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Dreams Do Come True

Key References: Genesis 42:1-45:11; 50:15-21; *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 21, pp. 224-240; *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 61-72; Our Beliefs, nos. 3, 4, 14















power**text**

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).

power**point**

Because God provided forgiveness for us all, we forgive and respect one another.

Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 74.

Do you know someone who has done something so bad to you that you think you could never forgive them? You would rather just ignore them than have to face them. You avoid them and can't even look at them when you pass by them. How do you think Joseph felt when he came face to face with his brothers again?

OK," Mrs. Andrews, the teacher, began, "picture this. It's a hot, hot day. Hot and VERY dry. So dry that the moisture just seems to be sucked right out of your skin.

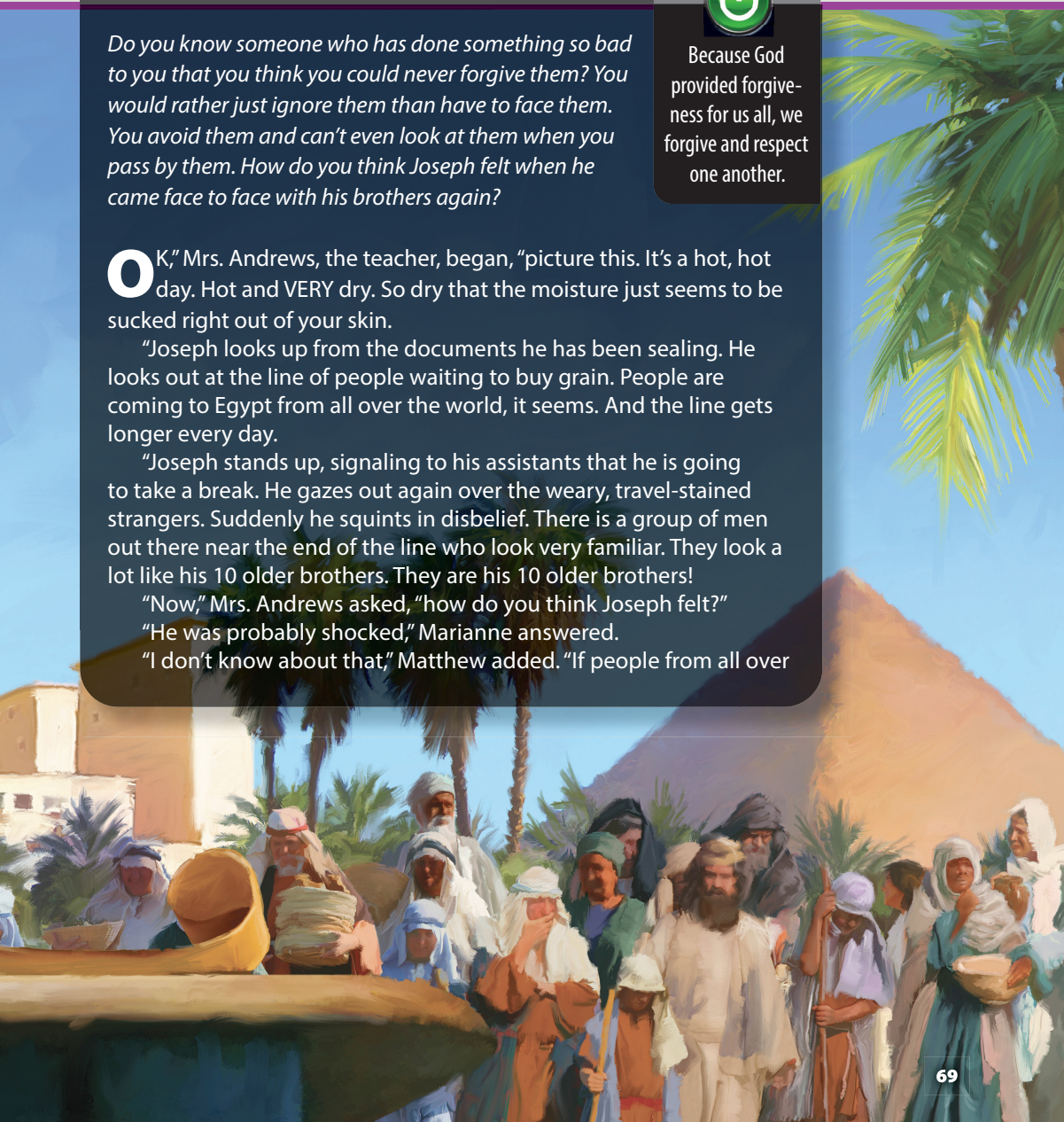
"Joseph looks up from the documents he has been sealing. He looks out at the line of people waiting to buy grain. People are coming to Egypt from all over the world, it seems. And the line gets longer every day.

