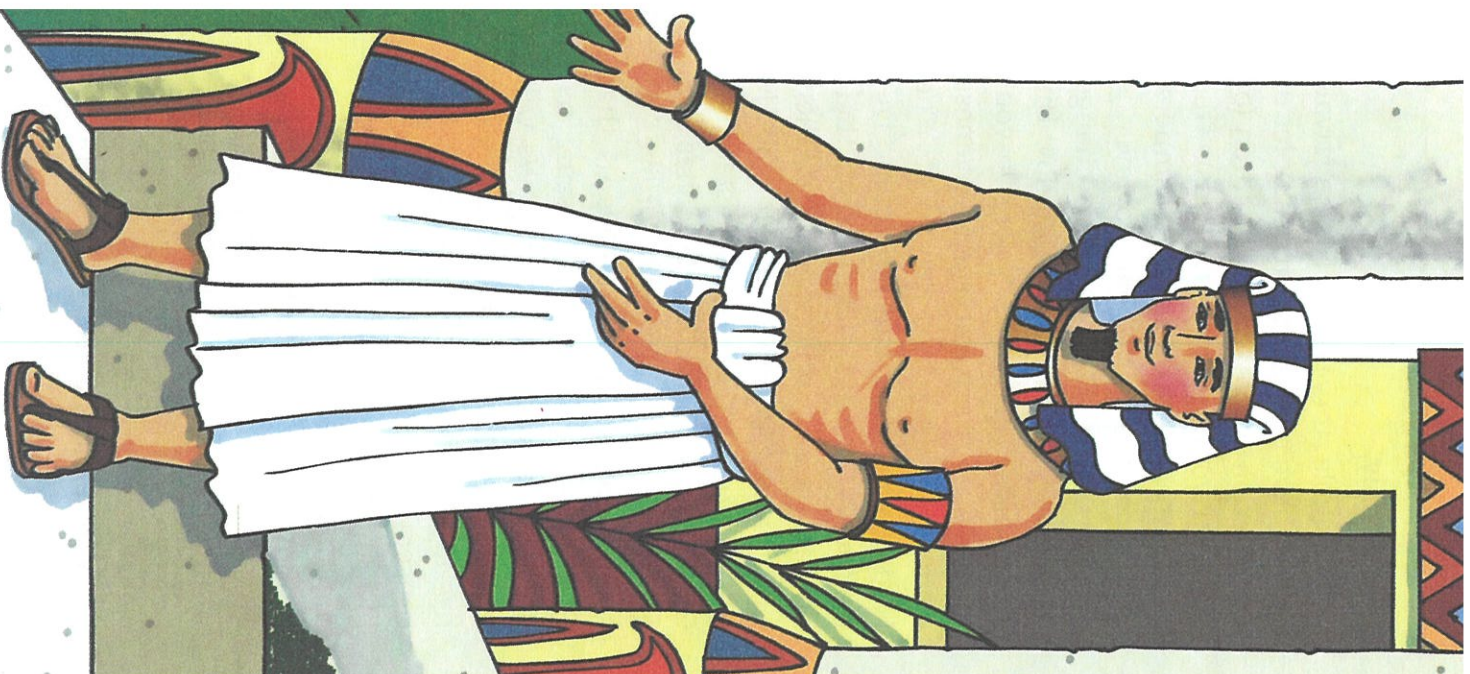
Think about It

Jesus forgives our sins when we do wrong things. He teaches us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Bible Words

God says, "I am with you."

Genesis 28:15



Dear Family,

This Bible story is one of sibling rivalry. You have probably seen examples of this friction between your children (or between your child and friends). This will happen because we are all sinners, right from the start. That, however, is not an excuse. God wants to change us, leading us to repent and follow His commands. The words "I forgive you" may be easy to say, but true forgiveness from the heart is not easy to do. The Lord demonstrates this kind of forgiveness when He says, "I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:34). And He calls us to follow His ways as stated in Colossians 3:13, "As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive."

The Bible story also shows us that God is always with us, blessing us. Being a Christian is not easy. We will continue to have troubles because we live in a sin-filled world and suffer the consequences of it. But God is near, blessing us even when we are in the middle of problems, such as accidents, arguments, illness, storms, and more. The Lord can find a way to bring something good even out of a bad situation. (Joseph himself recognized that. See Genesis 50:20.) Read more about this story on pages 82-84 and 91-93 of *The Story Bible*, available from CPH.

