WEEK 11

A Family Reunion!



Big Idea: God is with me. He will make everything good in the end.

Memory Verse

***"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God"* (Romans 8:28).**

Word of the Week

"Guide" - Guide means to gently lead. To guide also means to give good advice. God wants to guide us and bless our lives with good things.

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 43-46** and *Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 227-233.

Sunday

Back to Egypt

Ah, full tummies! What a wonderful feeling. Jacob's family sighed with thankfulness as they munched on their bread, made with the grain from Egypt.

But as time passed the grain began to run out. There was only one thing to do—go back to Egypt and buy some more! But this time, the brothers would need to take Benjamin with them so they could free Simeon and buy grain. Father Jacob shook his head, no. He still missed Joseph so much. He did not want to lose Benjamin too!

Brother Judah stood before their worried father. What did he promise to do? Read **Genesis 43:8, 9**.

What a good big brother! Father Jacob nodded his head slowly. With a prayer he sent all 10 sons back to Egypt. This time their empty sacks were filled with gifts for the governor. They also took money for new grain *and* the money Joseph had hidden in their sacks of grain before.

After a long trip to Egypt the ten brothers came before the Egyptian ruler again. Governor Joseph hid a smile as he noticed his little brother Benjamin was with them. He looked so grown up! With a serious face Joseph asked his servant to take them all to his home for lunch.



The brothers were nervous. Why were they being invited to eat with the Governor? But they had nothing to worry about because God was guiding them. He would make everything good in the end.

I Wonder

» Why do you think Governor Joseph invited his brothers home for lunch?

» Which gifts do you think Joseph may have liked the best? Read Genesis 43:11.

Prayer Idea

Say your memory verse with a "thank You" to God.

Do

Joseph's brothers still had no idea the governor was their brother. Play a disguising game and see if you can wear other clothes/costumes to hide who you are. Can your family guess who you are?



Monday

A Special Lunch

With a shout of joy Simeon ran to greet the brothers. He was free!

The brothers hugged, and smiled, and hugged some more. They were so grateful the governor had set Simeon free. God was truly looking after them. Together they followed the servant to Joseph's home for lunch.

When the governor arrived home, the brothers gave him their gifts and bowed low on the ground. They still had no idea the governor was their brother, Joseph!

With a kind smile Joseph asked them about their father. They replied, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive" (Genesis 43:28).

What good news—Joseph's father was alive! Then Joseph's eyes met Benjamin's. Here was the little brother he had missed so much. All Joseph's feelings bubbled over. Quickly he rushed out of the room so his brothers couldn't see him cry.

Joseph's servants seated the brothers at a big fancy table. It was a long time since they'd seen so much food in one place. What a treat! The brothers then noticed something even more amazing than the beautiful food. What was it? Read **Genesis 43:33**.

When all the yummy food was served up for the brothers, Joseph did something extra special for his youngest brother. For every one plate of food the big brothers were given, Joseph gave Benjamin five plates of food! Were the brothers jealous or angry? No! They smiled at Benjamin and just kept eating and chatting. Joseph could see that God had changed their hearts. This made Joseph very happy!

I Wonder

» How did Joseph treat his brothers on this visit?

» How did the brothers act?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for helping people change their ways.

Do

Invite someone to your house for a meal to show God's kindness.

Mission Challenge

Make something with your family that you can give to a person who visits your home. You could give herbs or flowers you've grown, or a card you've made.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

A Cup of Trouble

Joseph watched his brothers closely as they ate, laughed, and talked together. It really looked like they had changed. He would find out for sure.

Joseph whispered to his most trusted servant, "Fill the men's sacks with as much grain as they can carry. And put each man's money into his sack with the grain" (Genesis 44:1, ICB). Then he told the servant to put one more thing in Benjamin's sack. What was it? Read **Genesis 44:2**.

As soon as the sun rose, the brothers set off for home with heavy sacks and happy hearts. *But wait, what's that noise?* The brothers spun around to see the governor's servant galloping fast towards them. *Oh, no! What was wrong?*

The servant frowned as he pulled his horse to a sudden stop. He accused them of stealing the governor's silver cup.

The brothers shook their heads. They didn't steal his cup! Quickly they let down their sacks to prove it. Starting with Reuben, the servant searched each sack until he came to Benjamin's. There was the silver cup!

Shocked and scared, the brothers were led back to Joseph's house. Bravely Judah stepped forward. He told Joseph all about his father's love for Benjamin. This was a big mix-up! But he would take the blame. He would become a slave, so Benjamin could go free. What a loving thing to do!

I Wonder

» Do you think Joseph's brothers had really changed? Why/why not?

