

# Joseph and His Brothers Reunited

## Bible Verse

The LORD was with Joseph. (Genesis 39:2)

## Did You Know?

Joseph's ability to interpret Pharaoh's dreams and to recommend a plan of action resulted in Joseph becoming second-in-command in Egypt. After the years of plenty had passed, the years of famine began, just as Pharaoh's dreams had predicted. Joseph was in charge of all the grain Egypt had stored during the previous seven years.

At this point Joseph's brothers found him. It had been over twenty years since they'd sold their teenage brother into slavery. It is no wonder they did not recognize him. Joseph, on the other hand, immediately recognized his brothers, but took his time revealing his identity to them. Before Joseph's brothers discovered who he was, Joseph accused them of being spies, threatened to keep all but one of them in Egypt while Benjamin was brought, kept Simeon while the rest of the brothers returned home, and accused them of stealing his cup. Joseph wanted to make sure his brothers felt remorse for their actions against him. Only then could reconciliation take place.

Joseph was able to forgive his brothers. Joseph told his brothers God had been at work through him and had used him in order to provide food for them during the time of famine. It is again important to note God did not cause Joseph's brothers to sell him into slavery, nor did God cause any of the other unfortunate events in Joseph's life. But God was able to work through the circumstances so good could happen.

The story of Joseph is the story of a God who is present through the valleys and the victories of life. Through it all, God was there. And through everything, God is here, now, with us.

## Bible Story

Genesis 42:1–46:34

## Anchor Point

God is with us wherever we go.


## My Plan

- Assemble the Crew
- Surprise
- It's OK!
- Find Joseph and His Family
- What Happens Next?
- Showing Forgiveness
- Joseph and His Brothers Reunited
- Put the Story in Order
- Ups and Downs
- Worship

  Everyone

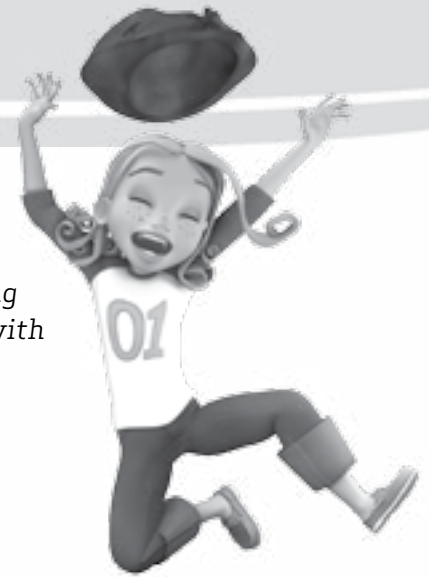
 Readers

 Nonreaders

 Requires preparation.

## Jump In!

*The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.*




### ASSEMBLE THE CREW

**Supplies:** Attendance Chart ; offering basket

- Display the Attendance Chart.
- Greet the children as they arrive.
- Allow each child to add a sticker or mark his or her name on the attendance chart.
- Show the children where to place any offerings.
- Play "Let's Go Deep Blue" on the DVD as the children arrive.

### SURPRISE

**Supplies:** Reproducible A, crayons

 Photocopy "Surprise" (Reproducible A) for each younger child.


**ASK:** How do you think Joseph's brothers felt when they realized the man giving them grain was their brother whom they hadn't seen in over 20 years?

- Give each younger child a copy of "Surprise."
- Encourage each child to draw faces on the brothers and color the picture.

**SAY:** It's wonderful when we're all here to learn about God together. Let's do our best to be here every week for fun and fellowship.

### IT'S OK!


**Supplies:** Bibles, Reproducible B, pencils

 Photocopy "It's Ok!" (Reproducible B) for each older child.

- Give each child a copy of "It's Ok!" and a pencil.
- Encourage each child to solve the puzzle.
- Have the children look up Genesis 45:5 in their Bibles to check their answers.

### FIND JOSEPH AND HIS FAMILY

**Supplies:** "Joseph's Family Cards" and "Bible Times Map"

 Separate the "Joseph's Family Cards" into two sets of 13 cards each, with each set containing one of each card. Hide one set of cards around the room, adjusting the difficulty of the hiding places to the ages of the children.

Place the "Bible Times Map" on the table.



