

Jacob Fears His Brother, Esau.

Remember Jacob's deception? He dressed up like his brother, Esau, so Isaac (their father) would give him Esau's blessing. Esau hated Jacob and threatened to kill him after their father died (Chapter 27:41). So Jacob fled to Haran and met Laban and his daughters.

Upon Jacob's return home, he feared that Esau would still be mad (20 years later), and try to kill him and his family. So, Jacob prayed;

"Deliver me, I pray, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau; for I fear him, lest he come and attack me and the mother with the children. For You said, I will surely treat you well, and make your descendants as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude."

- Genesis 32:11 & 12

Jacob remembered God's Promises! There should be no reason to fear, yet he does! *Just like us.*

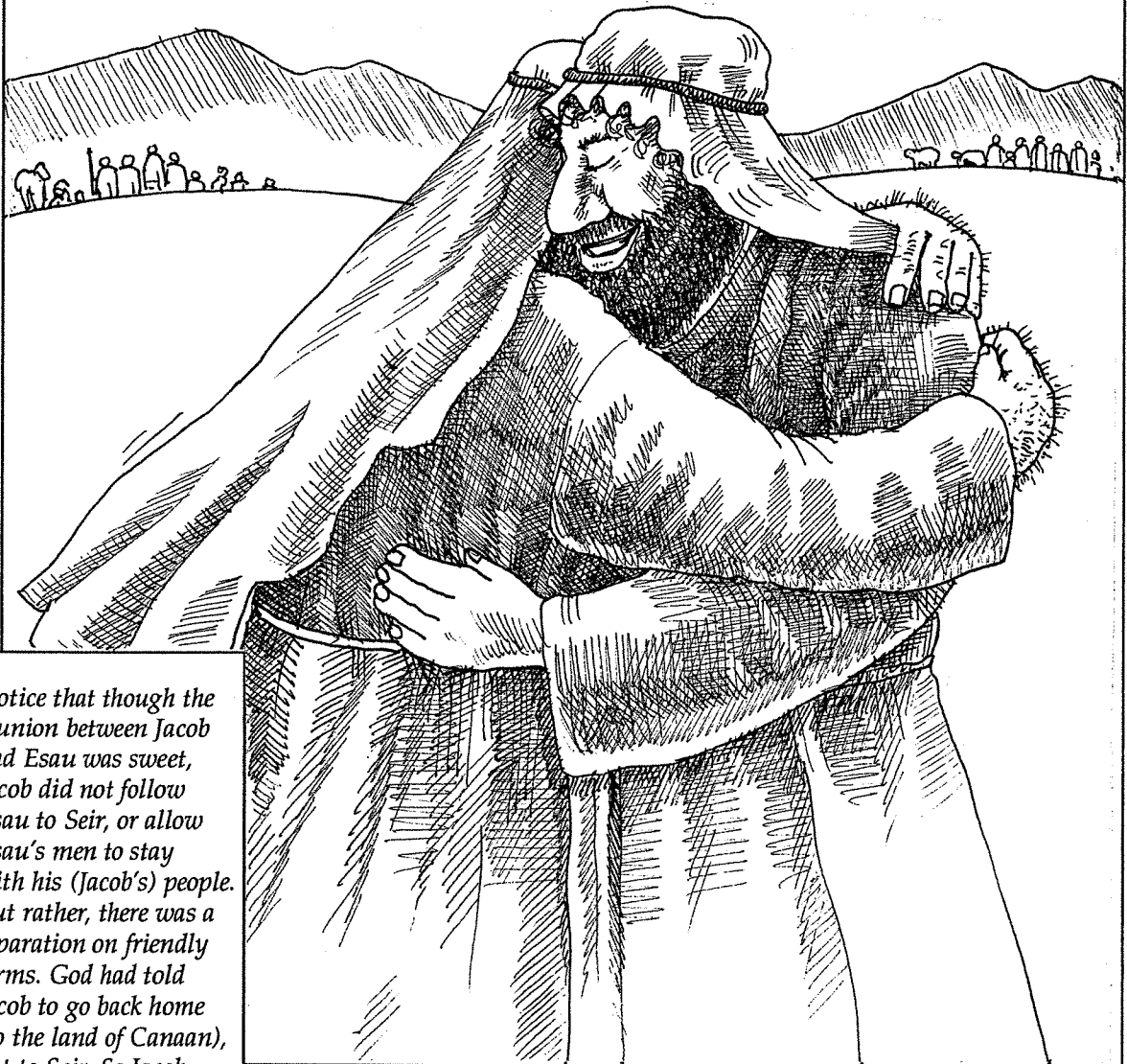


The Lord changed Jacob's name to Israel after they wrestled. The name Israel means, "He who strives with God; or God strives; or God rules"

Jacob Didn't Need To Fear Esau! God Had Plans For Jacob & Family!

Jacob's prayer in the previous chapter was answered! Remember that God had already promised, "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you." - Genesis 28:15

Jacob said to Esau, "...receive my present from my hand, inasmuch as I have seen your face as though I had seen the face of God, and you were pleased with me. Please, take my blessing that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough." - Genesis 33:10-11



Notice that though the reunion between Jacob and Esau was sweet, Jacob did not follow Esau to Seir, or allow Esau's men to stay with his (Jacob's) people. But rather, there was a separation on friendly terms. God had told Jacob to go back home (to the land of Canaan), not to Seir. So Jacob obeyed the Lord.

Genesis

Chapters 32 and 33

Discussion Questions

Jacob's two great enemies and opponents were Laban and Esau--one outside the Promised Land and one within. This could be compared to our struggles as Believers today, against the world and the flesh.

1. Read Gen. 32:1-2; Jacob was going to face Esau and he did not know how Esau would react. How did God reassure Jacob that he would be alright?
2. Read 2 Kings 6:16-17; when faced with a no-win situation God opened Elisha's servant's eyes, what did he see?
3. Read Joshua 5:13-15; Who is the Commander of the heavenly army?
4. Read Hebrews 13:5-6; what promise can WE hold onto in times of trials?
5. Read Gen. 32:3-8; what did Jacob do to let Esau know he was coming back home hoping to reconcile? Did Esau make his intentions clear?
6. Read Gen. 32:9-12; Jacob's prayer is an excellent pattern for all of us.
--Who did he acknowledge as being in control and giving him direction?

--Did Jacob see himself as being "worthy" of God's protection? What was his attitude?

--Did Jacob pray according to God's promises and His Word?
7. Read Gen. 32:13-23; after pouring his heart out in prayer, what did Jacob do?

Note: *Jacob was humble in trusting God in this situation and yet he used wisdom in doing what he could in expressing good will.*

8. Read Gen. 32:24-32; Who did Jacob wrestle with? Why?

Note: *It's interesting to note that the name of the ford where Jacob crossed over (verse 22) is called Jabbok. The name Jabbok means "wrestler."*

9. Have you ever "wrestled" with God about anything? When we wrestle with God, if we cling tight to Him our faith and understanding will grow, just as it did in Jacob.
10. Can you name three things that happened as a result of Jacob's wrestling match?

--Jacob never walked the same again. Do we walk differently if we are born again?

--God gave Jacob a new name, what was it? Rev. 2:17 tells us all overcomers will get a new name.

--God will always bless us, even in wrestling with Him.

Genesis Chapter 33

1. Read Gen. 33:1-7; what was the order in which Jacob divided up his family? Why do you think he did it that way?
2. Who went before them all?

Note: *It was customary to bow seven times to show respect and recognition to the ruler of the region and this is what Jacob did to Esau.*

3. What was Esau's reaction when he finally saw Jacob?
4. Read Gen. 33:8-11; what reason did Jacob give Esau as to why he wanted to give him the livestock? What was Esau's response?
5. Because Jacob was blessed with abundance from God and Esau knew Jacob was sincere, what was Esau's final response to Jacob's gifts? This finally brought on full reconciliation.
6. Read Gen. 33:12-17; what happened between the brothers? Did they part peacefully?
7. Read Gen. 33:18-20; once he was back in Canaan (the land God promised him), what did Jacob do? What was the name he gave the altar?

