

JOSEPH



Read Genesis 41:35-36 and 42:2 and complete the activities on the next page.

52

GENESIS 41

Start
Reading
Here

a fifth of the harvest in Egypt during the seven years when there's plenty of food. ³⁵They should collect all the extra food of the good years that are coming. Pharaoh should give them authority to store up the grain. They should keep it in the cities for food. ³⁶The grain should be stored up for the country to use later. It will be needed during the seven years when there isn't enough food in Egypt. Then the country won't be destroyed just because it doesn't have enough food."

³⁷The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and all his officials. ³⁸So Pharaoh said to them, "The spirit of God is in this man. We can't find anyone else like him, can we?"

³⁹Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "God has made all this known to you. No one is as wise and understanding as you are. ⁴⁰You will be in charge of my palace. All my people must obey your orders. I will be greater than you only because I'm the one who sits on the throne."

Joseph Is Put in Charge of Egypt

⁴¹So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I'm putting you in charge of the whole land of Egypt." ⁴²Then Pharaoh took from his finger the ring he used to give his official stamp. He put it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in robes made out of fine linen. He put a gold chain around Joseph's neck. ⁴³He also had him ride in a chariot. Joseph was now next in command after Pharaoh. People went in front of Joseph and shouted, "Get down on your knees!" By doing all these things, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the whole land of Egypt.

⁴⁴Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh. But unless you give an order, no one will do anything in the whole land of Egypt." ⁴⁵Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-Paneah. He gave Joseph a wife. She was Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera. Potiphera was the priest of On. Joseph traveled all over the land of Egypt.

⁴⁶Joseph was 30 years old when he began serving Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. He left Pharaoh's palace and traveled all over Egypt. ⁴⁷During the seven years there was plenty of food. The land produced more than the people

needed. ⁴⁸Joseph collected all the extra food produced in those seven years in Egypt. He stored it in the cities. In each city he stored up the food grown in the fields around it. ⁴⁹Joseph stored up huge amounts of grain. There was as much of it as sand by the sea. There was so much grain it couldn't be measured. So Joseph stopped keeping records of it.

⁵⁰Before the years when there wasn't enough food, two sons were born to Joseph. He had them by Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera. Potiphera was the priest of On. ⁵¹Joseph named his first son Manasseh. That's because he said, "God has made me forget all my trouble and my father's whole family." ⁵²He named the second son Ephraim. That's because he said, "God has given me children in the land where I've suffered so much."

⁵³The seven years when there was plenty of food in Egypt came to an end. ⁵⁴Then the seven years when there wasn't enough food began. It happened just as Joseph had said it would. There wasn't enough food in any of the other lands. But in the whole land of Egypt there was food. ⁵⁵When all the people of Egypt began to get hungry, they cried out to Pharaoh for food. He told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph. Do what he tells you."

⁵⁶There wasn't enough food anywhere in the country. So Joseph opened the storerooms. He sold grain to the Egyptians because people were very hungry all over Egypt. ⁵⁷People from all over the world came to Egypt. They came to buy grain from Joseph. That's because people were very hungry everywhere.

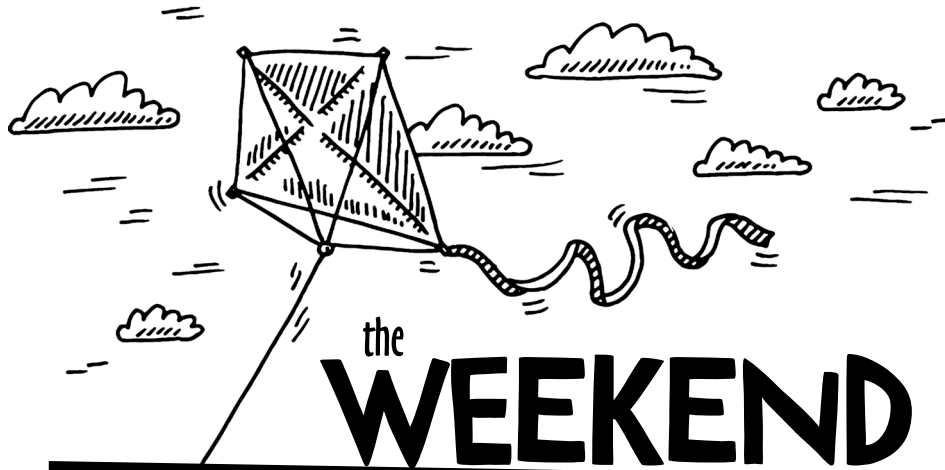
Joseph's Brothers Go Down to Egypt

42 Jacob found out that there was grain in Egypt. So he said to his sons, "Why do you just keep looking at one another?" ²He continued, "I've heard there's grain in Egypt. Go down there. Buy some for us. Then we'll live and not die."