**SAY:** Today we're hearing the story of Joseph. I've hidden some cards showing Joseph and his family around the room.

- Encourage the children to find the hidden cards and lay them next to the map.
- When all the cards have been found, pick up the Joseph card.

**ASK:** Who was Joseph's father? (Jacob)

**ASK:** Who were the rest of these men? (Joseph's brothers) Do you remember how Joseph was separated from his brothers? (They sold him into slavery.)

**SAY:** Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery and he was taken to Egypt.

- Have the children place the Joseph card on Egypt on the map.


**SAY:** The rest of Joseph's family still lived in Canaan.

- Invite the children to place the rest of the cards on Canaan on the map.

**SAY:** As you can see, Joseph was a long way from the rest of his family. In our Bible story today we will hear about Joseph seeing his family again.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

**Supplies:** Reproducible C, crayons, pencils

 Photocopy "What Happens Next?" (Reproducible C) for each younger child.

- Give each younger child a copy of "What Happens Next?"
- Discuss what is happening in the story represented by the pictures on the page.

**ASK:** What are some possible things that could happen next in the story?

- Allow children to offer their ideas. Encourage and welcome all suggestions.


**ASK:** What is forgiveness? (to stop feeling anger or placing blame for a wrong) Which of the possible next scenes we've discussed involve forgiveness?

- Invite each child to draw a final scene for the picture story that involves forgiveness.

**SAY:** Today we are going to hear about forgiveness in our Bible story.

## SHOWING FORGIVENESS


**Supplies:** Reproducible D, box

 Photocopy "Showing Forgiveness" (Reproducible D). Cut on the dotted lines around the statements. Fold up each statement and place in a box.

- Allow each older child to choose a statement from the box, read the statement aloud, and share how he or she would respond to this situation with forgiveness. Encourage discussion.

## JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS REUNITED

**Supplies:** "Bible Times Map", **Reproducible E**, story posters made the last three weeks

 Photocopy "Joseph and His Brothers Reunited" (Reproducible E) for each child to take home.

Display the "Bible Times Map".

**SAY:** For the last month we have been hearing Joseph's story. Today we will hear the last part of the story.

- Have children look at the story posters showing Parts 1, 2, and 3 of Joseph's story.

**ASK:** What has happened to Joseph so far?

- Invite the children to briefly summarize Joseph's story.

**SAY:** Joseph is in charge of distributing food in Egypt.

- Have the children find Egypt on the "Bible Times Map."

**SAY:** When food became scarce, people from other countries began coming to Egypt to get grain. Joseph's family, who still lived in Canaan, were among those who came to get food.

- Have the children find Canaan on the "Bible Times Map."
- Read the Bible story from "Joseph and His Brothers Reunited."

**ASK:** Why do you think Joseph's brothers didn't recognize him? (It had been over twenty years since they'd seen him.) Why do you think Joseph didn't tell his brothers who he was right away? What do you think Joseph's brothers felt when they found out who Joseph was?

**SAY:** It had been many years since Joseph had seen his brothers, and the last time he saw them they had not been nice to him! It was probably hard for Joseph and his brothers to remember what had happened in the past. But Joseph chose to forgive his brothers.


**ASK:** Do you think it was hard for Joseph to forgive his brothers? Why or why not?

**SAY:** Sometimes it's difficult to forgive other people when they have been mean to us. God was with Joseph and helped him to forgive. God can help us forgive others, too. Forgiveness doesn't mean we think it was good that people did mean things, but we're choosing to move on and give people another chance.

## Grow Stronger

### PUT THE STORY IN ORDER

**Supplies:** **Reproducible G**, scissors, large sheet of construction paper, glue stick

 Photocopy "Story Cards" (Reproducible G) and cut the cards apart.

Lay the cards face-up on the table.


**SAY:** Let's review the part of Joseph's story we heard today and make our final story poster. Each of these pictures shows something that happened in today's story.

- Invite the children to work together to put the story cards in the correct order.
- Correct Order: 1. Ten of Joseph's brothers coming to ask Joseph for grain; 2. Joseph sending nine of his brothers home with sacks full of grain while one brother stays behind; 3. A silver cup being found in Benjamin's sack of grain 4. Joseph hugging his brothers
- Let the children know how many cards are in the correct order and allow them to make adjustments until all four cards are placed correctly.
- Have the children work together to glue the story cards in order on a large sheet of construction paper.