Note: *This is the first time Jacob used his new name Israel.*

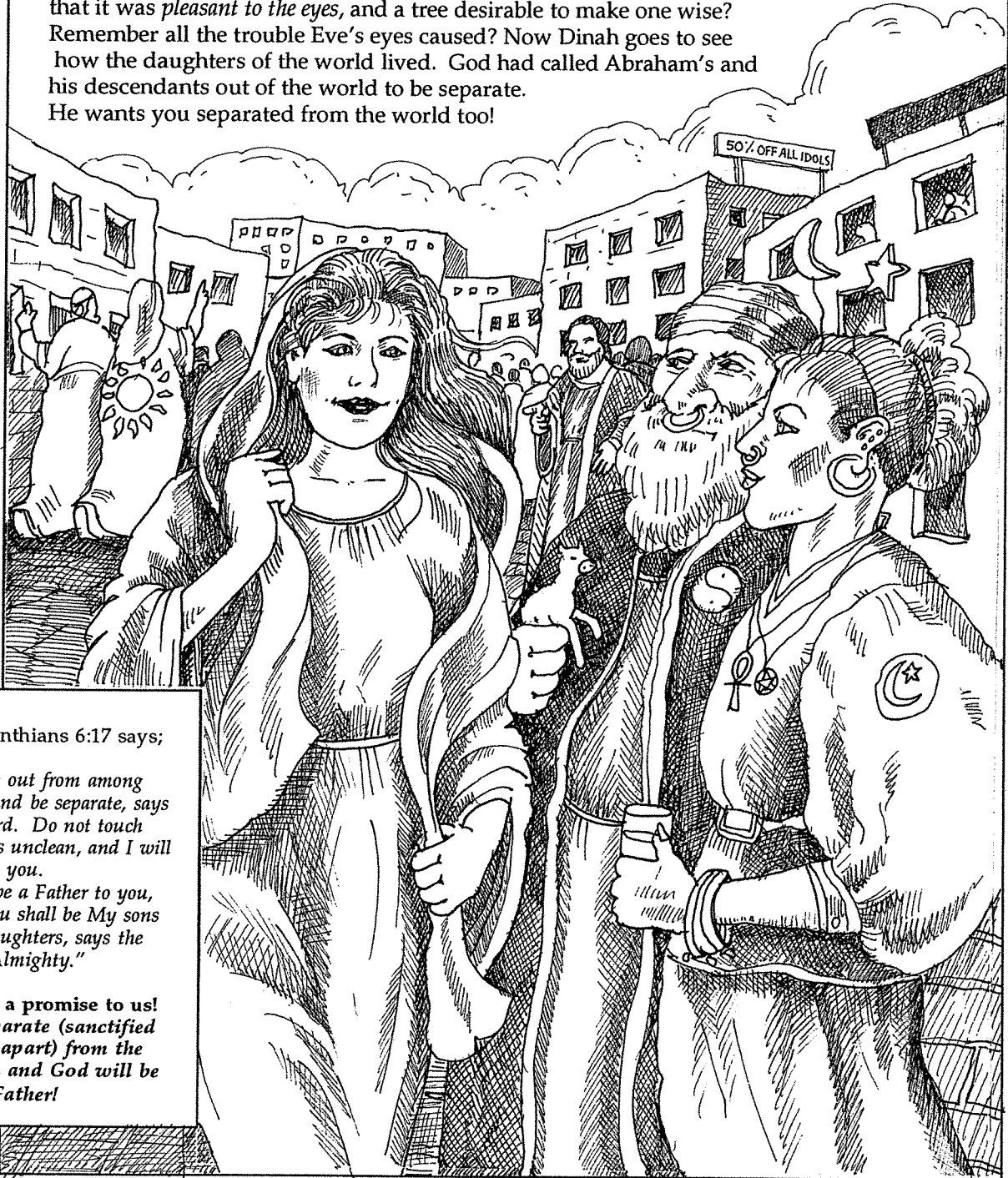
Memory Verse

"For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." So we may boldly say:
"The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Hebrews 13:5-6 (NKJV)

Dinah Goes To "See" The Daughters Of The Land.

Remember Genesis 3:6? Eve "saw" that the tree was good food, that it was *pleasant to the eyes*, and a tree desirable to make one wise? Remember all the trouble Eve's eyes caused? Now Dinah goes to see how the daughters of the world lived. God had called Abraham's and his descendants out of the world to be separate. He wants you separated from the world too!



2 Corinthians 6:17 says;

"Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you. I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

**That's a promise to us!
Be separate (sanctified or set apart) from the world, and God will be your Father!**

Just as a stone makes many ripples in the water when it hits, so will sin cause many ripples in your life and in the lives of others. Dinah found trouble, her brothers, her father, and an entire group of people felt the ripples from her trip into the world. Then sins were added to deal with the first sin, such as deceit, lies, compromise, murders and plundering. So these things were the fruit of Dinah's trip to see the world. 1 John 2:15 says, *"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever."*

Jacob Flees To Bethel; The House Of God.

Jacob feared the wrath of the Canaanites and the Perizzites for the evil his household had done. So God called Jacob back to Bethel. When you're in trouble, go back to the house of God.

Jacob said to his household and to all who were with him, "Put away the foreign gods that are among you, purify yourselves, and change your garments."

- Genesis 35:2

Jacob's family should have gotten rid of their false gods a long time ago! (Remember Rachel took some of her father, Laban's, household gods on the journey from Haran.) (See Genesis 31:32.)

Now that Jacob is going to the "House of God" it's time to get rid of the idols! *Why didn't Jacob get rid of the idols in his household before this?*

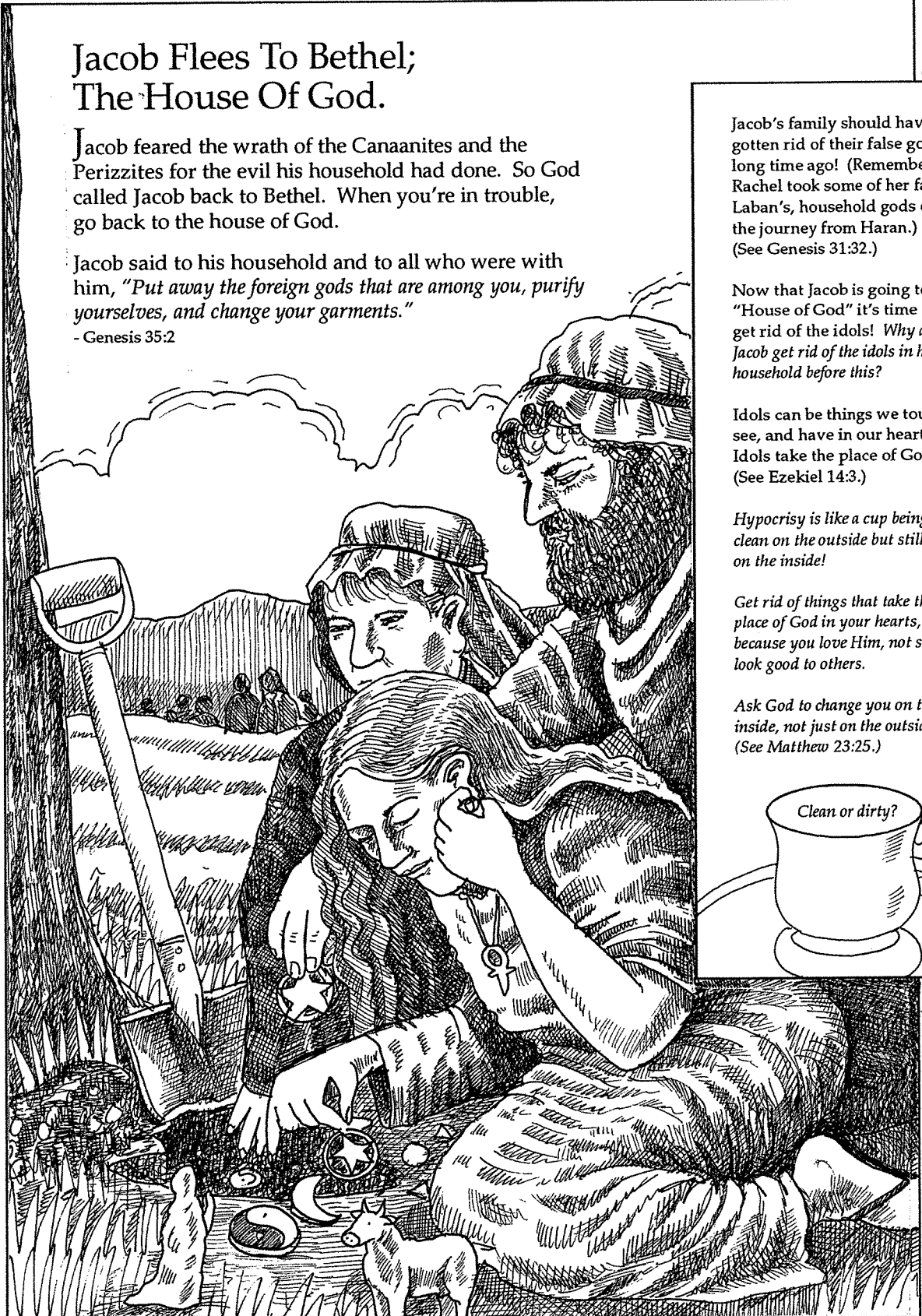
Idols can be things we touch, see, and have in our hearts. Idols take the place of God. (See Ezekiel 14:3.)

Hypocrisy is like a cup being clean on the outside but still dirty on the inside!

Get rid of things that take the place of God in your hearts, because you love Him, not so you look good to others.

Ask God to change you on the inside, not just on the outside! (See Matthew 23:25.)

Clean or dirty?



Genesis

Chapters 34 and 35

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 34:1; what did Dinah do? Was she right in doing it?
2. What does the Bible say to us about the world? (James 1:27C and 1 John 2:15)
3. Read Gen. 34:2-4; what happened to Dinah?
4. Read Gen. 34:5-7; how did Dinah's family react when they heard of what had happened?

