

the story of **Joseph**



Intermediate Workbook

Manitoulin Kid's Camp 2014



Dear Student,

We're glad you are planning to come to Kid's Camp this year, God willing. The story of Joseph is a good study of family relationships and how to stay faithful to God through difficult circumstances. Hopefully his story will give you a good example to think of when things are hard.

Before you start this workbook, it is a very good idea to read this part of the Bible together with your parents. You will want to read Genesis 37-47.

There are four parts to your pre-camp assignment: 1) the workbook, 2) a minute meditation, 3) preparation for the morning quizzes and memory verses and 4) a special project.

Try to get started as soon as possible as by the time you get this workbook at Easter there will only be about 13 weeks to go, God willing!!

If you have any questions about the workbook or any of these assignments, please don't hesitate to call or send a note to:

Uncle Chris Sales (519) 925-2236
chrisandmart@yahoo.ca

or

Aunt Julie Snobelen (902) 820-2815
thesnobelens@hotmail.com

May God bless you!



Minute Meditations

You will need to prepare a Minute Meditation to present at camp. You will need to choose one verse from your section on which to base your minute meditation. The chapters are broken up this year by the **first letter of your last name**.

Please find the first letter of your last name below and chose a verse from that section.

A-C: Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-23

D-K: Genesis 40:1-23; 41:9-45

L-Q: Genesis 41:46-57; 42:1-38

T-Z: Genesis 45:1-28; 46:26-34; 47:1-26

R-S: Genesis 43:15-34; 44:1-17



Bible History Online

Preparation for Morning Quizzes and Memory Verses:

There will be Bible readings and a memory verse from the life of Joseph each day at camp. You will do these readings with your camp group and practice the memory verses. You will be quizzed on the verse and the readings the next morning. Below is the list of readings and verses for the quizzes each day. We suggest that you memorize these verses and read over these readings before camp to help you in your preparation for the week. Because there are so many chapters from the life of Joseph, some of the passages will be what we call 'read only' sections. This means that we will read these verses at camp to keep the flow of the story but you will not be quizzed on them in the morning quizzes. These sections are marked below.

Monday

Memory Verse: Genesis 37:16 *And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.*

Readings: Genesis 37:1-36; Genesis 39:1-23

Tuesday

Memory Verse: Genesis 41:38 *And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?*

Readings: Genesis 40:1-23; Genesis 41:1-8 (read only); Genesis 41:9-45

Wednesday

Memory Verse: Genesis 42:9 *And Joseph remembered the dreams which he dreamed of them, and said unto them, Ye are spies; to see the nakedness of the land ye are come.*

Readings: Genesis 41:46-57; Genesis 42:1-38; Genesis 43:1-14 (read only)

Thursday

Memory Verse: Genesis 43:23 *And he said, Peace be to you, fear not: your God, and the God of your father, hath given you treasure in your sacks: I had your money.*

Readings: Genesis 43:15-34; Genesis 44:1-17; Genesis 44:18-34 (read only)

Friday

Memory Verse: Genesis 45:8 *So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.*

Readings: Genesis 45:1-28; Genesis 46:26-34; Genesis 47:1-26

Special Projects:

Choose one of the following to do either on your own or in pairs. If possible, make a copy for your teacher, and copies for your classmates (about 40).

1. Choose a city or a place that is mentioned in this section of the Bible. Find out what you can about it — its past and its present. Make a travel brochure or a poster about this place.
2. Choose a character from this time period and prepare a costume. Be prepared to tell who you are and a bit about your life.
3. Create a comic strip about an event in this time period.
4. Create a newspaper article or TV report about an event in this time period.
5. Do some research on the difference between the true God and Egypt's many false gods. Prepare a handout that contrasts them.
6. When Joseph was alone in Egypt, surrounded by their religious ideas and forms of worship, he needed to keep the true God and His ways constantly in his mind. If you put God's word in your head, you can always be directed by it no matter where you are. Choose and memorize a selection of verses (at least 10) from the Bible that have to do with character (the Proverbs are good for this). Be prepared to recite them to your class.
8. Make up a board game based on the life of Joseph. Design a game board that reflects his experiences and then prepare a stack of questions and answers that move a player around it.
9. If you have your own idea for a project, check with Uncle Chris to see if it is okay (519) 925-2236 or chrisandmart@yahoo.ca

To complete your workbook you will need:

- a Bible
- a sharp pencil
- an eraser (just in case)
- a few coloured pencils if you like to colour
- a bible atlas
- a dictionary
- a concordance

Timeline:

To get started with the story of Joseph, we will try to place it in an historical context.

The Bible does tell us how many years passed between the time that Jacob and his family went to Egypt and the time that God brought Jacob's descendents out of Egypt by Moses (430 years).

The Bible also tells us how many years passed between the time that the Hebrews came out of Egypt and when Solomon began to build the Temple (480 years).