Do

Have a friend or family member hide a plastic or paper cup then give you clues to find it. What a big surprise it was for the brothers to see the "found" cup!

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you be quick to show love and kindness to your family.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time you were in a difficult situation and God turned it into something good.





Wednesday

Punished or Forgiven?

Joseph held his breath in surprise. Brother Judah had just offered his whole life as a slave to free Benjamin. He truly had changed. Joseph couldn't hide any longer. He called for everyone to leave the room except his brothers. Then he burst into tears.

"I am Joseph," he said (Genesis 45:3).

The brother's stared in amazement. *Joseph, whom they had sold as a slave, was now the second most powerful man in Egypt? He must be so angry about what they had done to him! How would he punish them?*

Joseph could see that they were scared. "Come close to me . . . Now don't be worried. Don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you to save people's lives. . . . It was to keep you alive in an amazing way. So it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Genesis 45:4, 5, 7, 8, ICB).

God had guided their lives. He had worked everything out for good: for Joseph, for the people of Egypt, and for Joseph's family. The Bible says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

What did Joseph ask his brothers to do next? Read **Genesis 45:9-11**.

They would all be together! "Then Joseph kissed all his brothers. He cried as he hugged them" (Genesis 45:15, ICB). What a happy day!

I Wonder

» Had Joseph forgiven his brothers? Why?

» Is there someone you need to forgive? Ask God to help you forgive them now.

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He will make everything good in the end for you too.

Do

Make homemade lemonade with water, lemons, and a sprinkle of sugar/honey. God can turn sour, bad situations into sweet goodness.

Memory Verse

Thursday

All Is Forgiven!

The palace echoed with whispers. It was such exciting news. Governor Joseph's brothers were here in Egypt! The whispers spread from the servants to the soldiers. Soon the news was whispered to the king.

A big grin grew on Pharaoh's face. He really wanted to do something kind for his friend and helper Joseph. This was his chance!

He told his servants to pack gifts for Joseph's brothers. The servants brought out a long line of wagons and packed them full of food, silver, and clothes.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell them to bring their father and their families back here to me. I will give them the best land in Egypt" (Genesis 45:18, ICB).

What else would Pharaoh give them? Read **Genesis 45:20**. Such kindness and generosity!

Finally the brothers arrived home with their wagons of gifts. They raced to Father Jacob's tent. Excitedly they told him, "Joseph is still alive. He is the ruler over all the land of Egypt" (Genesis 45:26, ICB).

Jacob was so surprised he felt like his heart stopped beating! He thought Joseph was dead. But no, he was alive, and a ruler in Egypt!

With a big, deep breath the brothers told their father the truth. They had sold Joseph as a slave and told him a big lie. They were very sorry. They asked Father Jacob to forgive their lies and trickery. Jacob listened to their words, and he looked at their sad faces. He saw the wagons filled with gifts. God had been with Joseph this whole time and had blessed his life. God had made "all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28).

In that moment Father Jacob forgave his sons for what they had done.

I Wonder

» How do you think the brothers felt when their father forgave them?