Note: *Sex outside of marriage was wrong then (Deut. 22:20-30), and it is just as wrong today. Sex is something only to be shared between a husband and a wife.*

5. Read Gen. 34:8-12; did Hamor see this as wrong? What did he want to do? What did Shechem want to do?
6. Does the world see it as wrong today?
7. Read Gen. 34:13-17; what did Dinah's brothers do? Did they trust God to take care of this matter?

Note: *Dinah's brothers used God's covenant of circumcision (Gen. 17) as a tool for deceit and murder. Can you think of any religious group today that uses religion as a tool for murder? Who is responsible for the Sept. 11 tragedy?*

8. Read Gen. 34:18-24; what was Shechem's response? Did the men of the city see this as a good thing too? Why were all the men of the city eager to agree with this?
9. Read Gen. 34:25-29; what did Simeon and Levi do? Even though they acted out of love and protection for their sister, was it right for them to do what they did?
10. Read Rom. 12:19; how are we to react to injustices in our lives?
11. Read Gen. 34:30-31; what was Jacob's response? What was he concerned about that might happen to them?
12. How did the brothers respond to Jacob?

Chapter 35

1. Read Gen. 35:1; what did God want Jacob to do? What happened there that was special to God and Jacob? (Gen. 28:12-15)
2. Read Gen. 35:2-4; what did Jacob have to take away from his people?
3. The danger of living in the world is the same today as it was in Jacob's day, the influences of idols had crept into their households. What are some idols today that can be found among Christians?
4. Read Gen. 35:5; Jacob was worried that the surrounding cities would take vengeance on them because of what Simeon and Levi did to Shechem (Gen. 34:30), Who protected them? How did He do it?
5. Read Gen. 35:6-8; what sad event happened to them?

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Note: *Deborah was actually the nurse of Jacob's mother Rebekah. She left with Rebekah from Mesopotamia when Rebekah had left to marry Isaac (Gen. 24:59). She was well loved by Jacob, and God thought she was important enough to mention in the Bible.*

6. Read Gen. 35:9-15; God renewed His covenant with Jacob and also the name He had given him, what was it?
7. Read Gen. 35:16-21; what happened to Rachel along the way?
8. What did Jacob change the baby's name to?

Note: *Rachel wanted to name the baby Ben-Oni meaning "Son of My Sorrow." Jacob probably didn't want his son to carry such a name through life so he renamed him Benjamin meaning "Son of the Right Hand." This signifies a honored position in the family.*

9. Read Gen. 35:22; what did Reuben do? Why do you think he did this? What was even more disgusting about this event was that Bilhah was the mother of Reuben's half brothers Dan and Naphtali.
10. Read Gen. 35:23-29; how old was Isaac when he died? Who buried him? Does it seem as though Esau and Jacob had kept peace between them through the years?

Memory Verse

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

1 John 2:15 (NKJV)

Joseph; The Beloved First-born Son Of Rachel & Jacob

Joseph, a seventeen year old, was feeding the flock with his brothers. (See Genesis 37:2.)

Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him. Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more.

- Genesis 37:3-5



GENESIS 36 ESAU'S LINEAGE

Esau took wives from the surrounding nations, unlike Jacob who returned to the land of Abraham to find a wife. Esau had many children and lived in the land of Seir, or Edom.

When you see Edom in scripture, remember Esau.

Joseph was a type of Jesus. Both Joseph and Jesus were special to their Father, and both were rejected and hated by their brothers. Both were sold for money and thrown into a waterless pit. God had great plans for Joseph to save the nation of Israel. Just like Jesus, he suffered, and then was used to save his brothers. Jesus too, saves us, His brethren. Have you asked Him into your heart? We are in the family of Jesus when we ask Him into our hearts. His mother and brothers are those who do His will. (See Matthew 12:50.) We must be born again. (See John 3:3.)

Genesis

Chapter 37

Discussion Questions

Genesis is a book of remarkable faith, Enoch shows the walk of faith (Gen. 5:22), Noah shows the perseverance of faith, Abraham shows the obedience of faith, Isaac shows the power of faith, Jacob shows the discipline of faith and Joseph shows the triumph of faith. Let's see what we can learn about Joseph...

1. Read Gen. 37:1-2; how old is Joseph? What was his responsibility in the family? What did he do to his brothers?
2. Read Gen. 37:3-4; who did Jacob favor? What did he give Joseph?
3. What was the result of Jacob favoring Joseph? Is it a good idea to show favoritism?

Note: *The tunic of many colors signified a position of favor, princely standing and birthright.*

4. Read Gen. 37:5-8; what did Joseph do after he had his dream? Do you think that the Lord gave him this dream to encourage him and prepare him for what He was planning in Joseph's life? Was it wise of Joseph to do what he did?
5. What was his brothers' reaction to the dream?
6. Read Gen. 37:9-11; what was Joseph's next dream about? what was his brothers' reaction? What was his father's reaction?
7. Even though Jacob rebuked Joseph, what did he do?

Note: *Joseph was indeed set apart from his brothers, by his father and especially by God. There was a lot of work to do in his life before God could use him. His pride and impatience had to be stripped from him.*

8. Read Gen. 37:12-17; where was Joseph sent? Do you remember what happened there? (Gen. 34)
9. What was the reason Joseph was sent to Shechem? Do you think Jacob might have been a little concerned for their safety?
10. Read Gen. 37:18-22; even after they have been away for so long tending to the sheep, what was Joseph's brothers' reaction to seeing him? Who wanted to save him?
11. Read Gen. 37:23-28; what was the very first thing the brothers did to Joseph?

Note: *Joseph had to have some idea that his brothers resented him and the special coat that his father gave him. It was a symbol of prestige and favor. The brothers took great pleasure in stripping it off of him.*

12. What did they do to Joseph after they stripped him of his coat?
13. Do you think the brothers were able to hear Joseph's scream for help while they were eating? What kind of character does this show us of Joseph's brothers?
14. Instead of letting Joseph die, what did they do? Whose idea was it?

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15. Even with all of this hatred and bitterness, God's grace and mercy is bigger than we can imagine. Who came from the tribe of Judah? (Rev. 5:5)
16. Read Gen. 37:29-30; what do you think could have been Reuben's intention upon returning to the pit?
17. Read Gen. 37:31-35; did the brothers show any remorse for what they had done? What did they tell their father? Did they give any consideration to how he would feel?
18. What did Jacob do after hearing the news about Joseph? Was there anything his family could do to comfort him?
19. Read Gen. 37:28; where is Joseph sold to? Do you think God is in control even in this? Does God have a plan?
20. Read Isaiah 55:8-9; can we figure out what God's purpose is?

Note: *This is just the beginning of the journey for Joseph, God will do a great and mighty work through this young man. His character will be refined and tested and he will come out shining brightly. Even at a young age you can be used by God. Keep in mind Daniel and his friends, Shadrach, meshach and Abed-Nego and of course keep your eye on Joseph!*

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

Judah's Sin

Judah married a Canaanite woman (Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob found wives in Haran, not among the Canaanites.) In Genesis 24:3, Abraham made his servant swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and the God of the earth, that he would not take a wife for Isaac from the daughters of the Canaanites. Jacob, Judah's father also returned to Haran to find a wife (Leah and Rachel). Judah departed from his brothers and while away, met a Canaanite woman and married her. (Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.) God wants us to come out from the unbelievers and not be "yoked" with them. They do not know our God, but follow after idols. There can be no real fellowship with them. We can love them and pray for them, but we need to remain with our brethren, the believers.

Tamar married Judah's son Er, and after he died, Onan. After Onan died, Shelah was next in line to marry Tamar. Judah withheld his last son from her, so she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil and wrapped herself, and sat in an open place which was on the way to Timnah; for she saw that Shelah was grown, and she was not given to him as a wife. When Judah saw her, he thought she was a harlot, because she had covered her face. (*He didn't know it was Tamar.*) Judah visited her and gave her his signet, cord and staff. After he left, she also departed and took off her veil and put on her former garments of widowhood. Three months later, she was with child (twins). Judah was outraged at her sin until she presented his signet, cord and staff as proof of his fatherhood.



Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, appears in the geneology of Jesus. (See Matthew 1:3.)

Judah was tricked by Tamar along the road to Timnah. Before Judah's sin was made known, he said, "bring her out and let her be burned!" But, upon the discovery that she had his signet, cord and staff, he said, "She has been more righteous than I, because I did not give her to Shelah my son." - Genesis 38:26

Judah should have kept his promise to Tamar, allowing her to marry Shelah. When someone sins or *appears* to have sinned, such as Tamar, we should know that God is the Judge, not us! Remember what Jesus said to the accusers of the woman caught in adultery; "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." - John 8:7

Genesis

Chapter 38

Discussion Questions

Note: *Many people wonder why this little chapter is tucked away in between the wonderful story of Joseph. The Bible is written by the Holy Spirit and is given to us to teach us (2 Tim. 3:16). John tells us that Jesus IS the Word of God, the Bible (John 1:1). So, let's look at this passage of the Bible and ask ourselves, "What is God teaching us?"*

1. Read Gen. 38:1; what immediately past event does vs. 1 refer to? (Gen. 37)
2. What did Judah do? Do you think he was wise to make friends with Canaanites? Remember Lot, what happened to him?
3. Read Gen. 38:2-5; not only did Judah have a Canaanite friend, what else did he do? Do you smell trouble coming?
4. Read Gen. 38:6-7; what did Judah do? It's interesting that Judah found a wife for Er, he probably wanted someone of good character to carry on the tribe of Judah, and didn't trust his son to make a good choice.
5. What happened to Er? Could it have been because he grew up in the Canaanite communities (forbidden by God) and did not follow the true God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
6. Read Gen. 38:8-10; why did God kill Onan? Was it the actual "act" of what he did? Was it because of rebellion in his heart, being disobedient to his father and disrespectful of his brother?