**SAY:** A lot of different things happened in Joseph's life. God was with him through everything.

## UPS AND DOWNS

**Supplies:** story posters made this month

 Display the four story posters where the children will be able to see them.

- Have the children stand up.

**ASK:** Have you heard life described as having ups and downs?

**SAY:** Sometimes we refer to the good things that happen in life as "ups." Let's stretch and reach toward the sky. Stand on your tiptoes and really make yourself "up."

- Encourage the children to follow your directions.

**SAY:** And then we refer to the not-so-good things that happen in life as "downs." Let's shrink down into a squatting position and curl into a ball.

- Encourage the children to follow your directions and then come back to a standing position.

**SAY:** Joseph had a lot of ups and downs in his life. We are going to review the story of Joseph we've heard this month. As I point to a picture and describe it, think about whether Joseph is having an "up" or "down" time. If it's an up time, stretch and reach toward the sky. If it's a down time, squat down into a ball. If you think things are neither particularly up or down for Joseph, stand in place.

- Point to the pictures on the story posters as you read the following statements. Encourage children to decide how things were going for Joseph and move as you have instructed.

Joseph's father gave him a special coat because he was his father's favorite.

Joseph told his brothers about his dreams of the sun, moon, and stars bowing down to him.


Joseph's brothers sold him to a caravan of traders who took him to Egypt.  
Joseph's brothers told their father Joseph was dead.  
Joseph worked for Potiphar in Egypt and was given a lot of responsibility.  
Joseph was put in prison for something he didn't do.  
Joseph earned responsibility in prison and was put in charge of the other prisoners.  
Joseph interpreted dreams for the other prisoners.  
Pharaoh had some dreams he didn't understand.  
With God's help, Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream.  
Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of collecting and storing food during the years of plenty.  
Joseph was in charge of distributing food to people once food became scarce.  
Ten of Joseph's brothers came to ask Joseph for grain.  
Joseph sent nine of his brothers home with sacks full of grain but made one brother stay behind.  
Joseph had a silver cup hidden in Benjamin's sack of grain.  
Joseph told his brothers who he was and told them he had forgiven them.

**ASK:** During all of those ups and downs, when was God with Joseph? (all the time)  
When was God with Joseph's brothers and father? (all the time)

## Worship

### PRAISE AND PRAYER

**Supplies:** Bible, Genesis 39:2 Bible Verse poster; Genesis 39:2 Sign Language Poster; Reproducible F, Reproducible H

 Review the signs from the Sign Language Poster so you can teach them to the children.

Display the Genesis 39:2 Bible Verse Poster and Sign Language Poster in your worship area.

**SAY:** We have heard Joseph's entire story now. Let's listen to our song about Joseph and his brothers.

- Play familiar worship music and encourage children to sing and move along with the music.
- Show the children the Bible Verse Poster. Encourage readers to read the verse with you.
- Teach children the Sign Language for the Bible verse.
- Encourage all children to sign and say the Bible verse with you.

**ASK:** When was God with Joseph? (all the time) Was God with Joseph's brothers? (yes)

Was God with Joseph's father? (yes) Was God with Pharaoh? (yes) Is God with you? (yes!)

**SAY:** God was with Joseph and his family and Pharaoh. God is with me and God is with you—all the time and everywhere we are! This is good news.

**PRAY:** God, thank you for loving us. Thank you for your constant presence with us. We remember that you will never leave us. Amen.

- Give each child a copy of the "Talk About" page (Reproducible G) to take home.

## Answers

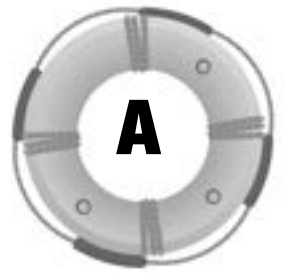
**REPRODUCIBLE B**

**IT'S OK!**

**Don't be upset and don't be angry with yourselves that you sold me here. Actually, God sent me before you to save lives.**

# Surprise!

Joseph's brothers were very surprised when they learned Joseph was still alive. Fill in the expressions on the brothers' faces when they got the news.