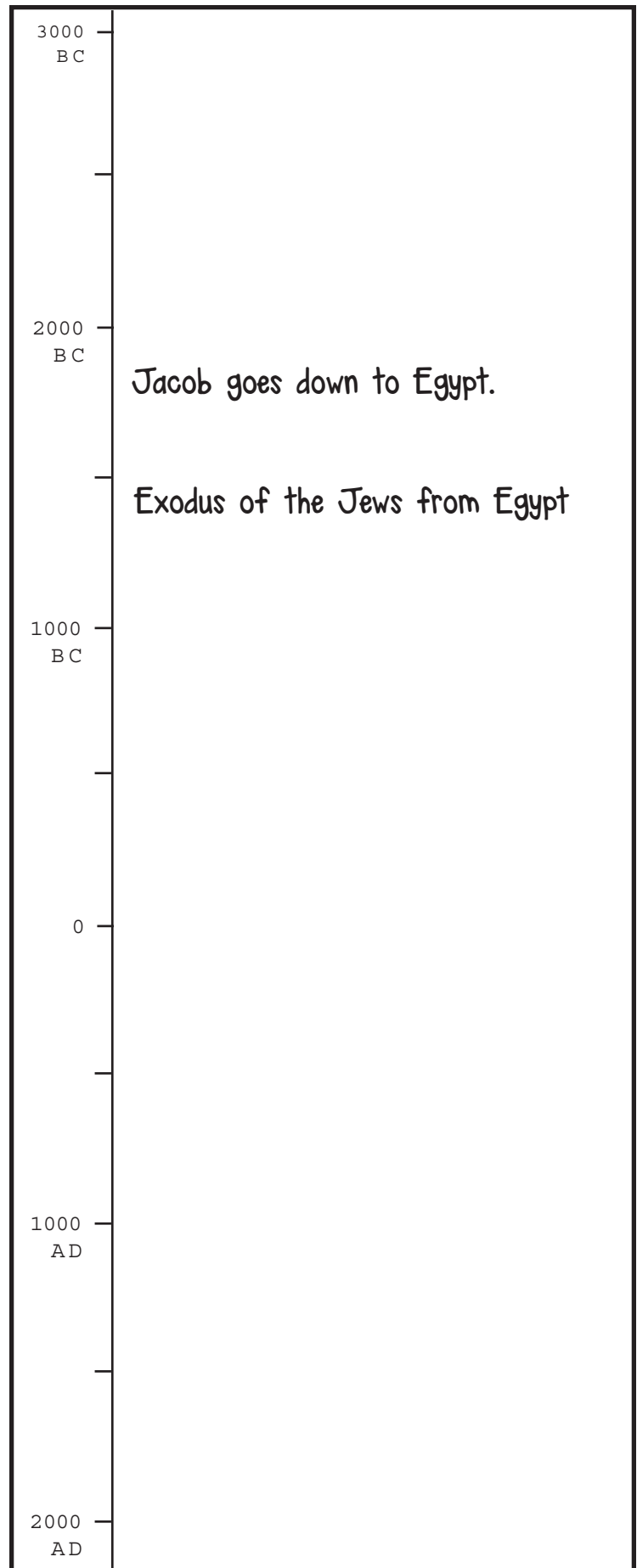
Historians are not completely agreed about the exact time period for Joseph or the Exodus and you may have heard that Raamses II was the Pharaoh who enslaved the Hebrews and his son (Merneptah) the Pharaoh of the Exodus making the date for the exodus 1290 BC. It is thought that this lines up better with archaeological finds. However, there is also good evidence for earlier dates.

Since it is fairly well established that Solomon began to build the Temple in 966 BC, we go back 480 years to 1445 BC for the date of the Exodus, and go back 430 years from that for a date of 1876 BC for Jacob entering Egypt.

These are the dates we will use for this exercise. If you like history, you may want to find out which Pharaoh was reigning at these times and how they fit into the story of Joseph and Moses.

See if you can place the following events correctly on the timeline. I have not put them in the correct order.

- You are born!
- King Tutankhamen is alive.
- Pyramids at Giza are built.
- Solomon begins the Temple.
- Alexander the Great.
- Israel becomes a nation again.
- Jesus is born.
- Abraham is alive.



Introduction:

God is often referred to as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. These men were the patriarchs or fathers of the nation of Israel. They were shepherds living a nomadic life, living in tents and moving back and forth between areas that had enough grazing land and water for the flocks. It was not an easy life as it meant being exposed to the heat and cold, attacks of wild beasts (lions, wolves, panthers and bears), and possibly robbers. However, sheep were indispensable as they provided wool for clothing, and milk and meat for food.



Abraham was called out of Mesopotamia to the land of Canaan which God promised to him and to his descendants forever. After a long period of waiting, Abraham and Sarah had the promised son: Isaac. He was the father of Jacob and Esau: twins who were very different personalities. God chose to work with Jacob, and through him came the twelve tribes of Israel.

Jacob's wives were sisters: Leah and Rachel. Leah was blessed with six sons and a daughter while Rachel waited impatiently to have even one. Both Leah and Rachel decided to give their servant girls to Jacob to have children by them in this competition to win the love of Jacob. And so four more boys were added to the family. Finally, God remembered Rachel.

Read Genesis 30:22-24.

What did Rachel call her first child? _____

What does his name mean? _____

What do you think Rachel was thinking by naming him this?

Rachel had to wait for quite a few more years before she had another child.

Read Genesis 35:16-20.

What happened when Rachel had this baby? _____

Find out what Benoni and Benjamin mean?

Benoni: _____

Benjamin: _____

Why do you think Jacob changed his name? (*Perhaps check out the meanings of Jacob/Israel and how a name can affect how you feel about yourself.*)

Do you know what your name means? _____

Family Tree:

Read Genesis 35:23-26.

Using this information
complete the
family tree.

Abraham

Hagar

Ishmael

Ishmaelites

Sarah

Isaac

Rebekah

Jacob

Leah

Esau

Edomites

Rachel

(Bilhah)

(Zilpah)



Rules for Families

(These will be filled in as you go along in your workbook.)

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Read *Genesis 37:1-4*.

What reasons are given in these verses for why Joseph's brothers did not like him?

The Hebrew words for "evil report" mean slander. Look "slander" up in a dictionary and write out the definition.

What does Proverbs 18:8 say about this?

Look up Galatians 6:1 and write it out here:

Do you think there was anything Joseph could have done instead?

Can you think of an example when it might be right to tell an older person when someone is doing something wrong?

Can you think of a time when it might not be the best thing to do?

*** Use these thoughts to come up with Rule #1 for families. Write it out on page 10.**

Can you figure out how old Jacob was when Joseph was born? Compare Joseph's age when he stood before Pharaoh (*Genesis 41:46*); add the 7 years of plenty and two years of famine; and subtract that from Jacob's age when he arrived in Egypt (*Genesis 47:9*).

It appears from Genesis 30:23 that all the brothers except Benjamin were born during the second set of seven years that Jacob worked for Laban. If this is true, then they were all fairly close in age and this can often create a bit of competition in families.

It says that Israel loved Joseph best because he was the son of his old age. Can you think of any other reasons why Israel may have preferred Joseph?

Favouritism always seems to lead to problems in families. It led to conflicts between Sarai and Hagar and divided Isaac's family for many years, now here again it is creating problems.

Look up 1 Timothy 5:21 and write it out here:

*** Use this thought to come up with Rule #2 for families. Write it out on page 10.**

During this time period, people would make their own clothing. They would use wool from sheep or goats to weave fabric, or they would grow flax to make linen. The shepherds coat was very important as it was a thickly woven all-weather coat which could provide shelter from rain or sun, or a blanket if it was cold. Often it was in plain colours: black and white or brown and cream. However, the wool could also be dyed using plants, soil or certain kinds of shellfish for colouring.



Joseph's coat of many colours however, was probably a sign that Jacob considered Joseph the firstborn in the family. Reuben was the actual firstborn, being the first son born to him, but Joseph was the first son born to him by Rachel, the wife he loved. Every time the brothers saw Joseph in his coat, they would be reminded of Jacob's preference.

How do you think it would make Joseph feel (almost the youngest) to be given this privileged position?

Look up Proverbs 14:30 and write it out here:

Look up 1 Corinthians 12:26 and write it out here:

* Use these thoughts to come up with Rule #3 for families. Write it out on page 10.