Note: *It was the custom in those days that, if a man died without children, his next younger brother should marry his wife and "raise up seed to his brother." The first son from such a marriage would then be recognized legally as the son and heir of the dead brother.*

7. Read Gen. 38:11; why did Judah want Tamar to live with her father, what was he afraid of? What did Judah promise Tamar?
8. Read Gen. 38:12; what happened to Judah's wife?
9. Read Gen. 38:13-14; what did Tamar do? Quite a few years have passed by now, do you think she felt that Judah was not going to honor his word?
10. Read Gen. 38:15-19; what was the pledge that Tamar required from Judah?

Note: *The signet ring spoke or signified who Judah was, it was like his signature, his identity. The cord (or bracelet) indicates a person's wealth and the staff represented the person's position. Judah willingly gave everything that he was to a prostitute. There's a high price to pay when you take part in sexual sin, no matter what kind.*

11. Read Gen. 38:20-23; was Judah able to find "the harlot" and get back his possessions (position)?
12. Read Gen. 38:24-26; what was Judah's reaction at the news that Tamar was pregnant and unmarried?

Note: *Our sin always looks worse when others are doing it. Don't be so quick to judge others. When we're angry with someone it's usually because we're struggling with the same sin.*

13. When Judah acknowledged his sin was it because he got caught, or was it out of a repentant heart?
14. What's the difference between sorrow, and godly sorrow? (2 Cor. 7:10)
15. Read Gen. 38:27-30; can you name two other twins who struggled in their mother's womb? (Gen. 25)
16. On whose hand was the scarlet thread? Who actually came out first? It is Perez, who is the ancestor of David, and eventually of Jesus Christ.

Note: *The message of Genesis 38 is that we can't take fire into our bosom without getting burned (Proverbs 6:27-32). But it is also a clear picture of God's grace because Tamar is one of the few women whose names are listed in the official genealogy of Jesus (Matt. 1:3).*

Memory Verse

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

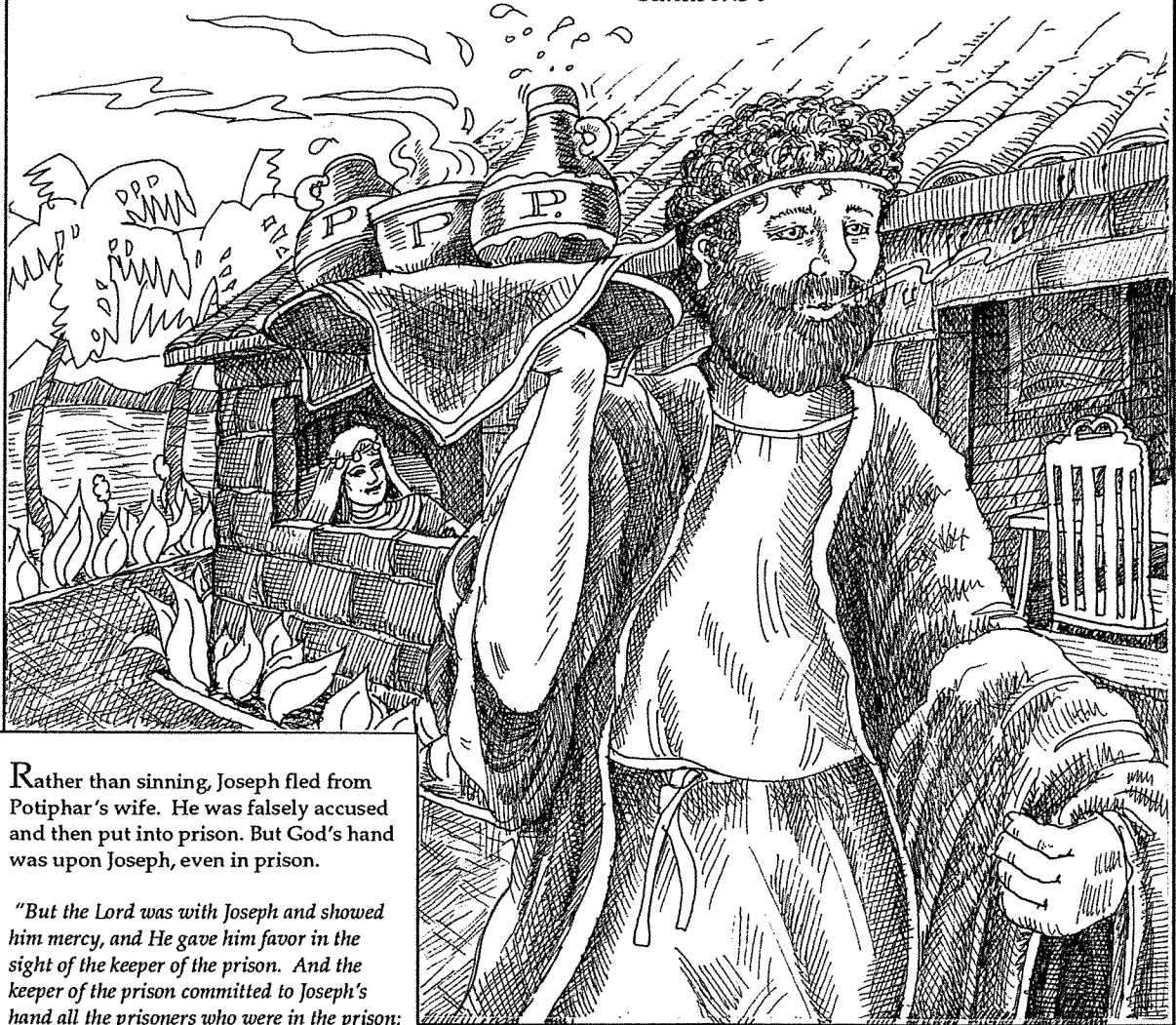
1 John 2:15 (NKJV)

Joseph; A Picture Of Jesus, And The Blessed Son Of Jacob.

Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. And Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him from the Ishmaelites (*Ishmael, Abraham's other son*) who had taken him down there. The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand. So Joseph found favor in his sight, and served him.

Then he made him overseer of his house, and all that he had he put under his authority. So it was, from the time that he had made him overseer of his house and all that he had, that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he had in the house and in the field. Thus he left all that he had in Joseph's hand, and he did not know what he had except for the bread which he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

- Genesis 39:1-6



Rather than sinning, Joseph fled from Potiphar's wife. He was falsely accused and then put into prison. But God's hand was upon Joseph, even in prison.

"But the Lord was with Joseph and showed him mercy, and He gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners who were in the prison; whatever they did there, it was his doing. The keeper of the prison did not look into anything that was under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him; and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper."

- Genesis 39:21-23

Romans 8:28 says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose." Faith is trusting Him even if we're falsely accused and thrown into prison, knowing that He's able to work all things together for good. Trust the Lord. Romans 8:31 says, "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Genesis

Chapters 39 and 40

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 39:1-6; who bought Joseph and where did he take him?
2. Even though Joseph was sold into slavery, did God forget about him? (verse 2)
3. Because of Joseph's faithfulness to his master, what did the Lord do?
4. Read Col. 3:22-24; does the Bible give us instructions as to how to work in the world? Who do we really work for? Was this Joseph's attitude also?
5. Who did Potiphar credit for prospering him?

Note: *Christians should always shine above and beyond others in their work ethic because we work for the Lord. Honesty, integrity, faithfulness, and similar characteristics are assets to an employer; and these should be the fruits of all Christians so that God will be glorified.*

6. Read Gen. 39:7-10; what did Potiphar's wife want Joseph to do? What was his response?
7. You will face many temptations in your life. If you commit your life to Jesus and purpose in your heart to serve Him you can respond like Joseph in all situations. What does James 4:7 tell us to do?
8. Read Gen. 39:11-18; what happened to Joseph? What did he have to do to get away?

Note: *Sometimes in our lives we literally have to "run away" from a situation that is wrong. Don't be afraid to do what Joseph did, he avoided sinning against God at all costs.*

9. Read Gen. 39:19-20; out of embarrassment, because she failed to bring Joseph into her bed, Potiphar's wife lied about the whole situation. Do you think that Potiphar would find it hard to believe that Joseph would have done this? Joseph had proven to be a loyal servant and God prospered his household because of it.
10. Because of his position Potiphar had to do something, what did he do to Joseph?
11. Read Gen. 39:21-23; once again, because of Joseph's faithfulness to God, what happened to Joseph even in prison?

Chapter 40 Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 40:1-4; what happened while Joseph was serving in the prison?
2. Read Gen. 40:5-8; why were the butler and the baker sad?
3. Joseph had experience with dreams, who did he say was the only one who could interpret them?
4. Read Gen. 40:9-13; what was the interpretation of the butler's dream?

