

Together Again

Genesis 45:16–47:12; 50:15–21; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 231–240

Do you help care for the needs of others in your family? Joseph did. Let's read how he showed his love and care.

Soon after their reunion with Joseph, his brothers began the long trip home to Canaan. And what a grand trip it was! They had carts loaded with food. They had new clothes and money that Joseph had given them. They had many donkeys loaded with presents for their father. And they had Pharaoh's special invitation to come and live in Egypt. He had promised that their families would have food to eat during the rest of the famine.

When they got home, their father Jacob could not believe the news! His favorite son Joseph was alive! Not dead, as he had believed all these years! "Are you sure?" he asked his sons over and over. "Are you sure Joseph is alive? And you say he is the governor of Egypt? Tell me again! Tell me again!"

Finally Jacob and his family set out for Egypt. Jacob, his daughter, his sons' wives, and

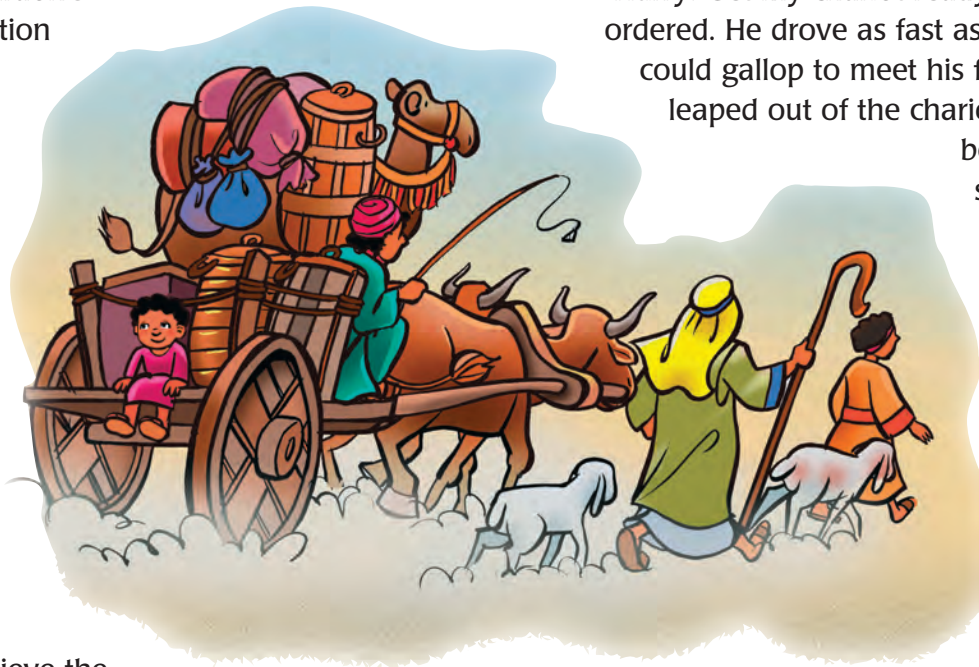
his little grandchildren—everybody went! Some rode comfortably in the carts that Pharaoh had provided for them. Jacob's sons rode beside the carts on Pharaoh's plump donkeys. It was a long journey, but they had plenty of food for the trip. And Jacob's heart sang the whole way! He was really, truly going to see his son Joseph once again!

Finally Joseph's servants brought him the good news. "Your family is almost here," they announced.

"Hurry! Get my chariot ready!" Joseph ordered. He drove as fast as his horses could gallop to meet his father. Joseph leaped out of the chariot almost

before it stopped. He ran to Jacob and hugged him. Together they cried for joy.

Soon after, Joseph took five



of his brothers to the palace to meet Pharaoh. "What is your occupation?" Pharaoh asked them.

"We are shepherds," the brothers answered.

"Your brothers may live in Goshen," Pharaoh told Joseph. "It is the best of my land. And I will also hire your brothers to take care of my cattle, if they wish."