Have you ever been so angry with someone else that you could not say anything nice to them EVER! This is not a good feeling and is one we all have to learn to deal with properly.

Write out what these three verses say about anger:

Proverbs 16:32 - _____

Proverbs 19:11 - _____

Ecclesiastes 7:9 - _____

* Now, you should be able to come up with Rule #4. Write it out on page 10.

Read Genesis 37:5-11.

What was Joseph's first dream about?

What was Joseph's second dream about?

Do you think it was wise for Joseph to tell his brothers his dreams?

One thing Joseph may not have realized at this point in time, is that when God chooses to work through someone, He has to shape them into the person He desires. Abraham had to learn patience, Isaac had to learn to love God's ways, Jacob had to learn to trust in God and not himself. Perhaps Joseph had to learn that God does not exalt a man for himself, but for **Himself**, to serve His purpose. Joseph needed to gain his brothers' trust before he could lead them.

Look up James 3:13 and write it out here:

* Perhaps you can come up with Rule #5 from this. Write it out on page 10.

How do you think these dreams may have helped Joseph later on in his life?

Although Jacob rebuked Joseph, what does it say that he did with the "saying"?

Does this remind you of another parent in the Bible? (Hint: Luke 2:19)

Sometimes it takes a while before we can understand what was going on in our lives at the time and we need to simply keep the thoughts in our heart and later we may understand them.

Read Genesis 37:12-22.

It seems that Jacob used Joseph to keep an eye on his brothers. He had already brought back an evil report about the sons of Zilpah and Bilhah, now he was checking on his brothers again. Assuming that the vale of Hebron is referring to Mamre (since Hebron didn't exist as a city until much later: Numbers 14:32), Jacob was asking Joseph to walk a distance of about 54 miles. This would mean walking for about 13 hours. Jacob didn't realize that he was sending Joseph away from the family home forever.



What happened when Joseph came to Shechem?

The city of Shechem was in a beautiful, sheltered valley between mounts Ebal and Gerizim. Jacob had dug a well here and there were numerous streams making it fertile and excellent pastureland. Dothan was a small city on the trading caravan route from Egypt to Mesopotamia.

How do you think the brothers knew it was Joseph from a distance?

It is one thing to be angry with someone, it is quite another to talk of killing them. Obviously Joseph's dreams had been eating away at them. They had lost their sense of right and wrong and were consumed by their envy.

Does their conspiring remind you of anyone? (Compare with Mark 14:1)

Read Genesis 37:23-36.



What was the first thing the brothers did when Joseph came to them?

Imagine you are Joseph. What do you think he would say to his brothers?

What did they do after they had thrown Joseph in the pit?

It doesn't tell us how much time passed from the time they threw Joseph into the pit and when he was sold to the passing traders, but during this time Reuben had drifted off somewhere and the other brothers had a chance to concoct a new plan. Their initial enthusiasm for murder had waned and now they were reluctant to have his blood on their hands.

It is often helpful to take time to think things through and not act on our first impulse, especially when our actions will affect another person. Sometimes our second impulse is no good either and we need to talk to someone who is outside of the situation and can see things more clearly.

Write out Proverbs 11:14

* Try to come up with Rule #6 from this. Write it out on page 10.

What does Genesis 42:21 tell us was also going on at this time?

Joseph was sold for the price of a slave at Judah's prompting. Can you imagine selling a family member for a slave no matter how much of an annoyance you thought they were? Perhaps the brothers were up to no good and had gone to Dothan on purpose to meet the Ishmaelite traders and sell off the family treasure that had been buried in Shechem (Genesis 35:4).

Who was also betrayed for pieces of silver by someone with a similar name? (Matthew 26:14-16)

What does 1 Timothy 6:10 tell us?



Now that Joseph was gone, the brothers had to come up with a story.

What did the brothers choose to do?

Lies never bring peace to the speaker and Joseph's brethren now had to endure the sorrow of their father. Each day they had to be careful that they didn't say something which would give away their guilt and they would wonder constantly if Joseph might show up again one day and expose them for the kind of men they were.

Look up Proverbs 26:26-28. How do these verses apply to Joseph's brothers?

*** This should give you a thought for Rule #7. Write it out on page 10.**

Now Joseph was on his way to Egypt, a long and sad journey. It would likely have taken several days, to walk all the way there and unlikely that a slave would have been treated very well.

What feelings do you think would have been going through Joseph's head as he travelled down towards his home and then each day further away?

What kinds of things do you think a betrayal by your own family might teach you?

Often when bad things happen to us, we are quick to ask why God would allow such a thing and maybe pray to ask Him to quickly get us back into a better situation. However, most of the examples in the Bible show us that God often allows such things. He asks us to trust Him in the good as well as the bad. Often the bad experiences in life teach us things that we could never learn if our lives were always pleasant.

Write out Hebrews 12:10:

Who was Joseph sold to?



The Land of Egypt:



Egypt from space

Can you imagine what it must have been like for 17 year old Joseph who had spent his life in the quiet hills of Canaan to suddenly find himself working for a very important person and living in a magnificent city?

Egypt is the probably the oldest civilization in the world. In the days when people traded by travelling by foot or boat, most of the trade passed through Egypt. This helped to make it very prosperous and of a higher civilization than any of its neighbours. It was also protected from enemies by the desert, the sea and the fierce river rapids.

Although Egypt appears to be a very large country, most of it is rocky, sandy and uninhabited. The real land of Egypt is a narrow strip of land along each bank of the Nile River, sometimes just a couple miles but never more than 30 miles wide, and the land of the delta that spreads out like a fan to the sea. The soil of Egypt is extremely fertile and often while drought and famine affected other lands, Egypt could supply food to its neighbours.

However, it rarely rains in Egypt, so you may wonder how it can grow crops so successfully. The Nile is the source of the soil's fertility. Every year, melting snow and torrential spring rainfall far up the river, causes it to rise far above its ordinary level so that it overflows its banks, refertilizing the soil and filling the canals and reservoirs with enough water for the whole year. Farmers could grow 2-3 crops before the flood waters had retreated. They grew crops such as wheat, barley, flax (for making linen), and other vegetables and fruit.

The Nile was also the highway through Egypt. It formed a trade route by which gold from Sheba, ivory, gum, ebony, spices and many other precious things were brought into the country from the south. The Egyptians built boats of papyrus at first with big sails. The current of the Nile would take them North with just a bit of paddling, and the wind, which blows to the south, would fill their sails on the way back. Lots of hippopotamus and crocodiles made their home in the river as well.