Joseph, The Butler, And Baker.

Joseph was put in charge of the prison and his fellow prisoners.

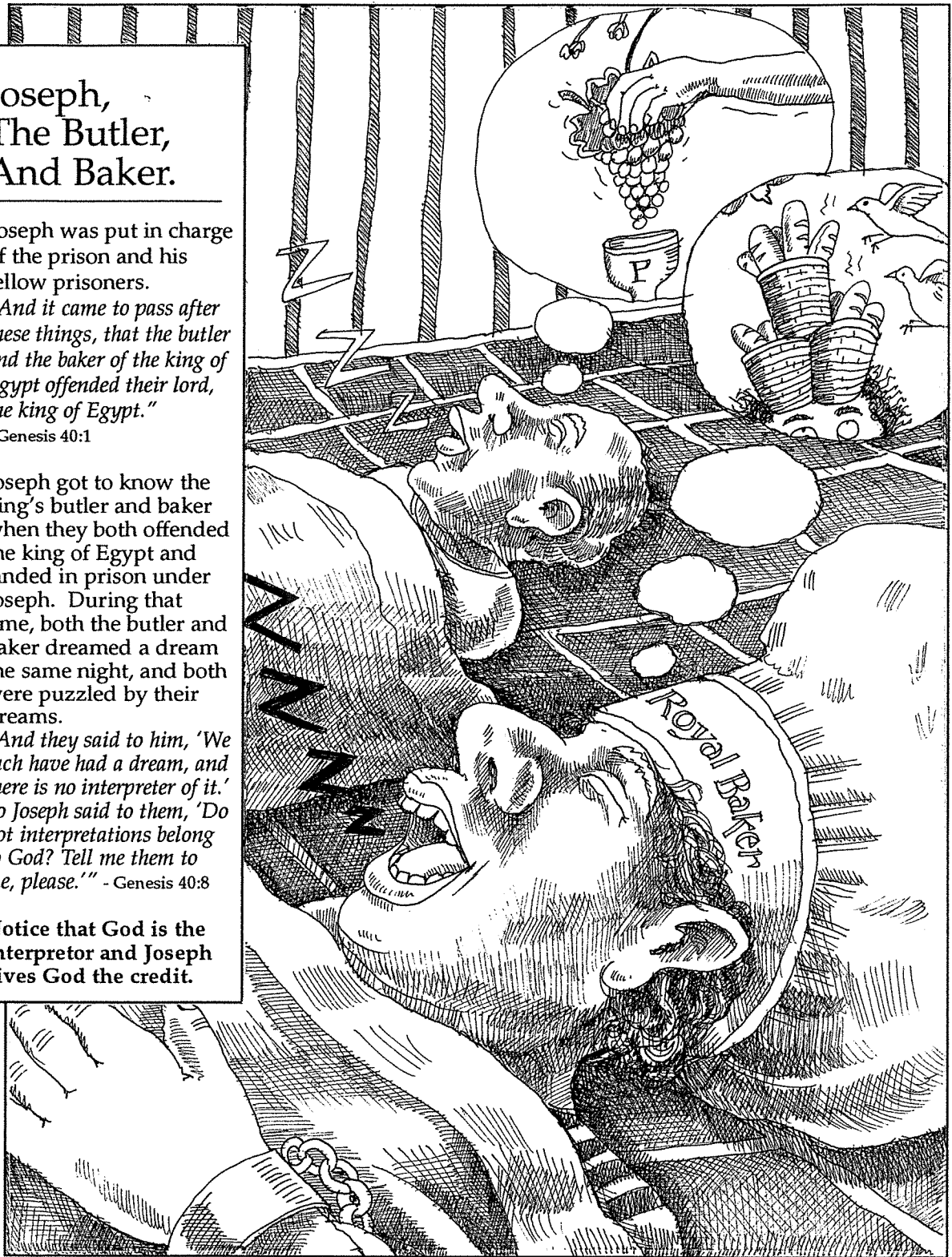
"And it came to pass after these things, that the butler and the baker of the king of Egypt offended their lord, the king of Egypt."

- Genesis 40:1

Joseph got to know the king's butler and baker when they both offended the king of Egypt and landed in prison under Joseph. During that time, both the butler and baker dreamed a dream the same night, and both were puzzled by their dreams.

"And they said to him, 'We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it.' So Joseph said to them, 'Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell me them to me, please.'" - Genesis 40:8

Notice that God is the Interpreter and Joseph gives God the credit.



Joseph couldn't see the plan of God, just like us. He was counting on the butler and the baker to remember him after they got out of the king's prison. But the butler forgot about him as soon as he was delivered, and the baker was put to death. His circumstances looked hopeless, yet the Lord had a greater plan than Joseph could see.

Joseph's life was in the Lord's hand. Joseph didn't complain, though he was probably disheartened. He trusted the Lord anyway. Jesus said, *"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, Who has given them Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."* - John 10:28-29

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5. Read Gen. 40:14-15; a few years have passed since Joseph had been sold by his brothers. He was probably getting very discouraged, what did he ask the butler to do for him?
6. Read Gen. 40:16-19; no doubt the baker was encouraged by the interpretation of the butler's dream. What was the the interpretation Joseph gave of the baker's dream?
7. Read Gen. 40:20-22; was Joseph correct in his interpretations?
8. Read Gen. 40:23; did the butler remember Joseph when he was released from prison?
9. A situation as incredible as this would be hard to forget, could it be possible that God still had some work to do in Joseph's life so He caused the butler to forget?

Note: *God had a lot of work to do in Joseph's life because of the task that was ahead of him. God allowed Joseph to be unjustly accused and punished, no doubt for purposes of developing his character for the great work He had for him to do in the future, but God acknowledged His approval of Joseph by blessing and prospering him in those difficult circumstances. Joseph continued to bear a good testimony for the Lord even though he didn't understand why these things were happening to him, in all of this Joseph trusted the Lord.*

Memory Verse

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

The Pharaoh Is Troubled By His Dreams.

Then it came to pass, at the end of two full years, that Pharaoh had a dream; and behold, he stood by the river. Suddenly there came up out of the river seven cows, fine looking and fat; and they fed in the meadow. Then behold, seven other cows came up after them out of the river, ugly and gaunt, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the river. And the ugly and gaunt cows ate up the seven fine looking and fat cows. So Pharaoh awoke.

- Genesis 41:1-4

Now it came to pass in the morning that his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. And Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them for Pharaoh. - Genesis 41:8

The Pharaoh's butler finally remembered Joseph from two years earlier when he was in Pharaoh's prison with Joseph. It was *God* Who interpreted dreams of the baker and the butler, *through* Joseph.



The Lord had plans for Joseph far above and beyond anything that Joseph would have planned for himself. Notice that all the magicians could not interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Pharaoh wanted to give Joseph the credit for the interpretation, but notice that Genesis 41:16 says, "And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, 'It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.'" Joseph gave God the credit. We need to always do the same! He is the One Who gets the glory. We are just vessels for His use if we are willing to be used.

Genesis

Chapter 41

Discussion Questions

We last left Joseph in prison, hoping the butler would remember to tell Pharaoh how he interpreted his and the baker's dreams (Gen. 39:20-23). Joseph probably expected to be released very soon, after all, he was innocent and not deserving of prison in the first place.

1. Read Gen. 41:1; how long had Joseph remained in prison? It's been thirteen years since Joseph has been in Egypt, do you think he had cause to be bitter? How would you be feeling if you were in Joseph's sandals?
2. Read Rom. 8:28; what does this Scripture say to us? This wasn't given to Joseph yet, but he still set his heart on serving and trusting the Lord.
3. Read Gen. 41:2-7; what was Pharaoh's dream about?
4. Read Gen. 41:8-13; who did Pharaoh send for first to interpret his dream? Is this any different than today?
5. What did the butler finally remember? Do you think God had anything to do with him "forgetting" about Joseph for two years and finally remembering him?

Note: Remember God's ways are not our ways (Is. 55:8-9), and His timing is perfect. God has a lot to teach Joseph before he was ready to be second in charge of Egypt.

6. Read Gen. 41:14-16; what happened to Joseph?
7. Remember Joseph in earlier times with his brothers, boasting to them about his dreams (Gen. 37). When asked by Pharaoh, Whom did Joseph give credit to as the only One who could interpret dreams? Seems to be a big difference in attitude and without any bitterness after all he's been through. Joseph truly was learning his lessons.
8. Read Gen. 41:17-31; what is the interpretation of Pharaoh's dreams?
9. Read Gen. 41:32; why was the dream repeated twice? Do you remember how many dreams Joseph himself had many years earlier? (Gen. 37)
10. Between verses 16-32, how many times did Joseph attribute all of this as coming from God? Did Joseph ever try to take credit for anything?
11. Read Gen. 41:33-36; what kind of advice did Joseph give Pharaoh? This was very wise advice, where do you think it came from?
12. The best wisdom is from God, the Bible says the wisdom of the world is foolishness (1 Cor. 3:19). We want wisdom from God, how do we get that kind of wisdom? (James 1:5)
13. Read Gen. 41:37-44; whom did Pharaoh choose? What were the reasons Pharaoh gave? (verses 38 & 39)
14. Who was the only one greater than Joseph? Pretty good for a young man only thirty years old, who was a slave in a foreign land for the past 13 years.