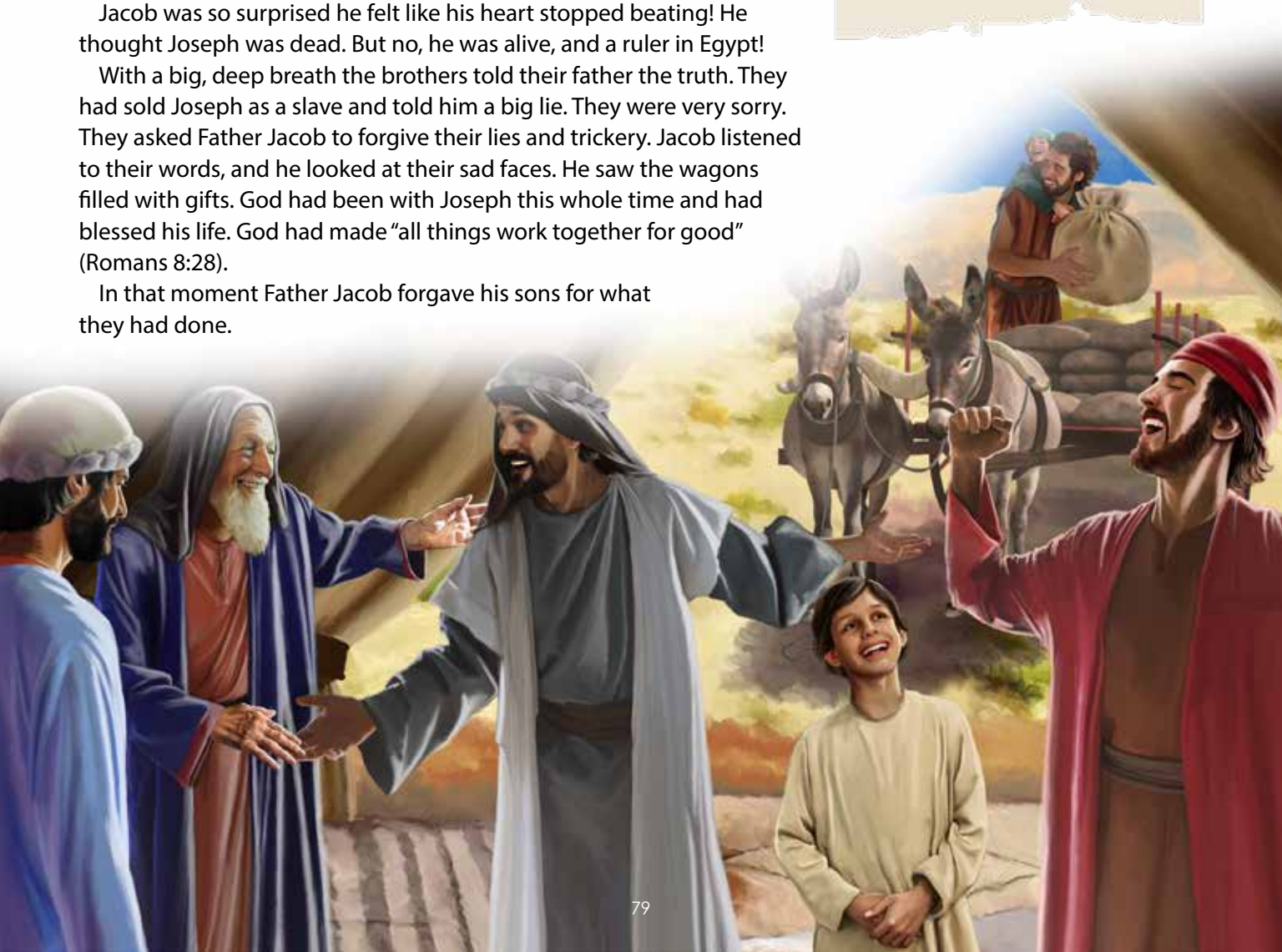
Prayer Idea

Thank God that He can help families love and forgive each other, even after problems.

Do

Sing "God Is So Good" or another favorite praise song about God's goodness and love.

Memory Verse





Friday

Together Again!

Jacob's big family rushed to gather all their things and leave for Egypt. Pots were packed, clothes and bedding were rolled up, and sheep and goats were rounded up. Soon they would see Joseph!

Along the way, Jacob stopped in a place where his father had worshipped God. Together they offered a thank-You sacrifice to God. In the night God sent *him* a special message. "So He said, 'I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there' " (Genesis 46:3).

What a loving God to remind Jacob that He was always with him. With joy the family journeyed on to their new home. How many were in the family? Read **Genesis 46:26**.

Finally, with Egypt in the distance, Jacob sent Judah ahead of them to meet Joseph.

Puffing and panting, he arrived in Egypt and excitedly told Joseph that Father Jacob and the rest of his family were only just down the road. *Just down the road? Hooray!* Joseph jumped on his chariot and raced toward them in a cloud of dust.

As soon as he saw Father Jacob, he jumped off the chariot and threw his arms around him. They hugged each other tightly and cried happy tears.

God had guided them back together. What a faithful Friend. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

I Wonder

» God was with Jacob, Joseph, and his brothers all through their story, in good and bad times. Do you think He is with you too? Why do you say that?

» Was God's plan for the family—the children of Israel—good? What was it?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for always working to love and help.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw a picture of what you think forgiveness looks like. Share and explain your picture and glue it into your family journal.

For You, Parents

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches*, p. 196).

Make a Playscape

Kids, it's your turn to be the storyteller! Create a play scene of Canaan and Egypt and use it to retell the story of Joseph using your own voice.

To do this:
Collect natural materials like stones, sticks, leaves, etc., to create the landscape.

You may like to drape colored fabric for land/water surfaces.

Make some small people from a material of your choice (e.g., play-dough or clay).

Places to create:
Home in Canaan
Potiphar's house
Prison
The palace
Across the land of Egypt







Parents, your willingness to interact with your child to guide and encourage the sharing of Joseph's story and God's leading in it will be key to this Sabbath experience. Your child will delight in your presence. At the end of their story sharing, say the memory verse together: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28).