"Joseph stands up, signaling to his assistants that he is going to take a break. He gazes out again over the weary, travel-stained strangers. Suddenly he squints in disbelief. There is a group of men out there near the end of the line who look very familiar. They look a lot like his 10 older brothers. They are his 10 older brothers!

"Now," Mrs. Andrews asked, "how do you think Joseph felt?"

"He was probably shocked," Marianne answered.

"I don't know about that," Matthew added. "If people from all over



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Sunday

READ Read Ephesians 4:32 and this week's story, "Dreams Do Come True."

WRITE Write the word "forgiven" across the top of a piece of paper. Beneath it, copy the power text, Ephesians 4:32. Add an attractive border and place the paper where you will see it often. Begin to learn the text.

PRAY Ask God to help you feel His grace and forgiveness this week.

Monday

READ Read Genesis 42.

DRAW Make a photocopy of a photograph of yourself or draw a picture of yourself. Draw some changes that would make you unrecognizable to your own family.

THINK Think about how much you would change after living many years in a completely different culture.

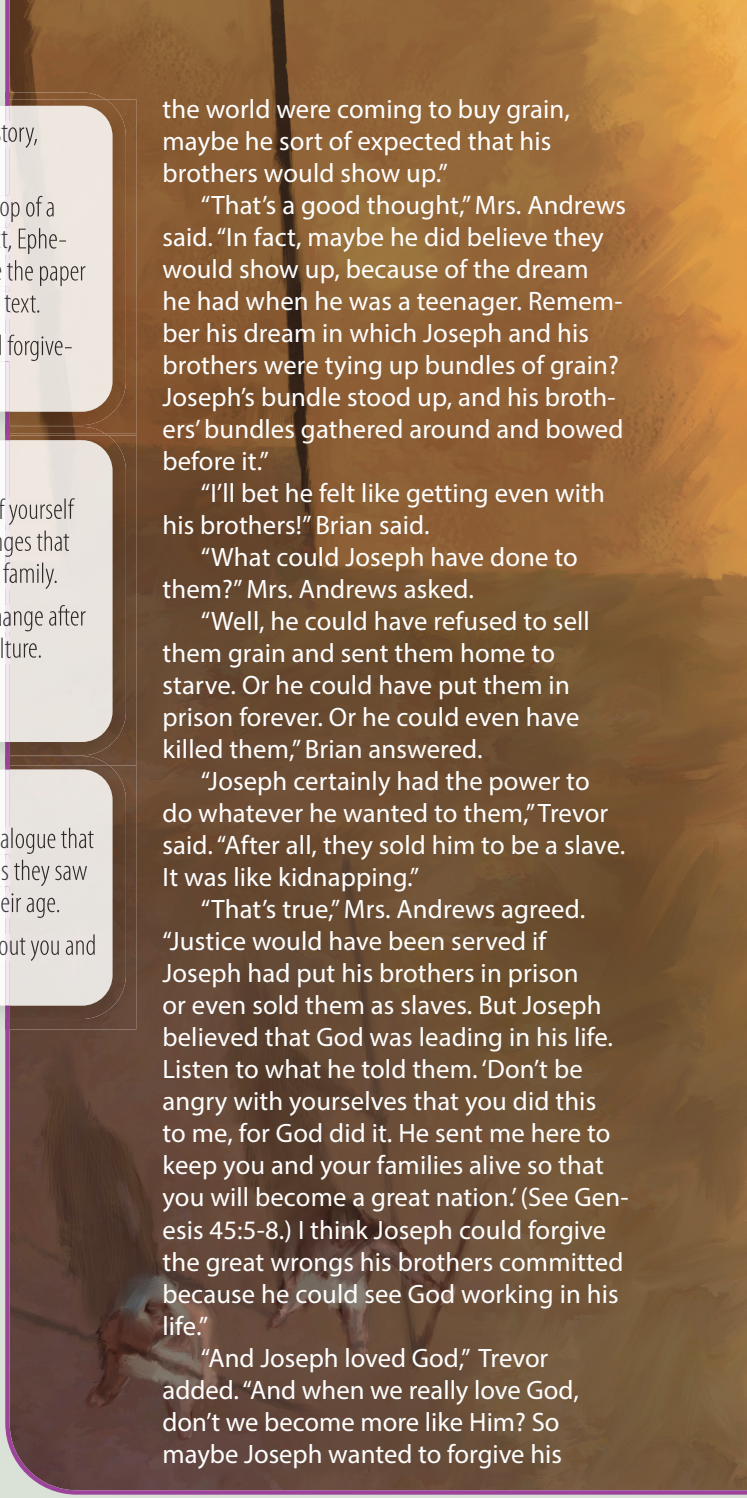
PRAY Ask God to change you on the inside.