Genesis Chapter 41, page 2

Note: *Joseph's testimony for the past thirteen years must have been a pretty incredible one. During all those years he trusted the Lord even though he didn't understand what was happening to him and the Lord blessed him. God was building his character to be able to take over the task as second in charge of Egypt!*

15. Read Gen. 41:45-46; what did Pharaoh do for Joseph? Why do you think he changed Joseph's name?

16. How old was Joseph?

17. Read Gen. 41:47-57; how many sons did Joseph have and what were their names? His two sons were named after his two greatest times in his life, the time he lived home with his family and the time he spent in Egypt.

Note: *It is this same way that God deals with us, first there is the testing and then the triumph. God has to mold us and teach us His ways before He can use us and sometimes it's a long difficult process. But trust in God and do not lean on your own understanding.*

Memory Verse

" For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Cor. 4:17-18 (NKJV)

Joseph's Brothers Go Down To Buy Food In Egypt

When Jacob saw that there was grain in Egypt, Jacob said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" And he said, "Indeed I have heard that there is grain in Egypt; go down to that place and buy for us there, that we may live and not die." - Genesis 42:1-2

Now Joseph was governor over the land; and it was he who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the earth. - Genesis 42:6

(Remember Joseph's dream (Gen. 37) that made his brothers so mad? It is fulfilled here, years later.)



Jacob loved the two sons of Rachel, Joseph and Benjamin, the most. The other ten sons and Dinah were Leah's children and the children of the maids of both Rachel and Leah. Jacob couldn't bear the thought that something might happen to Benjamin since he thought that Joseph was dead already. Remember Rachel died while giving birth to Benjamin (Genesis 35:16-18). Benjamin means "son of my right hand," and since Joseph was gone, Benjamin was probably Jacob's "right hand man." Jacob said, "My son (Benjamin) shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is left alone. If any calamity should befall him along the way in which you go, then you would bring down my gray hair with sorrow to the grave." - Genesis 42:38

Genesis

Chapter 42

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 42:1-4; what did Jacob tell his sons to do?
2. Who did Jacob keep at home? Do you think he still might wonder what really had happened to Joseph, and didn't quite trust the rest of the brothers with Benjamin?
3. Read Gen. 42:5-9; did the brothers recognize Joseph? What was his response to them?
4. Keeping in mind that the entire Bible paints a picture of Jesus Christ, and Joseph is a "type" of Jesus and the brothers an example of Israel, read Rom. 11:25; does Israel today recognize Jesus as the Messiah? What did God do to them? Now compare that to Joseph and his brothers in this passage.
5. Read Gen. 42:10-17; what did Joseph accuse the brothers of doing? What did he do to his brothers?
6. Who did Joseph want to see?

Note: *After twenty years, Joseph still thought about Benjamin, his full brother. He probably wanted to test his brothers and find out the truth about Benjamin before he could be reconciled with them.*

7. How long did Joseph keep his brothers in jail? Let's compare this situation with the New Testament, how long was Jesus in the tomb?
8. Read Gen. 42:18-24; what was the reason Joseph gave for letting them out of prison (verse 18)? Do you think his brothers were surprised that an Egyptian ruler had faith in the living God?
9. After twenty years of harboring their guilt, what did the brothers finally acknowledge (verse 21)?
10. Read 1 John 1:9; this is known as the Christian bar of soap, what must we do to be cleansed from our sins?
11. Did the brothers know that Joseph understood what they were saying? What was Joseph's reaction when he heard them take responsibility for what had happened so long ago?

Note: *Joseph put Simeon in jail, he was the most responsible for what had happened to Joseph. Seeing Simeon bound before their eyes and put in jail was further evidence to the brothers of God's justice.*

12. Read Gen. 42:25-35; what did Joseph do with the money? Why do you think he did this?
13. What was his brothers' reaction to finding the money? Who did they attribute this to?
14. Read Gen. 42:36-38; what was Reuben's answer to his father's grief? Think about how important sons were in that culture, what kind of sacrifice was Reuben willing to make?
15. What was Jacob's reaction to Reuben's offer? Was he willing to let Benjamin go to Egypt?
16. Even though Jacob thought this was the worst situation, was God still in control? What does Romans 8:28 tell us?

17. Think way back to Joseph's dreams in chapter 37, was all of this coming true?

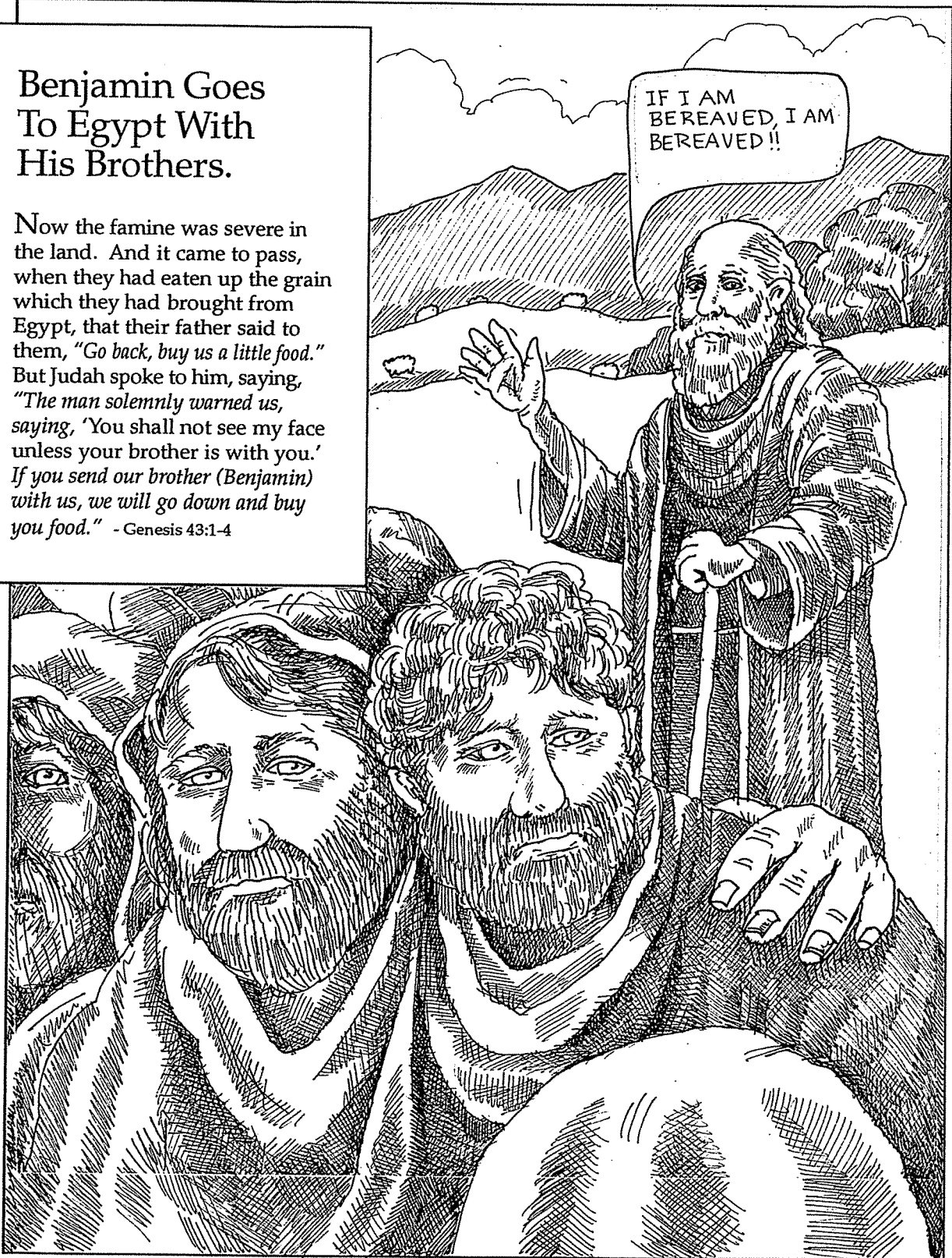
Memory Verse

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)

Benjamin Goes To Egypt With His Brothers.

Now the famine was severe in the land. And it came to pass, when they had eaten up the grain which they had brought from Egypt, that their father said to them, "Go back, buy us a little food." But Judah spoke to him, saying, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' If you send our brother (Benjamin) with us, we will go down and buy you food." - Genesis 43:1-4



Remember in Genesis 42:24, Simeon was kept as a prisoner until they returned with Benjamin as proof that they were not spies (of course, Joseph knew who they were!).

Genesis

Chapter 43

Discussion Questions

1. Read Gen. 43:1-2; what did Jacob want the brothers to do?
2. Read Gen. 43:3-5; what did Judah remind Jacob of? Do you think they forgot about Simeon who was in jail waiting for them to return (Gen. 42:24)?
3. Read Gen. 43:6-7; what name is used here in place of Jacob? Do you remember who gave him that name (Gen. 32:28)? What was Jacob doing when he received that name?
4. Was Jacob now "wrestling" with God in not wanting to send Benjamin down to Egypt? Was he trusting God?
5. Read Gen. 43:8-10; who stepped up and put his life on the line?