Boat made of papyrus

On the map on page 19...

- **Draw a pyramid at Gizeh.**
- **Draw the path that Joseph would have probably taken from Canaan to Memphis.**
- **Find out where the land of Goshen would have been and label it.**
- **Colour the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea blue.**
- **Colour the delta region and along both sides of the Nile green.**
- **Colour the desert on both sides of Egypt yellow**
- **Colour Canaan green.**

Map:



Read Genesis 39:1-6.

1) And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. 2) And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. 3) And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. 4) And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. 5) And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. 6) And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.

Use a coloured pencil or pen and underline what it says about the LORD in these verses.

What does this tell you about Joseph's character? (Was he lying around feeling sorry for himself?)

What does God need YOU to do in order to be able to bless the things you do?

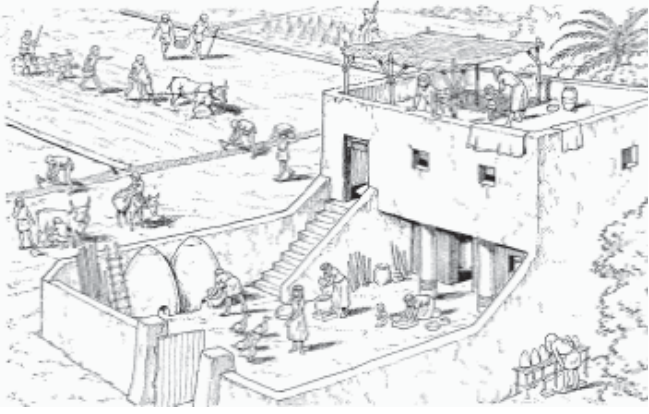
If someone leaves all that they have in your hands, what does that mean they think about you?



In Egypt, the palaces where the Pharaoh and his family lived were built quickly and cheaply because they were only expected to last as long as the Pharaoh reigned. They would be beautiful and extravagant but each new Pharaoh would build his own residence. The tombs of the Pharaoh's however, were built to last for a long time and they would fill them with treasures. They thought that when a man died, his soul passed to life beyond but his soul's existence depended on a well-preserved body and plenty of provisions. Joseph would have seen these pyramids in this picture as they were built many years before he was born.

How does verse 6 describe Joseph?

Do you think there could be problems with being especially beautiful or handsome?



Egyptian homes were mostly built in a similar fashion. There was a high rectangular wall which surrounded it with an entry door in the narrow end which faced north to catch the breezes. Inside it was divided into three sections. The first was a garden sometimes with a pool of water surrounded by trees and shrubs. Next was a roofed area raised on columns which was open at the front. Behind this was a walled and roofed area of private apartments for the family. Quite a different arrangement to living in a tent!

Read Genesis 39:7-20.

What reasons did Joseph give Mrs. Potiphar for saying no to her?

Who does he say he would be sinning against? _____

Did Mrs. Potiphar accept his answer? _____

How often did she pester him? _____

Mrs. Potiphar was very persistent, but Joseph recognized that because of this he could have nothing to do with her. He couldn't even try to be "just friends" with her. Sometimes there are things like this in our lives - things that we need to stay away from as well as we can.

What sorts of things can you think of that people your age should stay away from?

What does Joseph do when Mrs. Potiphar finally corners him (verse 12)?

Mrs. Potiphar was MAD! She didn't just wait for her husband to get home, she told all the servants first. This ensured that Potiphar would have to deal with Joseph severely.

What was Potiphar's reaction and what did he do with Joseph?

Clothing in Egypt was usually made from linen. Linen is made from a plant called “flax”. When it was harvested green, it could be made into a very fine thread. When it had ripened a little more and was yellow, it became a stronger fiber that would hold pleats well. When it was brown they used it to make ropes and mats. The stems would be pulled through a device that sliced them into ribbons, then they would be soaked for a couple weeks in water and then beaten with wooden mallets after which they would be scraped over a sharp tool and then combed straight. The fibers were attached end to end by being twisted together and then spun on a spindle into thread and woven into fabric. The fabric was usually bleached white in the sun.



Men would wear a kilt: a rectangular piece of cloth wrapped around the waist and tied with a cord or belted. Usually it was knee-length. A stole of fabric was sometimes thrown over the shoulder to cross at the chest if it was cool.

Look up Psalm 105: 17-22. What does this tell us might have been Joseph’s experience in prison?

Joseph’s life had been going quite well up until this moment. He was an important man in Potiphar’s household. Perhaps he thought of his dreams and wondered if this was the situation in which they would come true, but then it all came crashing down again for a second time.

Read Genesis 39:21-23.

21) But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. 22) And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph’s hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. 23) The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.

Once again, take a coloured pencil and underline what the LORD did for Joseph.

What character traits do you think Joseph must have had to be so trusted by these Egyptians?

Do you remember another story of two men beaten and put in prison for doing nothing wrong? How did they react to their bonds? (Acts 16)

What sorts of life lessons do you think would be better learned in prison than as an important person with an enjoyable job?

Read Genesis 40:1-8.

What important jobs did these two men have?

What job did the captain of the guard give Joseph?

Dreams were very important to the Egyptians. They had whole books written on how to interpret them and people who did this for their job!

What did Joseph find when he went to check on the butler and baker in the morning?

Joseph knew sadness. He had experienced many moments of sorrow. He also knew dreams. His dreams had more than likely given him hope and reason to keep going. He saw these men's faces and knew that it was more than just "being in prison sadness". He was willing to make the effort to find out what was wrong. They thought they had no interpreter, but Joseph wasn't shy about sharing His God with them.

Read Genesis 40:9-15.

Write out what happened in the butler's dream:



What did the butler's dream foretell?

What did Joseph ask the butler to do?

Now that the butler has received a favourable explanation of his dreams, the baker decides to relate his dream.

Read Genesis 40:16-19.

Tell what happened in the baker's dream:

What did his dream foretell?

Can you think of where else in the Bible we find bread and wine representing death and life?