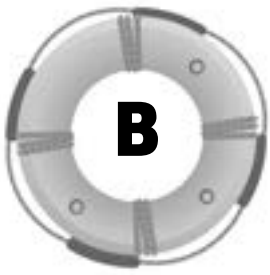
For Nonreaders

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# It's OK!

Joseph's brothers had not treated him kindly. When they discovered Joseph was alive, they may have been worried about how he would treat them. What did Joseph say to let them know he forgave them? Follow the directions below. At the bottom of this page, write all remaining words in order on the lines to discover what Joseph said. Check your answer by looking up Genesis 45:5.

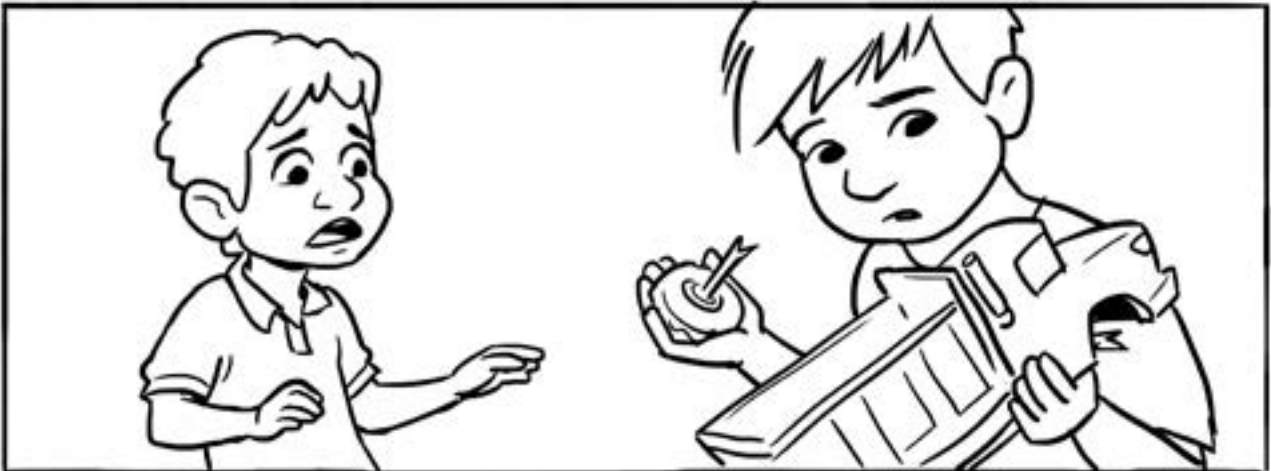
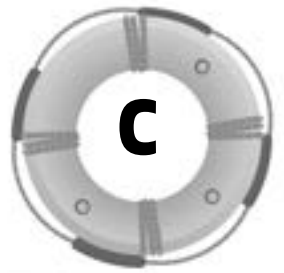
1. Cross out the names of Joseph's brothers.
2. Cross out all words that are food.
3. Cross out all words that begin with the letter J.

DON'T	BREAD	REUBEN	BE	JESUS	SIMEON	UPSET
LEVI	AND	GRAPES	JUDGE	DON'T	JUDAH	BE
ANGRY	ISSACHAR	RICE	WITH	JACOB	YOURSELVES	JIGGLE
THAT	YOU	ZEBULUN	SOLD	CORN	ME	BENJAMIN
HERE	ACTUALLY	JUMP	GOD	OLIVES	SENT	DAN
JUST	ME	NAPHTALI	BEFORE	YOU	SOUP	TO
GAD	BEANS	SAVE	ASHER	JUSTICE	LIVES	JIG

○○○○'    ○○    ○○○○○○    ○○○○  
 ○○○○'    ○○    ○○○○○○    ○○○○○○  
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 ○○○○○○.

# What Happens Next?

Draw a final scene for the picture story that shows forgiveness.

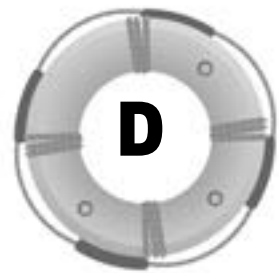


For Nonreaders

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## Forgiveness Box

Cut out the following situation statements, fold them up, and put them in the box.