³So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain there. ⁴But Jacob didn't send Joseph's brother Benjamin with them. He was afraid Benjamin might be harmed. ⁵Israel's sons

End
Reading
Here

Read
This
Verse



“The grain should be stored up for the country to use later . . . Then the country won’t be destroyed just because it doesn’t have enough food” (Genesis 41:36).

SATURDAY: Genesis 41:35–36; 42:2
SUNDAY: Luke 6:38

Waste not, want not. Have you heard that before? In this story, God adds a twist. Waste not, want not, share!

God warned the Egyptians that they faced seven years of hunger. But first, they would have seven years with lots of food.

God told Joseph to store extra food during the good years. Waste not. The Egyptians had food stored when it did not grow. Want not.

Then God sent outsiders to Egypt. They were hungry. They heard that Egypt had plenty of food. Could they buy some? Share!

Think about all the things you have. Food. Water. Clothes. Gifts in nature. Your loving God gives you these gifts. He also gives you chances to share your blessings. What better way to thank God?

I have read this devotion.

For your next reading, turn to page 64.

SOME THINGS to THINK ABOUT

How can you conserve (not waste) food? Water? Other gifts in nature? How can you share them?



SOME THINGS to DO

Ask God to help you save and share. Recycle. Don’t waste water. Give to a food bank.

Read Genesis 45:8 and complete the activities on the next page.

GENESIS 45

55

²⁷ “Your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife had two sons by me. ²⁸ One of them went away from me. And I said, “He must have been torn to pieces.” I haven’t seen him since. ²⁹ What if you take this one from me too and he is harmed? Then you would cause me to die as a sad old man. I would go down into the grave full of pain and suffering.’

³⁰ “So now, what will happen if the boy isn’t with us when I go back to my father? His life depends on the boy’s life. ³¹ When he sees that the boy isn’t with us, he’ll die. Because of us, he’ll go down into the grave as a sad old man. ³² I promised my father I would keep the boy safe. I said, ‘Father, I’ll bring him back to you. If I don’t, you can put the blame on me for the rest of my life.’

³³ “Now then, please let me stay here. Let me be your slave in place of the boy. Let the boy return with his brothers. ³⁴ How can I go back to my father if the boy isn’t with me? No! Don’t let me see the pain and suffering that would come to my father.”

JOSEPH TELLS HIS BROTHERS WHO HE IS

45 Joseph couldn’t control himself anymore in front of all his attendants. He cried out, “Have everyone leave me!” So there wasn’t anyone with Joseph when he told his brothers who he was. ² He wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him. Everyone in Pharaoh’s house heard about it.

³ Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still alive?” But his brothers weren’t able to answer him. They were too afraid of him.

⁴ Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” So they did. Then he said, “I am your brother Joseph. I’m the one you sold into Egypt. ⁵ But don’t be upset. And don’t be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me ahead of you to save many lives. ⁶ For two years now, there hasn’t been enough food in the land. And for the next five years, people won’t be plowing or gathering crops. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to keep some of you alive on earth. He sent me here to save your lives by an act of mighty power.

⁸ “So then, it wasn’t you who sent me

here. It was God. He made me like a father to Pharaoh. He made me master of Pharaoh’s entire house. God made me ruler of the whole land of Egypt. ⁹ Now hurry back to my father. Say to him, ‘Your son Joseph says, “God has made me master of the whole land of Egypt. Come down to me. Don’t waste any time. ¹⁰ You will live in the area of Goshen. You, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you have will be near me. ¹¹ There I will provide everything you need. There are still five years to come when there won’t be enough food. If you don’t come down here, you and your family and everyone who belongs to you will lose everything.”’

¹² “My brothers, I am Joseph. You can see for yourselves that I am the one speaking to you. My brother Benjamin can see it too. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honor given to me in Egypt. Tell him about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

¹⁴ Then Joseph threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept. Benjamin also hugged him and wept. ¹⁵ Joseph kissed all his brothers and wept over them. After that, his brothers talked with him.

¹⁶ The news reached Pharaoh’s palace that Joseph’s brothers had come. Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. ¹⁷ Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Here’s what I want you to tell your brothers. Say to them, ‘Load your animals. Return to the land of Canaan. ¹⁸ Bring your father and your families back to me. I’ll give you the best land in Egypt. You can enjoy all the good things in the land.’