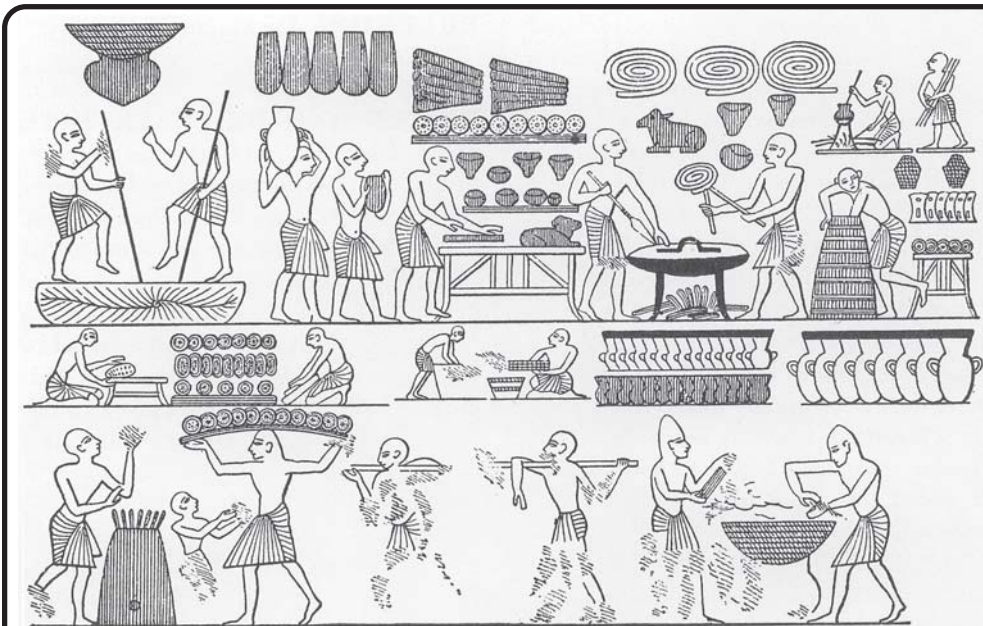
Read Genesis 40:20-23.

What was special about the third day? _____

What happened to the butler? _____

What happened to the baker? _____

What happened to Joseph? _____



Bread was an extremely important part of the Egyptian diet. They made flour from the wheat and barley they grew, then mixed it into a dough by adding water and a bit of bread dough from the day before to help leaven it. They would let it rise and then shape it for baking. They made the dough into crescents, rounds, ovals, pyramids, disks, hexagons, women, animals, birds and maybe anything

else they happened to think of. It was baked in a tall oven or on a heated flat stone. Sometimes they would add honey, anise or cumin.

Read Genesis 41:1.

How long did Joseph wait to be remembered?

Use your math skills to figure out how many **days** this was. _____

When you are waiting for something, you get up every day and wonder if this will be the day! Have you ever waited a long time for something? Joseph learned that he wasn't to rely on people remembering, he was to rely on God remembering and when God was ready for action, He made sure that the butler remembered the conversation he had had with Joseph.

Read Genesis 41:1-7.



How were Pharaoh's dreams the same?



How were his dreams different?

Read Genesis 41:8-14.

In Egypt, cows and grain were of extreme importance. Even today you would probably think cows and grain represented productivity. It is understandable why Pharaoh would be troubled by having a dream with cows and grain in it in a culture where dreams were considered important messages.

Who did Pharaoh call to interpret his dreams?

Who finally remembered Joseph? _____

Where did they bring Joseph from? _____

When Joseph is thrown into prison by Potiphar, the writer of Genesis uses the Hebrew words "bayith-sohar" which means a prison-house. In verse 14 it says that Joseph was brought out hastily from the "bor" which means a pit or cistern. This is the same word for the hole that Joseph's brothers had thrown him in.



What did Joseph do before he came in to Pharaoh?

Read Genesis 41:15-16.

How did Joseph correct Pharaoh about his ability to interpret dreams?

Read Genesis 41:17-24.

Are there any differences when Pharaoh relates the dreams to Joseph?

Joseph proceeds to explain the dream to Pharaoh.

Read Genesis 41:25-32.

How did Joseph interpret the Pharaoh's dreams?

Seven fat cows and ears of grain represent: _____

Seven thin cows and ears of grain represent: _____

The eating of the fat cows by the thin cows resulting in no difference represents: _____

Reason for two dreams: _____

Famines were not unknown in Egypt. If the Nile didn't flood, then the fields couldn't be watered and the crops wouldn't grow and this did happen from time to time.

Read Genesis 40:33-45.

It is easy to see why Joseph was such a successful person. He didn't just sit about waiting for things to happen. He was a man of action and God can only work through us if we are willing do the work.

What solution did Joseph immediately have for Pharaoh?

Pharaoh recognized the wisdom that was in Joseph. In one day, Joseph went from a man forgotten in a pit to a ruler over all the land of Egypt. What a contrast!

What did Pharaoh put on Joseph?

Remember what happened to Joseph before he was thrown into the pit by his brothers. Can you think of how verse 42 might connect to this?



What did the people do when Joseph rode out in the chariot?

What do you think this reminded Joseph of?

What did Pharaoh change Joseph's name to?

Some scholars think this name is from the Egyptian words "djad-naf" (who is called) and "p'ankh" (to live or life) therefore Joseph Who is Called Life. This may make sense because God had sent him to preserve life.

Who was Joseph given as a wife? _____

Joseph had been cast out from his family by his brothers, and now he is being received into the house of Pharaoh and attached to the people of Egypt.

Read Genesis 41:46-52.

Work out how many years Joseph has now been in Egypt (Genesis 37:2). _____

Where did Joseph store the food of the field? _____

How does verse 49 describe the harvests? _____

Joseph also began a family of his own during these years of plenty. The names he gave his sons had significant meanings to him. What were they?

Manasseh: _____

Ephraim: _____

Do you think Joseph expected to see his brothers again? _____

Read Genesis 41:53-57.

Was the famine just in the land of Egypt? _____

What did Pharaoh tell the people to do when they cried to him for bread?

What did Joseph do?

It was unusual for a famine to be so widespread. Joseph thought he could forget but perhaps now when he sees that the famine is also in Canaan he begins to suspect that his dreams may come true after all.

Read Genesis 42:1-5.

How many of Joseph's brothers went down to buy corn? _____

Why do you think Jacob didn't send Benjamin?

Read Genesis 42:6-12.



What did Joseph's brothers do when they came before Joseph?

What did this make Joseph remember?

Perhaps Joseph also remembered cutting words and nasty glances. It had been 22 years and how could he know anything that had gone on with his brothers during that time. What kind of men had they become? He may have noticed that Benjamin was not among them - had they got rid of him as well?? He doesn't reveal himself, but he doesn't send them away without another thought either.

First thing he does is call them spies. This is a word that can mean a tale-bearer. You remember that this was probably one of the reasons that they hated

Joseph. Perhaps these were the last nasty words Joseph heard from his brothers when he came to check on them in Dothan.

What kind of men did the brothers claim to be?

Look up this word in a concordance and find out what it means.

Read Genesis 42:13-17.