.....  
*Someone purposely hit you and pushed you down.*

.....  
*Your friends wouldn't let you play a game.*

.....  
*Someone broke something of yours and didn't tell you.*

.....  
*A person called you an unkind name.*

.....  
*A person took what you were playing with and wouldn't give it back or share it.*

.....  
*Someone told a lie about you and spread it around.*

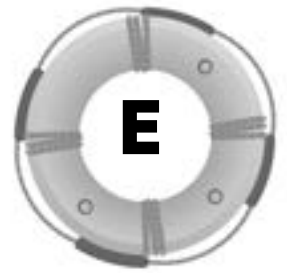
.....  
*Your friend wouldn't talk to you when he/she was with other kids.*

.....  
*A person laughed at you when you made a mistake.*

.....  
*Someone blamed you for something they did.*

.....  
*Your friend told the secret you shared with him/her to other people.*

# Joseph and His Brothers Reunited



The seven years of plentiful harvest in Egypt were over. The years of famine had arrived. Joseph was in charge of distributing all the grain Egypt had stored during the years of plenty.

Meanwhile in Canaan, Joseph's family was being affected by the famine, too. Jacob had heard there was food in Egypt so he sent his ten oldest sons to travel to Egypt and buy food for the family. He kept his youngest son, Benjamin, at home.

When Joseph's brothers got to Egypt, they bowed before Joseph. It was just like the dream Joseph had twenty years earlier. Joseph recognized his brothers, but they didn't recognize him. Joseph spoke harshly to his brothers and accused them of being spies. Joseph's brothers didn't know what to do.

Finally, Joseph told his brothers one of them had to stay behind while the rest of the brothers went home and brought their youngest brother, Benjamin, back to Egypt with them. The brothers had no choice. Before they left, Joseph had their money put back into the sacks of grain he gave them.

When the brothers returned home, they told their father what had happened. Jacob didn't want to send Benjamin, who had become his favorite son after he thought Joseph had died. The brothers convinced him to let Benjamin go with them, promising to take care of him.

When Joseph's brothers returned to Egypt, Joseph sold them more grain. This time in addition to putting the money back in their grain sacks, Joseph also had a silver cup put into Benjamin's sack of grain. After his brothers left, Joseph ordered men to go after them and search their sacks. When the silver cup was found in Benjamin's sack, the brothers were shocked. They told each other these events were their punishment for what they had done to Joseph many years before.

Now Joseph saw that his brothers were sorry for what they had done to him. Joseph told his brothers who he was. His brothers could hardly believe it! They apologized for selling him into slavery, and Joseph forgave them. Joseph told his brothers God had used him for a good purpose, to make sure there was food for everyone during the famine. Joseph and his brothers cried and hugged each other.