¹⁹ “And here’s something else I want you to tell them. Say to them, ‘Take some carts from Egypt. Your children and your wives can use them. Get your father and come back. ²⁰ Don’t worry about the things you have back there. The best of everything in Egypt will belong to you.’”

²¹ Then the sons of Israel did so. Joseph gave them carts, as Pharaoh had commanded. He also gave them supplies for their journey. ²² He gave new clothes to each of them. But he gave Benjamin more than seven pounds of silver. He also gave him five sets of clothes. ²³ He sent his father ten male donkeys loaded with the best things from Egypt. He also sent ten female donkeys loaded

Read
This
Verse

with grain and bread and other supplies for his journey. ²⁴Then Joseph sent his brothers away. As they were leaving he said to them, “Don’t argue on the way!”

²⁵So they went up out of Egypt. They came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. ²⁶They told him, “Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of the whole land of Egypt.” Jacob was shocked. He didn’t believe them. ²⁷So they told him everything Joseph had said to them. Jacob saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back. That gave new life to their father Jacob. ²⁸Israel said, “I believe it now! My son Joseph is still alive. I’ll go and see him before I die.”

JACOB GOES DOWN TO EGYPT

46 So Israel started out with everything that belonged to him. When he reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac.

²God spoke to Israel in a vision at night. “Jacob! Jacob!” he said.

“Here I am,” Jacob replied.

³“I am God. I am the God of your father,” he said. “Do not be afraid to go

down to Egypt. There I will make you into a great nation. ⁴I will go down to Egypt with you. I will surely bring you back again. And when you die, Joseph will close your eyes with his own hand.”

⁵Then Jacob left Beersheba. Israel’s sons put their father Jacob and their families in the carts that Pharaoh had sent to carry him. ⁶So Jacob and his whole family went to Egypt. They took their livestock with them. And they took everything they had acquired in Canaan. ⁷Jacob brought his sons and grandsons with him to Egypt. He also brought his daughters and granddaughters. He brought his whole family with him.

⁸Here are the names of Israel’s children and grandchildren who went to Egypt. Jacob and his whole family are included.

Reuben was Jacob’s oldest son.

⁹The sons of Reuben were Hanok, Pallu, Hezron and Karmi.

¹⁰The sons of Simeon were Jemuel, Jamin, Ohad, Jakin, Zohar and Shaul. Shaul was the son of a woman from Canaan.

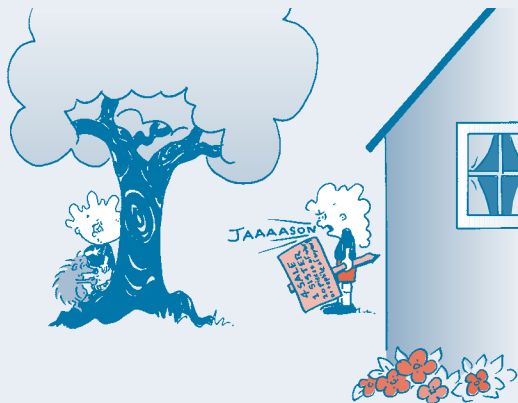
KIDS’ QUESTION

WHY DIDN’T JOSEPH GO BACK HOME?

Joseph probably wanted to go back home, but he was not able to. He was a slave when he first got to Egypt. Then he was in prison for a while. Even after he got out of prison he was a long way from home, and it was much harder to travel back then than it is now. Also, Joseph may have been afraid to face his brothers again. Remember, they had wanted to kill him at one point and sold him to slave traders. Joseph also stayed in Egypt because he knew that God had put him there. While in Egypt, he got to save his family and many others when there was no food. He knew that God had a plan for his life in Egypt.

CHECKOUT
Genesis 45:8

Related verses:
Genesis 41:41–57;
45:4–9



Read Genesis 37:1-11 and complete the activities below.

Genesis 36—37

46

the hot springs of water in the desert. He found them while he was taking care of the donkeys that belonged to his father Zibeon.

²⁵The children of Anah were Dishon and Oholibamah. Oholibamah was the daughter of Anah.

²⁶The sons of Dishon were Hemdan, Eshban, Ithran and Keran.

²⁷The sons of Ezer were Bilhan, Zaavan and Akan.

²⁸The sons of Dishan were Uz and Aran.

²⁹The Horite chiefs were Lotan, Shobal, Zibeon, Anah, ³⁰Dishon, Ezer and Dishan.

They were the Horite chiefs in the land of Seir. They are listed tribe by tribe.

The Rulers of Edom

³¹Before Israel had a king, there were kings who ruled in Edom.