Note: Remember Judah is the one who wanted to sell Joseph, and he wronged his daughter-in-law Tamar when he thought she was a prostitute (Gen. 38). This is the first good thing we see Judah doing.

6. Read Gen. 43:11-14; what did Israel tell the brothers to do? Do you remember a similar time when Jacob sent gifts before him (Gen. 33:10-11)? Could it be that Jacob was thinking about that earlier time and how well it worked?
7. The famine was severe in that it affected the grain, but what kind of gifts did Jacob send with his sons that seemed to be in great supply?
8. Jacob finally surrendered to God, what was his statement? (Gen. 43:14)
9. Read Gen. 43:15; how much money did the brothers take with them? Can you do the math, ten brothers took double the money making 20 units of money. How much money was Joseph sold for (Gen. 37:28)?
10. Read Gen. 43:16-18; what did Joseph tell his servant to do? What did his brothers think was going to happen?

Note: Through all of this, Joseph was testing his brothers' hearts to see if they had truly changed. Just as God tests our hearts in difficult situations to build us up and strengthen our faith.

11. Read Gen. 43:19-23; Who did the steward give credit to for returning the money? Who did he then bring to them?
12. Read Gen. 43:24-25; how were the brothers treated?
13. Joseph had been gone for over twenty years, and all because of his brothers' bitterness and jealousy. Joseph returned that bitterness with love and kindness. How are we supposed to act when we are treated poorly? (Matt. 5:44)
14. Read Gen. 43:26-28; what did the brothers do to Joseph? Is this what Joseph dreamed some 20 years earlier (Gen. 37)?
15. Read Gen. 43:29-31; what happened when Joseph saw Benjamin? How badly do you think he missed him all these years?
16. Read Gen. 43:32; how many tables were set?

Genesis Chapter 43, page 2

Note: *Egypt, at that time, was one of the most racist societies on earth, believing Egyptians had come from the gods, and all other peoples had come from lesser origins. There was absolutely no social mixing with foreigners in the Egypt of Joseph's day. Even with all of Joseph's status and power, he could not eat with "real" Egyptians.*

17. Read Gen. 43:33-34; how did Joseph have his brothers seated? What was their reaction to this? Statistically, the odds of placing 11 brothers in their birth order would be 1 in 40 million.
18. What did he do for Benjamin? Why do you think he did this?
19. Joseph may have wanted to see what his brothers' reaction would be when the younger brother was favored, remembering their reaction when Jacob showed favoritism to Joseph. Did they pass the test?

Memory Verse

" 'I know also, my God, that You test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. ...' "

1 Chronicles 29:17a (NKJV)

Joseph Reveals Himself To His Brothers.

And he (Joseph) wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence. And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here;

for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years which there will neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."

- Genesis 45:2-8



Joseph did not hold a grudge or repay his brothers for the evil they did against him, but He forgave them. Joseph recognized that all that happened to him was by the hand of God. God sees the big picture, knowing the future. We see only our circumstances, that is why we need to always put our trust in God, Who sees everything. He promises that all things work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose. (Romans 8:28) We just need to trust Him when we're in prison, or out of prison, treated poorly by brothers, or treated well. No matter what, trust Him.

Just like Joseph, Jesus forgave us and provided a great deliverance for us, too! Are you born again?

Genesis

Chapters 44 and 45

Discussion Questions for Chapter 44

1. Read Gen. 44:1-3; what did Joseph have his steward do?
2. Whose sack did he put the cup into?
3. Read Gen. 44:4-10; what was the reaction of the brothers when the steward confronted them?
4. Was there any doubt in their minds of their innocence? Does this show a healthy trust between them? How different is this from 20 years ago?
5. So sure of their innocence, what did they tell the steward they would do if the cup was found with them?
6. Read Gen. 44:11-13; when the cup was discovered, did the brothers let the steward take Benjamin only? Who returned to Egypt?
7. Read Gen. 44:14-17; what was Judah's response to Joseph? What sin do you think Judah was referring to "God finding out"? Were they willing to leave Benjamin there by himself?
8. Read Gen. 44:18-32; in Judah's speech he shows great concern for the welfare of their father, how is this different to their telling of Joseph's "death" 20 years earlier? (Gen. 37:31-33)
9. Read Gen. 44:33-34; what did Judah beg Joseph to do? Is he holding true to the promise he made his father in Gen. 43:9?
10. Judah is willing to give his own life in place of his brother's , for the sake of his father. Who does this point to?
11. Read 1 John 3:16; what was Jesus' sacrifice for us?

Chapter 45

Note: *Testing, testing, testing, Joseph through all of this was testing the hearts of his brothers to see if they had changed. Finally, seeing their reaction to Benjamin and their love for their father he is convinced . Remember, God tests our hearts too, to see how we react in certain situations, to test our love for our Father.*

1. Read Gen. 45:1-3; what did Joseph do? How did his brothers react? How would you be feeling if you were in their shoes?
2. The brothers' shock and dismay is a shadow of what will happen when the Jews see Jesus for who He is again. Read Zechariah 12:10; what does it tell us?
3. Read Gen. 45:4-8; in reassuring his brothers, why did Joseph tell them he was in Egypt; to Whom does he give the credit? Was there any bitterness from Joseph?

Note: *All of Joseph's sorrows were for a purpose: to preserve this family and provide the conditions for it to become a nation. Joseph was a victim of men, but God turned it around for His glory. None of it was for a loss. God had a purpose and a plan.*

Genesis Chapter 45, page 2

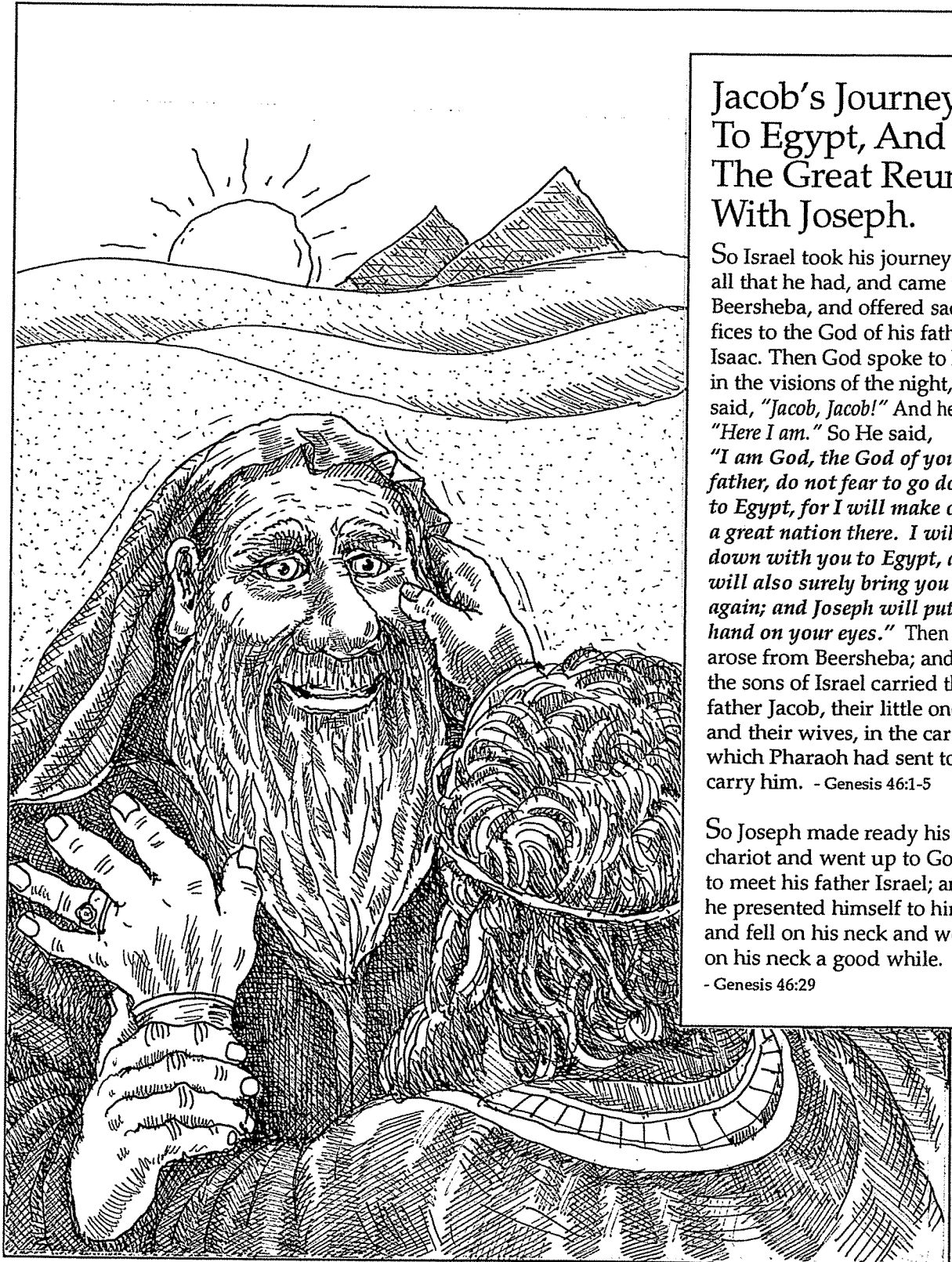
4. Read Gen. 45:9-15; what were Joseph's instructions?
5. After finally believing that it was Joseph, what happened? Did Joseph exclude any of his brothers?
6. Read Gen. 45:16-20; what was Pharaoh's reaction? Pharaoh not only told them to move to Egypt, he "commanded" them (verse 19), would Pharaoh just provide what was necessary?
7. Pharaoh gave the best of the land to Joseph's family. Read Eph. 3:20; how does Jesus provide for them that belong to Him?
8. Read Gen. 45:21-24; what was Joseph's warning to his brothers (verse 24)? Why do you think he said that? Was it possible that his brothers would think it was too good to be true?
9. Read Gen. 45:25-28; what is Jacob's reaction?