Tuesday

READ Read Genesis 43.

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write a dialogue that might have taken place among the brothers as they saw that their seats were arranged according to their age.

PRAY Praise God for knowing everything about you and still loving you.



the world were coming to buy grain, maybe he sort of expected that his brothers would show up."

"That's a good thought," Mrs. Andrews said. "In fact, maybe he did believe they would show up, because of the dream he had when he was a teenager. Remember his dream in which Joseph and his brothers were tying up bundles of grain? Joseph's bundle stood up, and his brothers' bundles gathered around and bowed before it."

"I'll bet he felt like getting even with his brothers!" Brian said.

"What could Joseph have done to them?" Mrs. Andrews asked.

"Well, he could have refused to sell them grain and sent them home to starve. Or he could have put them in prison forever. Or he could even have killed them," Brian answered.

"Joseph certainly had the power to do whatever he wanted to them," Trevor said. "After all, they sold him to be a slave. It was like kidnapping."

"That's true," Mrs. Andrews agreed. "Justice would have been served if Joseph had put his brothers in prison or even sold them as slaves. But Joseph believed that God was leading in his life. Listen to what he told them. 'Don't be angry with yourselves that you did this to me, for God did it. He sent me here to keep you and your families alive so that you will become a great nation.' (See Genesis 45:5-8.) I think Joseph could forgive the great wrongs his brothers committed because he could see God working in his life."

"And Joseph loved God," Trevor added. "And when we really love God, don't we become more like Him? So maybe Joseph wanted to forgive his



Wednesday

READ Read Genesis 44.

THINK Why do you think Joseph took so long to reveal himself to his brothers?

WRITE Write your thoughts in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Thank God for sending Jesus to be your Older Brother.

Thursday

READ Read Genesis 45:1-11; Genesis 50:15-21.

THINK After their father died, Joseph's brothers needed even more reassurance that they were forgiven. Why?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, describe a time you were forgiven though you did not deserve it.

PRAY Praise God for His amazing grace and forgiveness.

Friday

READ Read Proverbs 24:29; Matthew 6:12; Hebrews 10:17.