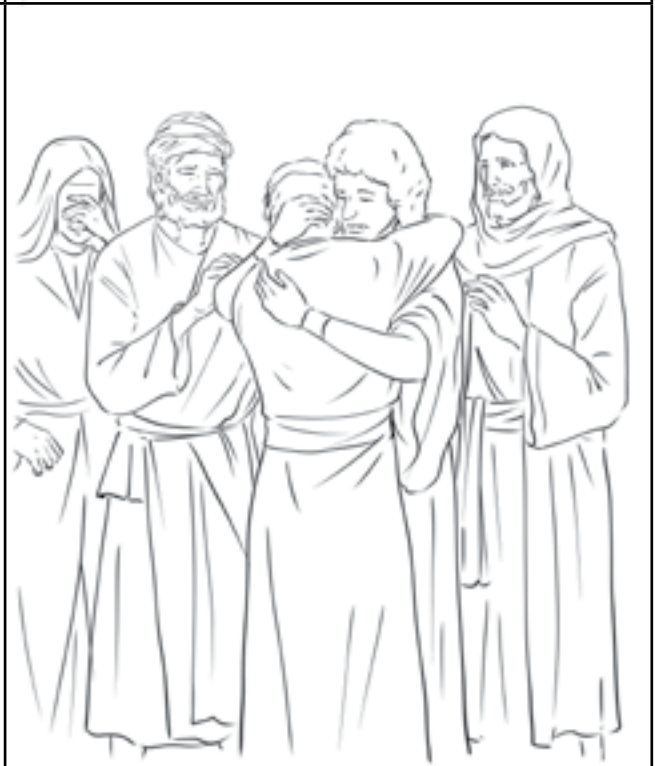
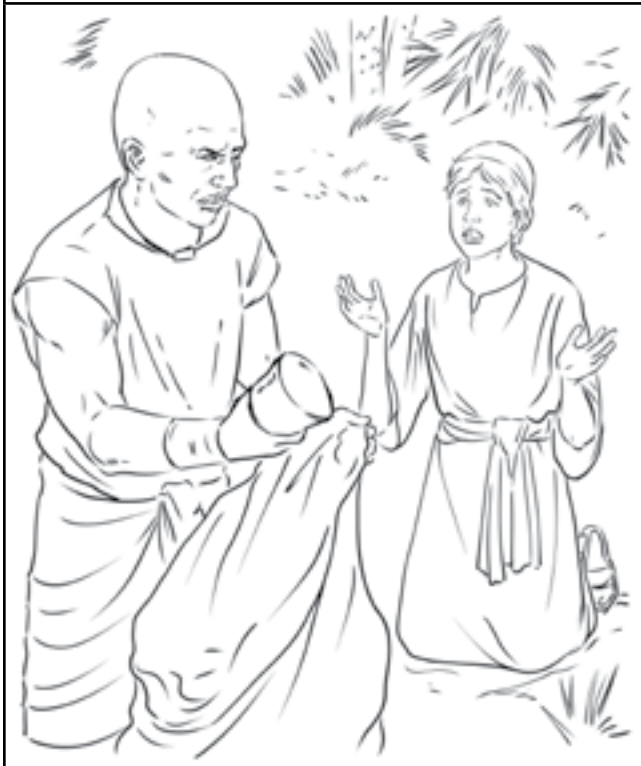
Joseph's brothers went back home and told their father Joseph was alive. Jacob was very happy. Jacob moved his entire family to Egypt.

(Based on Genesis 42-46)





# Story Cards, Part 4

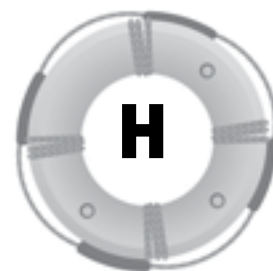


For Everyone

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# Talk About **Joseph and His Brothers Reunited**

## **Bible Story**

Genesis 42:1-46:34

## **Anchor Point**

God is with us  
wherever we go.



## **Say the Bible verse together:**

The LORD was with Joseph. (Genesis 39:2)

## **Talk about today's Bible story at home:**

Joseph's brothers did not treat him kindly. This probably made Joseph angry with them. Think about a time when you were angry with someone. How did that make you feel?

Joseph could have remained angry with his brothers. Instead, with God's help he chose to let go of his anger and forgive them. When have you forgiven someone? How did it feel to forgive?

We have all done things that hurt other people. At times we are the ones who, like Joseph's brothers, needed forgiveness. Think of a time when someone could have been mad at you for something but chose to forgive you. How did that make you feel?

Remember God is with you when you need to be forgiven and when you need to forgive.

