

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE®

1

CONVERSATION

Joseph Loved His Brothers

GENESIS 37; 42; 43; 45; 46; 50

Jacob had twelve sons, but he loved his son, Joseph, the most. When Joseph's brothers saw how much Jacob loved Joseph, they hated him.

One day Joseph's brothers were away watching their father's flocks when they saw Joseph coming. They immediately began to plot against him. "Let's throw Joseph in a pit," said the oldest brother, Reuben.

When Joseph arrived, they stripped off his colorful robe and threw him into a pit. Later, a trader caravan came by. The brothers sold Joseph to the traders for 20 pieces of silver, and the traders took Joseph to Egypt. The brothers sent Joseph's robe to their father. Jacob recognized it and thought that a wild animal had killed Joseph.

Many years passed, and Joseph was thrown into prison because someone told a lie about him. Later, when Joseph explained the dreams of Pharaoh (the king), Pharaoh made Joseph a ruler in Egypt. He stored up food so the people of Egypt could survive a famine.

During the famine Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt. He said to his sons, "Go down there and buy food so that we will live."

Jacob did not allow his youngest son, Benjamin, to go, so 10 of Jacob's sons traveled to Egypt. When they came to the man in charge, they bowed down before him. The brothers did not realize that the man was actually Joseph, their brother! Even though Joseph recognized them, he did not reveal who he was right away. Instead, he sent them home and ordered them to come back with Benjamin.

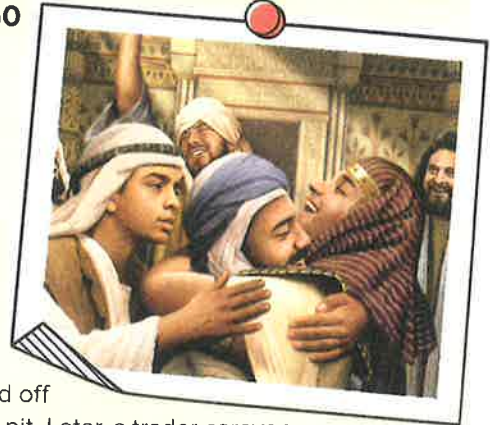
The next time Jacob's sons returned to Egypt, they brought Benjamin and came before the man in charge once again. This time, when Joseph saw his youngest brother, he could no longer remain calm. He cried and said, "I am Joseph, your brother, the one you sold into Egypt."

When Joseph's brothers heard this news, they were terrified. Joseph comforted them and said, "Don't be worried or angry with yourselves for selling me. It was God who sent me ahead to save lives during this famine. It was God who gave me favor with Pharaoh and all of Egypt." Then Joseph threw his arms around Benjamin, and they wept together. Joseph promised to take care of his brothers and father, Jacob, from that day forward.

WEEKLY BIBLE VERSE: Philippians 2:4

LIFE POINT: Family members can love and care for one another.

TAKE IT FURTHER: Check out the *Joseph Loved His Brothers* section of the Bible Studies for Life: Kids Family App.



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

Parents, today your child heard that family members can love and care for one another. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food, they did not recognize him. Joseph cared for his brothers and forgave them for what they had done to him.

LIVE IT OUT

Review the Bible story and how Joseph loved and cared for his family. During a family worship time, list ways each person in your family loves and cares for one another. Pray and ask God to help members of your family show love to each other.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God's plan is for all family members to work together so that God is honored by their family.

DAILY BIBLE READING

Sunday: Philippians 2:4

Monday: 1 Corinthians 16:14

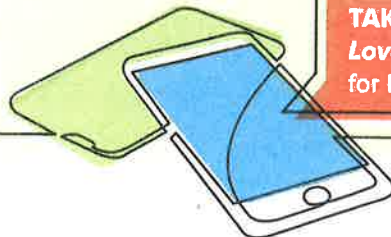
Tuesday: Psalm 103:17

Wednesday: Ephesians 6:4

Thursday: Proverbs 11:29

Friday: 1 Timothy 5:8

Saturday: Deuteronomy 6:6-7



I will praise you because I have been remarkably and wondrously made. Your works are wondrous, and I know this very well. PSALM 139:14 (CSB)

God at Work

There were many twists and turns in the life of Joseph and his family, but we can be certain that God was at work through it all! Work your way through the maze and think about the ways God is at work in your own family.



God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, so that all our sins could be forgiven. Forgiveness is very important to God, and the Bible tells us so! Check out your Bible's concordance and read through all the verses with the words forgiveness, forgive, and forgiven.

Serving at Home

START

Joseph loved his brothers even though they were unkind to him. Like Joseph, we can honor God by showing love and care to our family members in every situation. You probably have the things below in your house. How can you use some of them to love and care for your family?



I can use _____ to _____



I can use _____ to _____



I can use _____ to _____

