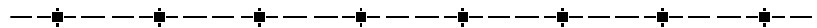


# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

# Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

## A Brother is Reunited

### Joseph Reunited

Genesis 42-47

Joseph Reunited  
Genesis 42-45

### Memory Verse:

God was with him and...  
gave Joseph wisdom.  
(Acts 7:9-10 NIV)

### Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that God gave Joseph great success.
2. Learn that God made Joseph wise.
3. Learn that God sent Joseph to Egypt to save many.
4. Recognize that Joseph provided for his brothers.

Last week, we learned that Joseph was the man in charge until Potiphar's wife lied about him. Joseph went to prison, but God was with him. The man in charge of the prison put Joseph in charge of the prison. God made Joseph wise and gave him success.

### Read the Bible

**READ: Genesis 45:1-6 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

### Begin with Prayer

Today we will see more of God's plan for Joseph. There was a great famine. Jacob, Joseph's father, found out that there was food in Egypt, so he sent his sons to buy food. But he did not let Benjamin go because he was afraid that his youngest son might be harmed. So the ten brothers went to Egypt. (Genesis 42:1-5)

Once again we find that Joseph was the man in charge. This time he was the governor of the land. He was selling grain to the people. When his brothers arrived, they bowed down to him, just as Joseph had dreamed many years before. Can you imagine how Joseph must have felt? His brothers had hated him. They had sold him into slavery. Now here they were bowing down before him.

Joseph did not tell them who he was, and they did not recognize him. He called them spies. He asked about his brother and his father. Then he told them he was going to test them. He put them in prison for three days. He let them out, but he demanded that they bring their younger brother back. He kept one of them in prison until they came back.

(Genesis 42:1-23)

When they arrived in Canaan, they told their father everything that had happened. Jacob did not want to send Benjamin, but they ran out of food. So they had no choice. Jacob sent lotion, honey, spices, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds with his sons. (Genesis 43:1-13) He said, "May the Mighty God cause him to show you mercy. May the man let your other brother and Benjamin come back with you." (Genesis 43:14 (NIV))

When the brothers arrived in Egypt, they spoke to Joseph. Their money had been returned and they brought it all back, plus more money to buy food. Joseph asked about their father. He asked if Benjamin was with them. When he saw Benjamin, Joseph left the room and cried. Then he

### Joseph and Potiphar—Bible Facts

1. Joseph was in charge in Egypt.
2. There was famine.
3. Joseph's brothers bowed down to him.
4. God gave Joseph great success.
5. God sent Joseph to Egypt to save many lives.

washed up and came back to eat a meal with them. He had his servants give Benjamin five times as much food. (Genesis 43:15-30)

Later, Joseph told his brothers who he was. He was so full of emotion that he told all the Egyptians to leave. His brothers were afraid. Can you imagine how the brothers felt? Here was the man in charge of Egypt, next only to Pharaoh. He was telling them he was Joseph. Joseph, the brother they hated, the brother they sold, the brother who now had the power to kill them, just as they had planned to kill him. But Joseph told them that God had sent him to save the lives of many people. Joseph asked his brothers about his father. But his brothers were too afraid of him to even answer. He told them to come close, so they did. (Genesis 45:1-6) He told them, "I am your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold into Egypt." (Genesis 45:4) Joseph told them that there would be famine in the land for another five years. He reassured them again, "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." (Genesis 45:7 NIV) God sent Jesus to rescue us. God sent Jesus to save us.

Joseph told his brothers that God had made him ruler of the whole land of Egypt. He told them that God made him like a father to Pharaoh. He told them again, that "it was God," who sent him to Egypt. (Genesis 45:8 NIV) Joseph's brothers had been jealous when they sold him, "But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace." (Acts 7:9-10 NIV)

#### Review questions.

1. **What was Joseph doing in Egypt?** (Joseph was sold as a slave to Egypt; he was now in charge in Egypt.)
2. **What was happening?** (There was a famine)
3. **What did Joseph's brothers do when they saw him?** (Bowed down to Joseph)
4. **What did God do for Joseph?** (God gave Joseph great success)
5. **Why did God send Joseph to Egypt?** (God sent Joseph to Egypt to save many lives)

#### Do you know Jesus?

God sent Jesus to save us. Jesus suffered and died on the cross. He died so that we can go to heaven. God wants us to live with Him in heaven forever. (John 3:16) All we have to do is ask God for forgiveness and invite Him to be a part of our lives. When we do that, He will forgive us. He will be a part of our lives forever. (Romans 10:9-10)

#### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can be saved.
3. Ask God to help you trust Him like Joseph.
4. Pray for friends and family members who may experience jealousy.

#### Application

Joseph had some difficult situations. He went from being his father's favorite son, to being sold as a slave by his brothers who hated him. But God was with him. God gave Joseph great success. God made Joseph wise, and the Pharaoh made him governor of the land. God sent Joseph to Egypt to save many in a time of great famine. Among those affected were his brothers. So Joseph was reunited with his brothers. Joseph loved his family and he provided for them during the famine. Joseph understood that God was with him. Our circumstances may not be easy to understand, but we can be sure that God is with us.

**Planning for the next week:**  
**Moses (A Special Child) — Exodus 1-3**

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: Genesis 45:1-6 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

(Create masks like Egyptian faces. You may use paper plates and craft sticks to make the masks. Allow the children to play Egyptian slaves who serve Joseph and his brothers. If possible you may create costumes. Use paper plates to create necklaces. Cut out a crescent moon shape and decorate. Use construction paper to make headbands.)