Note: *Jacob went from "all these things are against me" in Gen. 42:36, to "it is enough" in Gen. 45:28. Only the news that the favored son is not dead, but lives can change a heart from mourning to joy.*

Memory Verse

"But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive."

Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)



Jacob's Journey To Egypt, And The Great Reunion With Joseph.

So Israel took his journey with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. Then God spoke to Israel in the visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob!" And he said, "Here I am." 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. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will put his hand on your eyes." Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob, their little ones, and their wives, in the carts which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. - Genesis 46:1-5

So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.

- Genesis 46:29

Jacob was concerned about leaving the land where God had led him.

The Lord reassured him that it was okay to go to Egypt and that He would be with him.

God told Jacob that He would make Jacob a great nation and bring them back to their land. (Read Exodus.)

Seventy people went to Egypt with Jacob (Genesis 46:27). Jacob lived 147 years.

Genesis

Chapters 46 and 47

Discussion Questions for Chapter 46

1. Read Gen. 46:1; what did Jacob do in Beersheba?

Note: *Beersheba was a special place to both Abraham (Gen. 21:33) and Isaac (Gen. 26: 23-25) where they offered sacrifices to God. Jacob also stopped there to honor God before he left Canaan.*

2. Read Gen. 46:2-4; was Jacob hesitant to go to Egypt? Jacob probably remembered that Abraham had gone to Egypt in a time of famine and it was a manifestation of his unbelief and much evil became of it (Gen. 12:10-20). God particularly told Isaac NOT to go to Egypt (Gen. 26:2). It was a big step of faith for Jacob to pack up his family and move to Egypt.

3. What did God do to reassure Jacob that he was doing the right thing?

4. How does God speak to us? What are ways we can seek the Lord's will for our lives?

5. Read Gen. 46:5-27; what is this a list of? Why do you think it's important?

6. How many people were there total (Gen. 46:26 and 27)? Don't forget to add Jacob, Joseph and his two sons.

7. Read Gen. 46:28-30; who did Jacob send out ahead of them? Reuben was actually the oldest of the twelve, but because of his incest (Gen. 35:22; 49:3,4) he lost his position in the family. What is significant about Judah going out? Who will come from the tribe of Judah? (Matt. 1:3,16)

8. What was Jacob and Joseph's reunion like after 20 years?

9. Read Gen. 46:31-34; what did Joseph tell his brothers to say to Pharaoh? What is the Egyptians' opinion of shepherds?

Note: *Because the Egyptians detested shepherds, it gave the Israelites the space they needed to develop into a nation. They were left alone to their own customs and lifestyle and to serve the one true God.*

Discussion Questions for Genesis Chapter 47

1. Read Gen. 47:1-6; although Joseph was second in power in the kingdom he didn't assume he had the right to make the decision where his family would live. What did he do? What was Pharaoh's response?

2. Read Gen. 47:7-10; what did Jacob do to Pharaoh? By Pharaoh's response, what do you think Pharaoh thought of Jacob?

Note: *Pharaoh was no mere man, he was considered to be a god. By accepting Jacob's blessing he acknowledged that Jacob was a man of God, which makes this even more remarkable.*

3. What was Jacob's response to being asked his age?

4. Read Gen. 47:11-12; how did Jacob treat his family?

5. Read Gen. 47:13-14; in the early years of the famine how did Joseph prosper Pharaoh?

Genesis Chapter 47, page 2

6. Read Gen. 47:15-26; how did Joseph prosper Pharaoh in the later years of the famine? Was he unfair to the people?
7. Read Gen. 47:27; Jacob arrived in Egypt during the last five years of the famine, and even during that time how were they blessed by God?
8. Read Gen. 47:28-31; Jacob knew his home wasn't Egypt, where did he want to be buried?
9. Remember Gen. 46:4; what did God assure Jacob of?

Note: *Jacob clearly believed that he was the inheritor of Abraham's covenant. What a man of faith!*

Memory Verse

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony."

Hebrews 11:1-2 (NKJV)

Joseph said to his brethren,
"I am dying; but God will surely visit you,
and bring you out of this land
to the land of which He swore to Abraham,
to Isaac, and to Jacob." - Genesis 50:24



Jacob Gives His Blessings.

Jacob gave a blessing to each son, and earlier, to Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

Judah's blessing points to the future Messiah, Jesus Christ. "Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise; (Judah's name means praise) Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's children shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him? The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall the obedience of the people. Binding his donkey to the vine, and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, (see Matthew 21:5) He washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes. His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk. - Genesis 49:8-12

Shiloh - "the peaceful one."
Jesus is the Prince of Peace.

Shiloh was also a city where the tabernacle was set up. (Joshua 18:1)



Joseph's brothers thought for sure that Joseph would repay them for their evil against him after Jacob died. But Joseph told them, "'Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.' and he comforted them and spoke kindly to them." - Genesis 50:19-21.

Joseph was like Jesus because he forgave his brothers, though they were guilty. Jesus forgives us.

Genesis

Chapters 48-50

Discussion Questions for Chapter 48

1. Read Gen. 48:1-4; what did Jacob tell Joseph? Is that the same promise God gave to Abraham? (Gen. 17:2,6 and 8)
2. Read Gen. 48:5-7; how did Jacob feel about Joseph's two sons? What kind of position did he give them?
3. Read Gen. 48:8-12; what was Jacob going to do to Joseph's sons?
4. Read Gen. 48:13-22; who did Jacob give the favored blessing to (putting his RIGHT hand on him)?
5. Can you name another instance in Genesis where the younger brother was favored over the older? (Gen. 25:23)

Discussion Questions for Genesis Chapter 49

1. Read Gen. 49:1-2; why did Jacob gather his sons together?

Note: *Jacob called himself Jacob, his earthly name and Israel the name which God gave him. He, one by one, blessed and prophesied over each of his twelve sons. It's interesting to notice that the first-born, Reuben, did not get the typical double portion which is normally given to the eldest. As always, God shows us that our ways are not His ways and we are to trust Him with all our heart and lean not unto our own understanding.*

2. Read Gen. 49:3-28; of the twelve tribes, which one is prophesied as being the line in which the Messiah comes from? (Gen. 49:8-12, Rev. 5:5)
3. Read Gen. 49:29-33; where was Jacob buried?
4. Remember in Gen. 46:3-4; what did God reassure Jacob of? Was He faithful to fulfill this promise?

Discussion Questions for Genesis Chapter 50

1. Read Gen. 50:1-14; how important was Jacob? How grand was the mourning and the funeral procession to Canaan? Who went down to Canaan?
2. What did the Canaanites think of this?
3. Read Gen. 50:15-18; what were Joseph's brothers afraid of? What did they do? What was Joseph's response?
4. Read Gen. 50:19; even though Joseph was second in all of Egypt, Who did he give place to as the most important?
5. Joseph knew it was not his place for vengeance, what does Romans 12:19 tell us?
6. Read Gen. 50:20-21; Joseph was a great man of faith, what did he tell his brothers to comfort and encourage them?

Genesis Chapter 50, page 2

7. Read Roman's 8:28; Joseph didn't have this verse, but he did live the truth of it. It's a great verse for us to memorize and hold in our hearts during the storms in our lives. What does it say?

Note: *Our lives are not in the hands of men, but in the hands of God. He has our steps ordered and knows the number of days. We can trust Him to work out everything in our lives for His glory and our good. He is constantly molding us into His image, so along with that comes trials and tribulations. Hold on tight to Romans 8:28 and trust in God.*

8. Read Gen. 50:22-26; how old was Joseph when he died?
9. Joseph remembered the covenant of God, what did he tell his brethren? (verse 24)
10. What oath did Joseph make with the children of Israel?

Note: *Joseph's oath was fulfilled 400 years later when Moses took the children of Israel out of Egypt and they took Joseph's bones with them (Exodus 13:19). Some of God's promises take a long time to fulfill but He is faithful to fulfill every promise. Can you name some of God's promises that are in the Bible?*

Memory Verse

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Romans 8:28 (NKJV)