³²Bela became the king of Edom. Bela was the son of Beor. Bela's city was called Dinhabah.

³³When Bela died, Jobab became the next king. Jobab was the son of Zerah from Bozrah.

³⁴When Jobab died, Husham became the next king. Husham was from the land of the Temanites.

³⁵When Husham died, Hadad became the next king. Hadad was the son of Bedad. Hadad had won the battle over Midian in the country of

Moab. Hadad's city was called Avith.

³⁶When Hadad died, Samlah became the next king. Samlah was from Masrekah.

³⁷When Samlah died, Shaul became the next king. Shaul was from Rehoboth on the river.

³⁸When Shaul died, Baal-Hanan became the next king. Baal-Hanan was the son of Akbor.

³⁹When Baal-Hanan died, Hadad became the next king. Hadad's city was called Pau. His wife's name was Mehetabel. She was Matred's daughter. Matred was the daughter of Me-Zahab.

⁴⁰Here are the chiefs in the family line of Esau. They are listed by name as chiefs in charge of their tribes and territories. They are

Timna, Alvah, Jetheth, ⁴¹Oholibamah, Elah, Pinon, ⁴²Kenaz, Teman, Mibzar, ⁴³Magdiel and Iram.

They were the chiefs of Edom. They ruled over their settlements in the land where they lived.

That's the end of the story of the family line of Esau. He was the father of the people of Edom.

Joseph Has Two Dreams

37 Jacob lived in the land of Canaan. It's the land where his father had stayed.

Start Reading Here

Live It!

Family Favorites

GENESIS 37:1-11



Read Genesis 37:1-11. Jacob loved his son Joseph the most. He gave him a beautiful coat. The story says that Joseph's brothers hated him. And Joseph only made things worse. He bragged to his brothers about a dream he had.

Do you ever feel like your parents love a brother or sister more than they love you? Ask your parents if they ever felt like that when they were young.

Read this Bible story with your family. Talk about Joseph and his father. How could they have helped their family feel closer and happier?

47

Genesis 37

² Here is the story of the family line of Jacob.

Joseph was a young man. He was 17 years old. He was taking care of the flocks with some of his brothers. They were the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, the wives of his father Jacob. Joseph brought their father a bad report about his brothers.

³ Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. That's because Joseph had been born to him when he was old. Israel made him a beautiful robe. ⁴ Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them. So they hated Joseph. They couldn't even speak one kind word to him.

⁵ Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to the dream I had. ⁷ We were tying up bundles of grain out in the field. Suddenly my bundle stood up straight. Your bundles gathered around my bundle and bowed down to it."

⁸ His brothers said to him, "Do you plan to be king over us? Will you really rule over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream. They didn't like what he had said.

⁹ Then Joseph had another dream. He told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said. "I had another dream. This time the sun and moon and 11 stars were bowing down to me."

¹⁰ He told his father as well as his brothers. Then his father rebuked him. He said, "What about this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers really do that? Will we really come and bow down to the ground in front of you?" ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him. But his father kept the dreams in mind.

Joseph Is Sold by His Brothers

¹² Joseph's brothers had gone to take care of their father's flocks near Shechem. ¹³ Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are taking care of the flocks near Shechem. Come. I'm going to send you to them."

"All right," Joseph replied.

¹⁴ So Israel said to him, "Go to your brothers. See how they are doing. Also see how the flocks are doing. Then come back and tell me." So he sent him away from the Hebron Valley.

Joseph arrived at Shechem. ¹⁵ A man found him wandering around in the fields. He asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶ He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are taking care of their flocks?"

¹⁷ "They've moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went to look for his broth-

End
Reading
Here



People in Bible times liked beautiful clothes. They made their clothes out of black or white cloth. Sometimes they liked to use brighter colors like purple, red, blue and yellow. Joseph's robe was made by sewing colored threads into designs in the cloth. The robe Jacob gave Joseph was more than just a beautiful gift. It probably showed that Joseph had a more important place in the family than his older brothers. This picture shows decorated clothes worn by people in Joseph's time. Joseph's robe probably looked something like this.

Joseph's Robe



Read Genesis 45:4-9 and complete the activities on the next page.

¹⁴Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in. They threw themselves down on the ground in front of him. ¹⁵Joseph said to them, "What have you done? Don't you know that a man like me has ways to find things out?"

¹⁶"What can we say to you?" Judah replied. "What can we say? How can we prove we haven't done anything wrong? God has shown you that we are guilty. We are now your slaves. All of us are, including the one found to have the cup."