Why do you think the brothers referred to themselves as 12 brethren?

What is Joseph's deal with the brothers?

Perhaps Joseph feels he can keep Benjamin safe if he has him brought to Egypt. Joseph is kind enough not to throw his brothers into a pit, but he puts them under guard.

How long does he leave them in prison? _____

Read Genesis 42:18-24.

How does Joseph change his mind?

The brothers are still haunted by what they did to Joseph. Twenty-two years later and they still see this as punishment for their actions to Joseph.

What does Joseph hear Reuben say?

Perhaps Joseph never knew one of his brothers had stood up for him.

Who does he choose to bind and keep in prison? _____

Where is he in the birth order? (Genesis 29:32-33) _____

Read Genesis 42:25-28.



What did Joseph have put in their sacks of grain?

Do you think this was meant as a gift? _____

When they found it, how did the brothers react?

Who did the brothers think had done this to them?

Read Genesis 42:29-38.

What do you think Jacob might have thought when the brothers return again with one brother missing and a story of money turning up in a sack?

How did they feel when they found ALL their money had been returned? _____

What did Jacob accuse the brothers of (verse 36)?

Was Jacob willing to let them take Benjamin at this time? _____

Read Genesis 43:1-10.

Jacob's family was getting hungry again. The once full sacks of grain were lying empty. Perhaps he thought the brothers would have forgotten about taking Benjamin. "Go and get some more food," he says.

Who takes the lead this time? _____

What questions does Judah say Joseph asked of them?

What does Judah promise to be for Benjamin? _____

*** Use this thought to come up with Rule #8 for families. Write it out on page 10.**

Read Genesis 43:11-14.

Jacob is finally convinced that he will have to allow Benjamin to go.

What does he send as a gift?

What does he ask God Almighty to give them before Joseph? _____

Read Genesis 43:15-23.

The Bible doesn't tell us much at all about Benjamin. He was a silent person in all this family intrigue.

Put yourself in Benjamin's place...What do you think he was thinking? Was he afraid? Was he worried? Was he glad to be included? Did he even remember Joseph?

Once again the brothers stand before Joseph and this time they are rounded up and taken to his home.

What did the brothers think was going to happen to them?

Doesn't this sound like what the brothers themselves had been guilty of? Sometimes we are afraid that people will treat us the same way that we have treated other people. This is why it is important to follow the golden rule and treat others the way you would like to be treated.

When they tried to explain to the steward about the money, what did he say to them?

Do you think it surprised them that this steward would speak to them of their God? Instead of God punishing them as they thought, God had given them treasure?? And at that moment, someone is brought out to them.

Who was it? _____

What is God's definition of treasure (Exodus 19:5).

Food in Egypt:



With all the variety we have today, you might think food in ancient times was boring. On the contrary, they loved to put on a big party. This is what might have been on the dinner table.

Grains: bread from wheat or barley

Meat: pigs, cows, goats, sheep, wild game, duck, grouse, pigeon, fish

Vegetables: onions, garlic, radishes, lettuce, celery, leeks, parsley, squash, cucumber, beans, chickpeas, lentils and peas.

Fruits: figs, grapes, melons, dates, pomegranates, olives

Herbs: anise, mint, cumin, dill, marjoram, rosemary, thyme, sage, mustard

Sweets: carob beans, honey

Beverages: beer or wine (the ancient Egyptians invented beer). The sanitizing action of alcohol made it safer to drink than water.

Read Genesis 43:24-31.

Joseph is not concerned with the gift, but he is concerned with how the brothers managed to bring Benjamin. Knowing his father's preference for the sons of Rachel he would probably have assumed that Benjamin had taken his place as the firstborn. After what had happened to him at his brother's hands, would his father really trust another son of Rachel with these men?

What is the first question he asks?

What is Joseph's reaction to his little brother?

Why didn't they all eat together?

What was unusual about the way Joseph set them at the table?

How does Joseph show preference for Benjamin?

What questions would you be asking if you were one of the brothers?

Read Genesis 44:1-12.

Joseph is still not ready to reveal himself to his brothers. It is time to let them go home. What can he do to keep Benjamin with him? He comes up with a plan based on deception.

What does he ask his steward to put in Benjamin's sack?

The brothers are sent off in the morning but hardly get out of the city before they are chased down by the steward. The brothers are astonished that they would be accused of stealing, in fact they are one hundred percent sure that none of them would have done such a thing!

What do the brothers offer as punishment if they are found guilty?

How does the steward change what they have offered?

As much as the brothers are certain that they are innocent, perhaps they were beginning to think that there might be something to this “divining”. Hadn’t this man been able to line them up according to age? Didn’t he sometimes seem to know more about them than he should?

Can you imagine the tension as the steward searches each sack and the brothers are look fearfully at each other. Can you imagine their dismay when the cup turns up!

Where was the cup found? _____

Read Genesis 44:13-17.

When Benjamin is shown to be guilty, what do the brothers do?

*** Use this thought to come up with Rule #9 for families. Write it out on page 10.**

The brothers have become true men. They are no longer rivals but are now willing to look after one another. It is now time for Joseph to also realize that he doesn’t just have one brother - he has eleven.

Read Genesis 44:18-34.

What is different now in Judah’s attitude to the child of his father’s old age compared to Genesis 37:4?

What is Judah most concerned about now?

Read Genesis 45:1-8.

Judah’s speech touches Joseph. He sees eleven brothers who have learned to stand together. He now knows Benjamin is safe with them and that he will be too. Finally, Joseph speaks to his brothers in their own language. He tells them something that only they and he would know.

What does he say?

Joseph has managed to forgive his brothers and understand his afflictions in light of God’s will.

*** Use this thought to come up with Rule #10 for families. Write it out on page 10.**

What does he say about this (v.7)?

*The brothers who have been living with guilt for over twenty years are suddenly relieved of it. God had changed their evil into good. He had put treasure in their sacks and they now knew that the treasure was not money. **They** were God’s people, His treasure.*

Read Genesis 45:9-15.

What does Joseph tell the brothers to tell Jacob?

How many more years of famine were there to be? _____

Read Genesis 45:16-24.

It is obvious that Joseph was a person of value in Egypt. Pharaoh is eager to have the rest of Joseph's family come and live in Egypt. He does what he can to encourage it.

Joseph gave gifts to his brothers, but what does he give to Benjamin?

What is Joseph's parting comment to his brothers?

The brothers still had to confess to Jacob their part in Joseph's disappearance. Would they own up to it as a group or argue all the way home about who should take the most blame?

Read Genesis 45:25-28.

What happened when they told Jacob the news?