There was a famine in the land. Famine means that there was not enough food for people to eat.

Jacob, Joseph's dad, sent his ten sons to buy food in Egypt. When they got to Egypt, they bought food, but they had to leave one brother behind. They had to promise to bring their youngest brother when they returned.

They didn't know it, but the governor of the land was Joseph. Finally, Joseph told his brothers who he was. They had been mean to Joseph and they sold him as a slave to Egypt.

Joseph told them that God had sent him to save the lives of many people. Joseph asked his brothers about his father. But his brothers were too afraid of him to even answer. He told them to come close, so they did. (Genesis 45:1-6) He told them, "I am your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold into Egypt." (Genesis 45:4)

Joseph told them that there would be famine in the land for another five years. He reassured them again, "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 His mighty power." (Genesis 45:7 NIV) Joseph told his brothers that God had made him ruler of the whole land of Egypt. He told them that God made him like a father to Pharaoh. He told them again that "it was God," who sent him to Egypt. (Genesis 45:8 NIV)

Joseph's brothers were jealous when they sold him, "But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles." (Acts 7:9-10 NIV)

God sent Jesus to rescue us. God sent Jesus to save us.

## Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to rescue us .
3. Pray for your family.

**Did you know?** Preschoolers may get upset and cry or throw tantrums.

Consider this: Plan for such behavior. Ask the child if he is tired? hungry? bored? There is probably a reason for the action. Tell them what you expect. Talk to them. Give them options. If they are crying, speak calmly. Say, "Breathe deeply." Demonstrate. Say, "I can try to help, but you have to tell me what is wrong." Teach them what you expect from them. Say things like, "When someone takes something from you, tell me."

## Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity**— Create a word wall with the memory verse. Put each word in one box. Decorate the word wall with Egyptian hieroglyphics. Don't forget the reference. If you do not have a wall, use several poster boards and let the children take turns holding the posters. Practice the memory verse.
- **Test your memory**— Create a memory game using pictures of Ancient Egypt. Write key words for the story on the back. Ask the children to color the pictures of Ancient Egypt. Ask the children to use the pictures to retell the story.
- **Taste activity**— Look for ideas on the Internet about Egyptian foods during Bible times. Bring pictures for the children. Talk about how Joseph had to learn to eat different food.
- **Think about it** — How do you think Joseph's brothers felt when they realized he was the brother they sold into slavery? Joseph would be taking care of them and providing food for them at a time when food was difficult to find. Joseph understood that they wanted to harm him, but God sent him to save the lives of many.

Bring different toy animals or pictures of animals. Talk about how animals communicate when they are upset. (lions roar, tigers growl, gorillas beat their chests, cats hiss, etc.) Remind the children that Joseph's brothers were reacting to Jacob's favoritism (which was wrong). Remind them that God loves us all the same.

- **Touch activity**— Print a picture of Egyptian hieroglyphics. Tell the children that Joseph probably had to learn to read and speak a foreign language. Let them color pages with Egyptian hieroglyphics.
- **Make papyrus**. Use equal amounts of glue and water. Mix them. Place brown paper in the mixture (you may tear paper bags into small pieces). Place the pieces of paper on newspaper to dry. (Bring some that you have made previously and allow the children to use chalk to draw Egyptian hieroglyphics.)
- **Run and play**— Hockey was one of the games ancient Egyptians played. (Do this ahead of time.) Make hockey sticks using heavy cardboard boxes. Make the hockey puck out of papyrus which you have made by mixing equal amounts of glue and water. Place brown paper in the mixture. Form a hockey puck by pouring mixture into a small cylindrical container. Allow the children to play hockey. You may also use toy hockey materials.

Egyptians placed emphasis on strengthening their bodies. Have the children run races.

- **Listen**— Remind the children that Joseph understood that his brothers had tried to harm him, but God sent him to save the lives of many. As they take time for silence, tell them to ask God to help them see that God has a plan for each one.
- **Sing**— Sing "The Lord Has a Will," or a song related to the story.

## Memory Verse

God was  
with him  
and...

gave Joseph  
wisdom.

Acts 7:9-10

NIRV

## Word Art

Trace the letters.

God

sent

Joseph

to Egypt

to save

many.

## Word Puzzle

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

FAMINE

CANAAN

EGYPT

FOOD

BUY

GRAIN

TEN

SAVE

GOVERNOR



# Word Puzzle

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

FAMINE

CANAAN

EGYPT

FOOD

BUY

GRAIN

TEN

SAVE

GOVERNOR

## Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

FOOD

BUY

GRAIN

TEN

SAVE

EGYPT

# Word Puzzle For Younger Children

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

FOOD

BUY

GRAIN

TEN

SAVE

EGYPT

## Anagram

1. NBMNJEAI-

2. RFHATE-

3. SBTHRROE-

4. PYETG-

5. EAIMFN-

6. RGNVROOE-

7. HOPEJS-

8. AHPORHA -

## Anagram

1. NBMNJEAI- BENJAMIN

2. RFHATE- FATHER

3. SBTHRROE- BROTHERS

4. PYETG- EGYPT

5. EAIMFN- FAMINE

6. RGNVROOE- GOVERNOR

7. HOPEJS- JOSEPH

8. AHPORHA - PHAROAH