¹⁷But Joseph said, "I would never do anything like that! Only the man found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you may go back to your father in peace."

¹⁸Then Judah went up to him. He said, "Please, sir. Let me speak a word to you. Don't be angry with me, even though you are equal to Pharaoh himself. ¹⁹You asked us, 'Do you have a father or a brother?'" ²⁰We answered, 'We have an old father. A young son was born to him when he was old. His brother is dead. He's the only one of his mother's sons left. And his father loves him.'

²¹"Then you said to us, 'Bring him down to me. I want to see him for myself.'" ²²We said to you, 'The boy can't leave his father. If he does, his father will die.' ²³But you told us, 'Your youngest brother must come down here with you. If he doesn't, you won't see my face again.' ²⁴So we went back to my father. We told him what you had said.

²⁵"Then our father said, 'Go back. Buy a little more food.'" ²⁶But we said, 'We can't go down. We'll only go if our youngest brother goes there with us. We can't even see the man's face unless our youngest brother goes with us.'

²⁷"Your servant my father said to us, 'You know that my wife had two sons by me. ²⁸One of them went away from me. And I said, "He must have been torn to pieces." I haven't seen him since. ²⁹What if you take this one from me too and he is harmed? Then you would cause me to die as a sad old man. I would go down into the grave full of pain and suffering.'

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Joseph Tells His Brothers Who He Is

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⁴Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." So they did. Then he said, "I am your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold into Egypt. ⁵But don't be upset. And don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me ahead of you to save many lives. ⁶For two years now, there hasn't been enough food in the land. And for the next five years, people won't be plowing or gathering crops. ⁷But God sent me ahead of you to keep some of you alive on earth. He sent me here to save your lives by an act of mighty power.

⁸"So then, it wasn't you who sent me here. It was God. He made me like a father to Pharaoh. He made me master of Pharaoh's entire house. God made me ruler of the whole land of Egypt. ⁹Now hurry back to my father. Say to him, 'Your son Joseph says,

Genesis 44

Why did Joseph put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack?

Joseph wanted to see whether his brothers had changed their ways. Years ago they had sold him as a slave. Would they just leave Benjamin when he was put in prison and go back home? Or would they return and try to help him?

Start
Reading
Here



Genesis 45:4–8

Work in groups of five. Make a moving machine with your bodies. The first person starts a movement. Then the second person begins moving. This sets the third person moving, and so on. You can make noises to fit the movements you are making.

Hummy says that you have just been part of what is called a chain reaction.

The day when Joseph’s brothers sold him, they also started a chain reaction. One event led to other events for Joseph and his brothers. All those events were part of God’s plan. **Hummy** wonders if you know who was in charge of everything that happened. Read verse 8 again to find out.

End Reading Here

“God has made me master of the whole land of Egypt. Come down to me. Don’t waste any time. ¹⁰You will live in the area of Goshen. You, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you have will be near me. ¹¹There I will provide everything you need. There are still five years to come when there won’t be enough food. If you don’t come down here, you and your family and everyone who belongs to you will lose everything.”

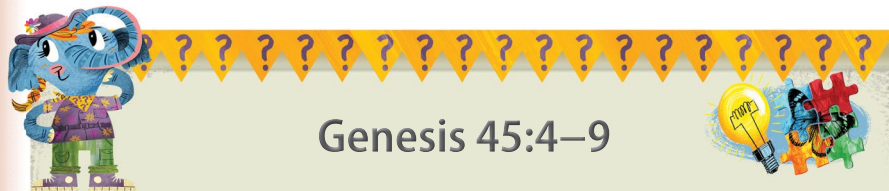
¹²“My brothers, I am Joseph. You can see for yourselves that I am the one speaking to you. My brother Benjamin can see it too. ¹³Tell my father about all the honor given to me in Egypt. Tell him about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.”

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¹⁶The news reached Pharaoh’s palace that Joseph’s brothers had come. Pharaoh and all his officials were pleased. ¹⁷Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Here’s what I want you to tell your brothers. Say to them, ‘Load your animals. Return to the land of Canaan. ¹⁸Bring your father and your families back to me. I’ll give you the best land in Egypt. You can enjoy all the good things in the land.’

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Genesis 45:4–9

Thinky has an idea. Think about Joseph’s life. Then make a list of the most important events in his life. Write all the bad things that happened to Joseph in red. Then write all the good things that happened to him in blue.

Can you see the plan that God had for Joseph’s life? What did God do so that Joseph could end up in the pharaoh’s house? God did this so that Joseph could save many people from the famine. Joseph was also able to save his family.

Who was in charge of Joseph’s life?