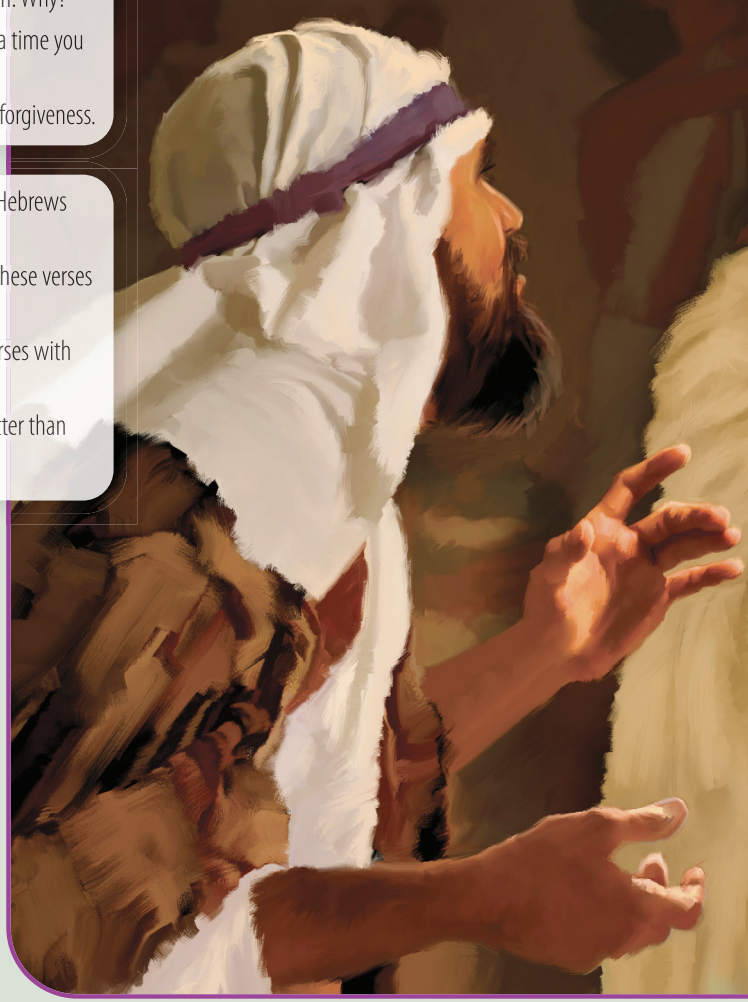
CREATE Write a song or a poem expressing these verses in your own words.

SHARE Share your song/poem and these verses with family members for worship.

PRAY Thank God for treating us so much better than we deserve.

brothers because God always forgives us."

Mrs. Andrews smiled her special smile. The one that covered her face when she was especially pleased with what someone had said. "I think you've stated a really important point," she said. "Joseph forgave his brothers; he gave them food; he gave them a home in Egypt, and he took care of them all during the famine. Joseph's forgiving attitude does make one think of God, doesn't it?



"But consider this. Do you think Joseph's brothers really felt forgiven?"

The class was quiet.