It says that they told Jacob all the words of Joseph, so they must have also explained what they did and how Joseph had forgiven them and how God had been working.

When Jacob saw the proof of Joseph's existence in the wagons and provisions, how did he feel?

Suddenly the burden of the past has been lifted. Jacob's family is united again. His faith in God is renewed.

Read Genesis 46:26-27.

This group of people who came down into Egypt were the beginning of the nation through whom the whole world would be blessed.

Can you think of any reasons why 70 might be a special number in the Bible? (Numbers 11:16, Jeremiah 29:10)

Read Genesis 46:28-34.

How did Joseph ensure that his family didn't become absorbed into Egyptian ways of life?

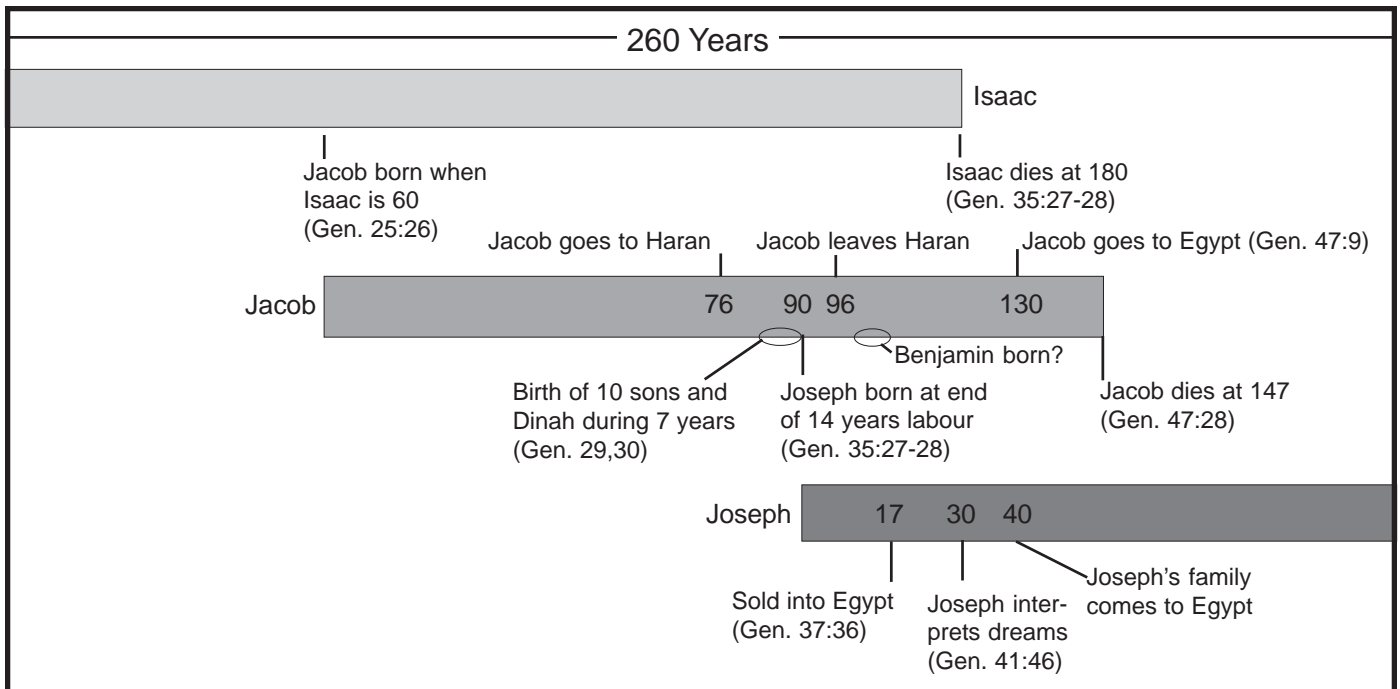
Jacob didn't die for a long time yet. How many years did he live in Egypt? (Genesis 48:28)

Can you think of any reason why this number may be significant? (Hint: Genesis 37:2)

It is clear that God can make His people prosper no matter where they are or whether they are many or few. What is required is people who remain faithful and obedient no matter what.

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
But his delight is in the law of the LORD;
and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,
that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;
his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalm 1:1-3