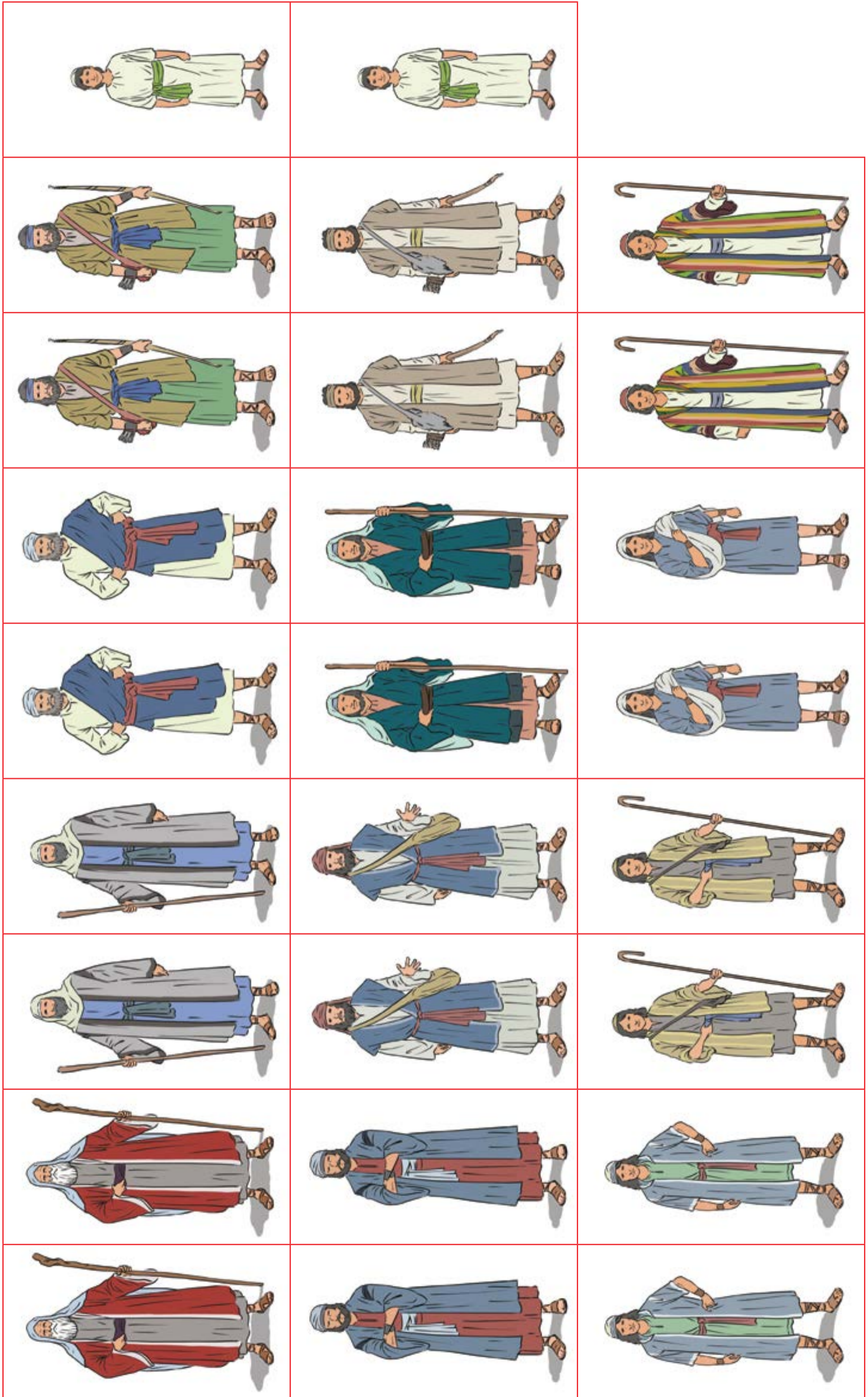
## **Pray:**

Thank you, God, for forgiving us. Help us to be quick to forgive others. Amen.