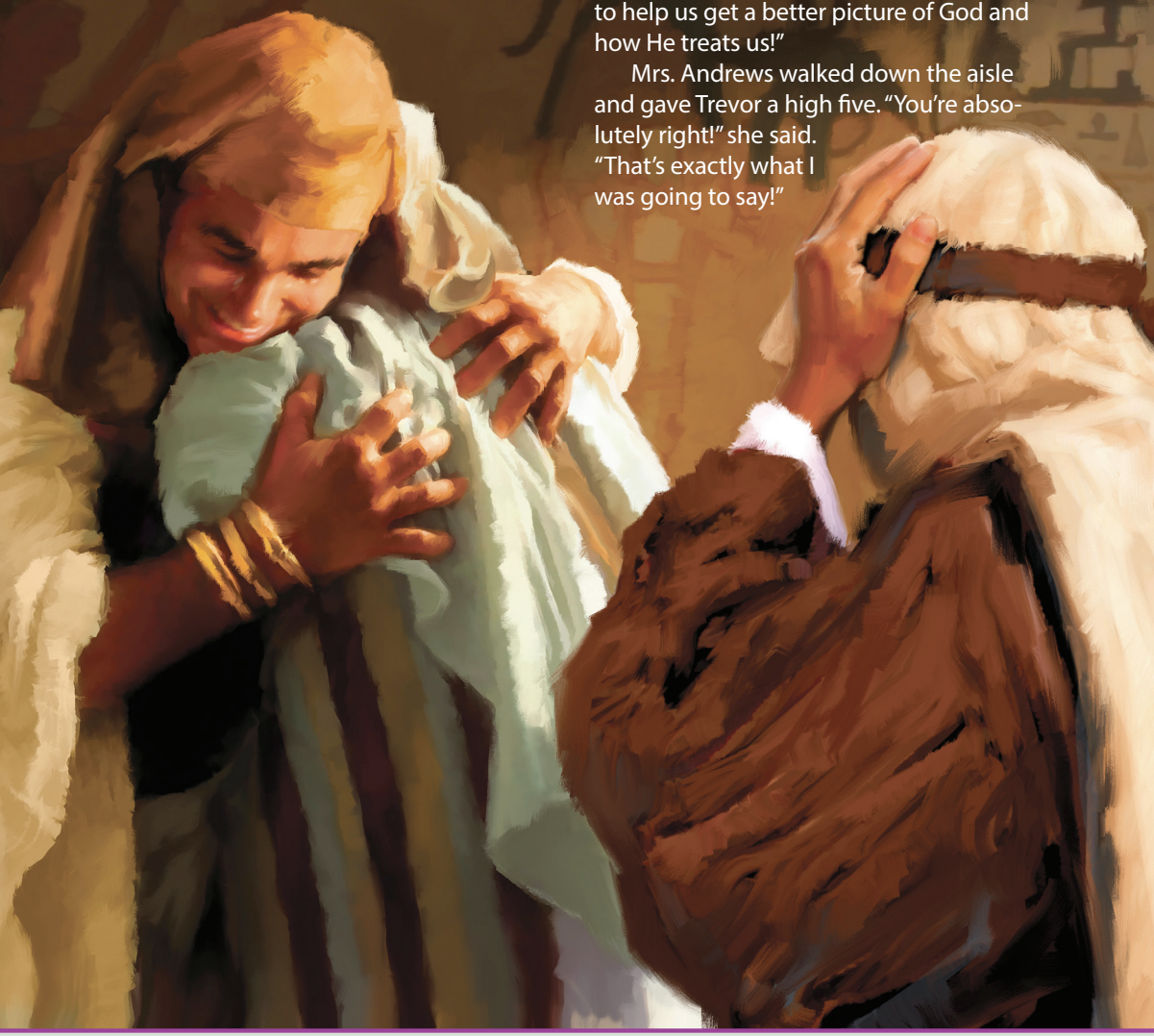
Marianne raised her hand. "No, I don't," she said. "Because when their father Jacob died, they were afraid that Joseph would finally get even with them."

"I think that's what happens with us sometimes too," Mrs. Andrews said. "Sometimes we just can't believe that God has really forgiven us. Will somebody please read Genesis 50:21 for us?"

"I've got it," Matthew said. "'"So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.'"

Trevor waved his arm. He waved both his arms in the air. "I know! I know what you're going to say!" he exclaimed. "You're going to say that this story is in the Bible to help us get a better picture of God and how He treats us!"

Mrs. Andrews walked down the aisle and gave Trevor a high five. "You're absolutely right!" she said. "That's exactly what I was going to say!"



PUZZLE
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FORGIVE

Instructions: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievances against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). Can you find the word "FORGIVE" by following the lines and skipping every other circle? There is only one solution.