Genesis 47:1-31



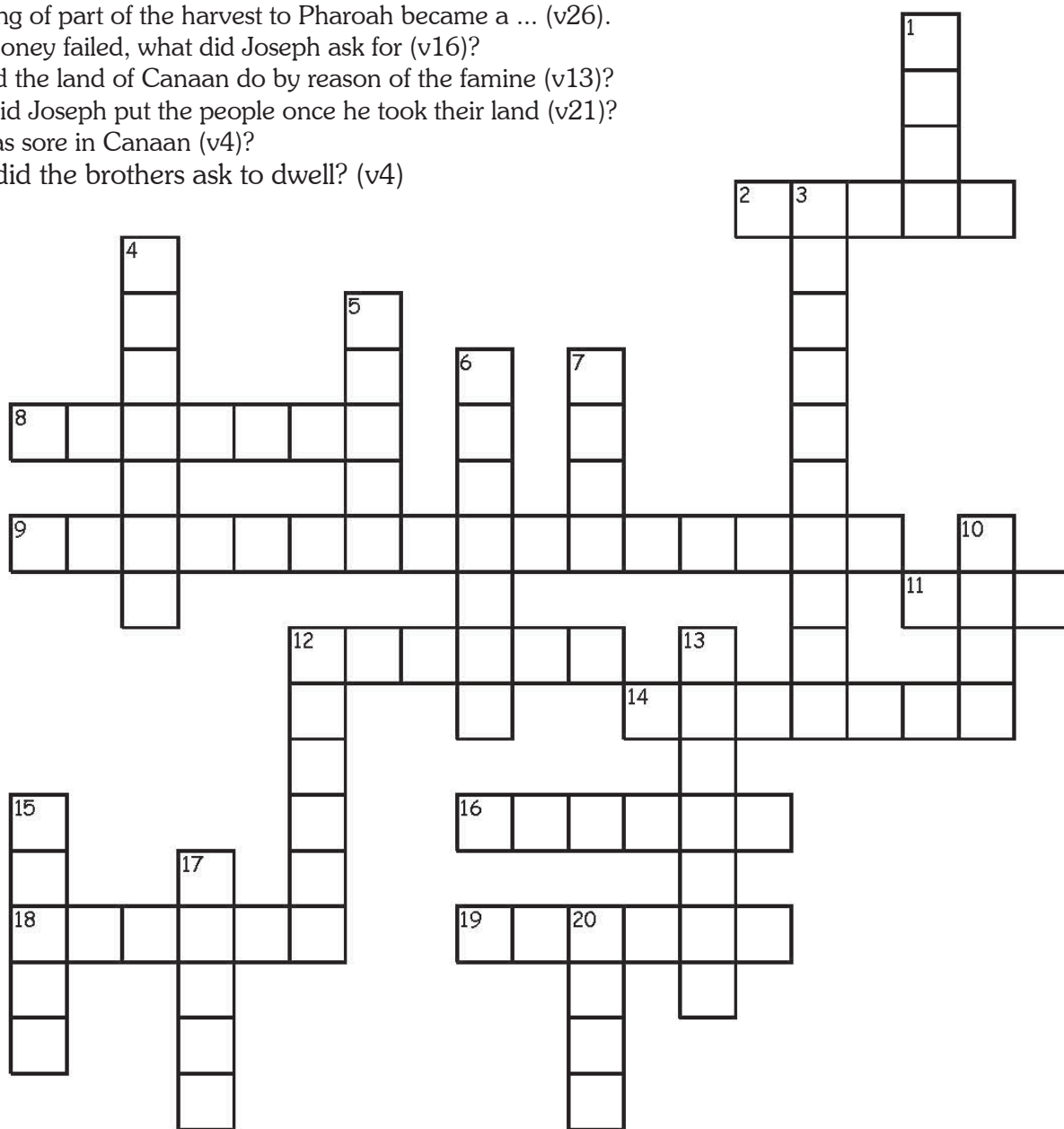
- (1) Then Joseph came and told Pharaoh, and said, My father and my brethren, and their flocks, and their herds, and all that they have, are come out of the land of Canaan; and, behold, they are in the land of Goshen.
- (2) And he took some of his brethren, even five men, and presented them unto Pharaoh.
- (3) And Pharaoh said unto his brethren, What is your occupation? And they said unto Pharaoh, Thy servants are shepherds, both we, and also our fathers.
- (4) They said moreover unto Pharaoh, For to sojourn in the land are we come; for thy servants have no pasture for their flocks; for the famine is sore in the land of Canaan: now therefore, we pray thee, let thy servants dwell in the land of Goshen.
- (5) And Pharaoh spake unto Joseph, saying, Thy father and thy brethren are come unto thee:
- (6) The land of Egypt is before thee; in the best of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell; in the land of Goshen let them dwell: and if thou knowest any men of activity among them, then make them rulers over my cattle.
- (7) And Joseph brought in Jacob his father, and set him before Pharaoh: and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.
- (8) And Pharaoh said unto Jacob, How old art thou?
- (9) And Jacob said unto Pharaoh, The days of the years of my pilgrimage are an hundred and thirty years: few and evil have the days of the years of my life been, and have not attained unto the days of the years of the life of my fathers in the days of their pilgrimage.
- (10) And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from before Pharaoh.
- (11) And Joseph placed his father and his brethren, and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had commanded.
- (12) And Joseph nourished his father, and his brethren, and all his father's household, with bread, according to their families.
- (13) And there was no bread in all the land; for the famine was very sore, so that the land of Egypt and all the land of Canaan fainted by reason of the famine.
- (14) And Joseph gathered up all the money that was found in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, for the corn which they bought: and Joseph brought the money into Pharaoh's house.
- (15) And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth.
- (16) And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail.
- (17) And they brought their cattle unto Joseph: and Joseph gave them bread in exchange for horses, and for the flocks, and for the cattle of the herds, and for the asses: and he fed them with bread for all their cattle for that year.
- (18) When that year was ended, they came unto him the second year, and said unto him, We will not hide it from my lord, how that our money is spent; my lord also hath our herds of cattle; there is not ought left in the sight of my lord, but our bodies, and our lands:
- (19) Wherefore shall we die before thine eyes, both we and our land? buy us and our land for bread, and we and our land will be servants unto Pharaoh: and give us seed, that we may live, and not die, that the land be not desolate.
- (20) And Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh; for the Egyptians sold every man his field, because the famine prevailed over them: so the land became Pharaoh's.
- (21) And as for the people, he removed them to cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof.
- (22) Only the land of the priests bought he not; for the priests had a portion assigned them of Pharaoh, and did eat their portion which Pharaoh gave them: wherefore they sold not their lands.
- (23) Then Joseph said unto the people, Behold, I have bought you this day and your land for Pharaoh: lo, here is seed for you, and ye shall sow the land.
- (24) And it shall come to pass in the increase, that ye shall give the fifth part unto Pharaoh, and four parts shall be your own, for seed of the field, and for your food, and for them of your households, and for food for your little ones.
- (25) And they said, Thou hast saved our lives: let us find grace in the sight of my lord, and we will be Pharaoh's servants.
- (26) And Joseph made it a law over the land of Egypt unto this day, that Pharaoh should have the fifth part; except the land of the priests only, which became not Pharaoh's.

DOWN:

- 1 How many of his brothers did Joseph present to Pharoah (v2)?
- 3 Pharoah asked, "What is your ..." (v3)?
- 4 Jacob Pharoah (v7).
- 5 What did Joseph nourish his family with (v12)?
- 6 Whose land did Joseph not buy (v22)?
- 7 Pharoah said, "In the ... of the land make thy father and brethren to dwell" (v6).
- 10 When the money and cattle were Pharoah's, what did Joseph take as payment (v20)?
- 12 Pharoah said Joseph could make any man of activity ruler over his ... (v6).
- 13 What was another name for Goshen (v11)?
- 15 What part of their harvest would the people have to give to Pharoah (v24)?
- 17 The people said to Joseph, "Thou hast saved our ..." (v25).
- 20 What did Joseph give the people after he had bought their land (v23)?

ACROSS:

- 2 What did Joseph gather up from Egypt (v14)?
- 8 What did the brothers say they didn't have for their flocks in Canaan (v4)?
- 9 How old did Jacob say he was (v9)? (write it out in letters, no spaces)
- 11 The giving of part of the harvest to Pharoah became a ... (v26).
- 12 When money failed, what did Joseph ask for (v16)?
- 14 What did the land of Canaan do by reason of the famine (v13)?
- 16 Where did Joseph put the people once he took their land (v21)?
- 18 What was sore in Canaan (v4)?
- 19 Where did the brothers ask to dwell? (v4)



Lessons from Joseph's life on HOW TO STAY FAITHFUL

When Joseph was brought down into Egypt, he was about the age that young people today finish high school and may think about moving away from home. All the values that their parents have tried to teach them are then put to the test. Joseph gives us an example of how to stay faithful.



A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z