## Help your kids learn more using the Parent Connection!











**CANAAN**

**SINAI  
PENINSULA**

**EGYPT**



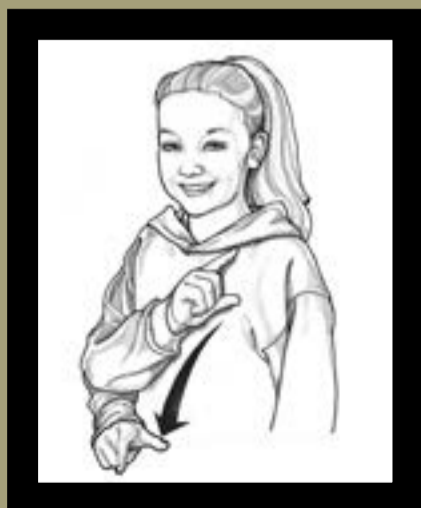
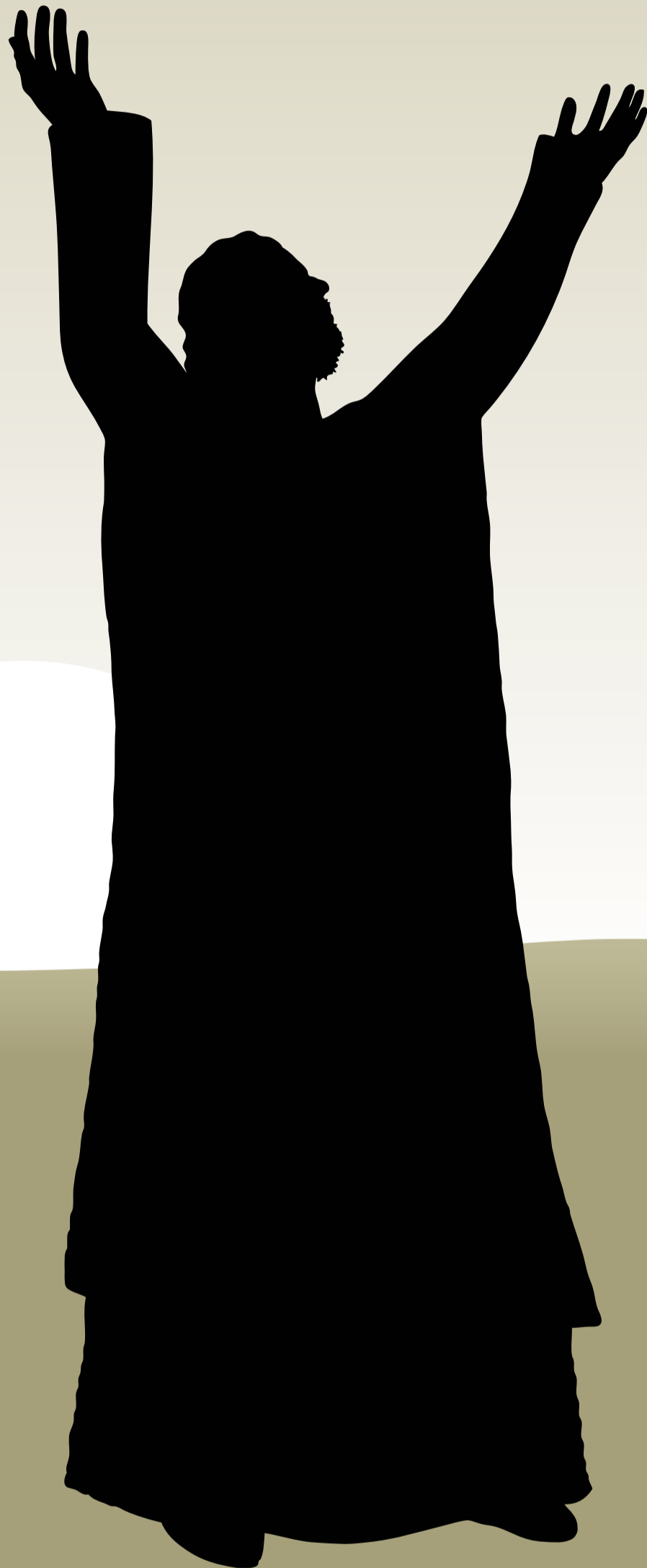
# The LORD was with Joseph.

Genesis 39:2

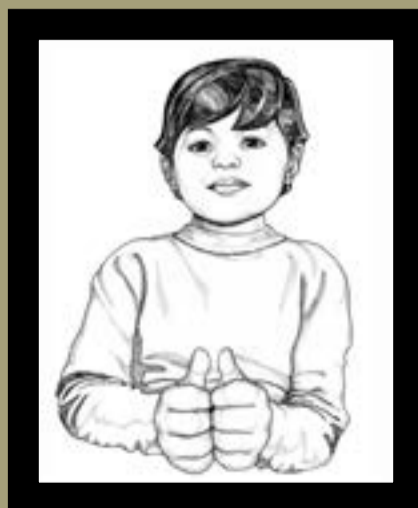


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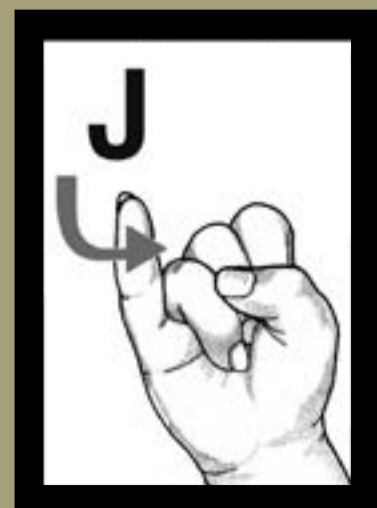
Genesis 39:2



Lord



with



Joseph  
("J")