The Message

God helps me care for my family.

Memory Verse

“Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers”

(Galatians 6:10, NIV).

Joseph took his father to meet Pharaoh too. And Jacob, the great man of God, blessed Pharaoh, the mighty king of Egypt.

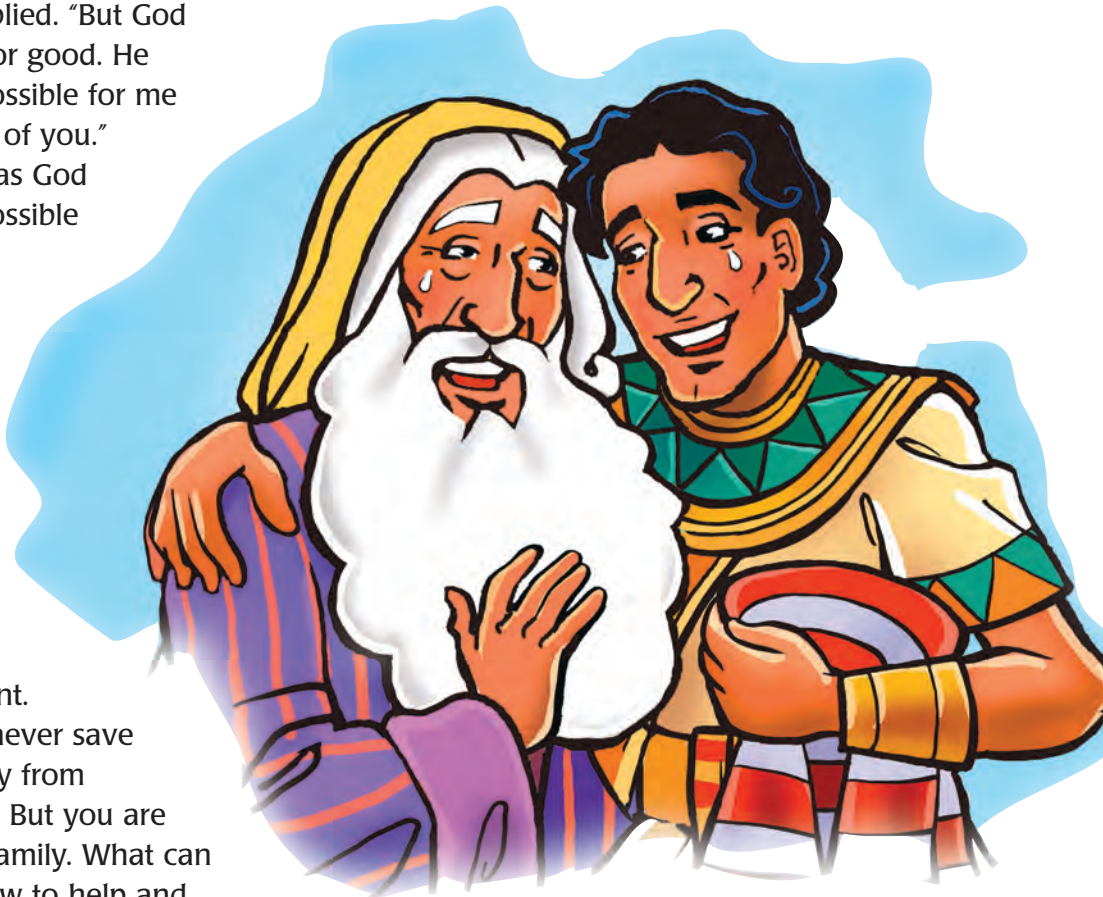
Seventeen years after he and his family had moved to Egypt, father Jacob died. He was 147 years old.

Joseph's brothers began to worry. Now that their father was dead, what would Joseph do? Would he finally get even with them for the terrible thing they had done? They decided to send Joseph a message. “Before our father died, he said he wanted you to forgive us for the evil thing we did to you.”

“You meant to harm me,” Joseph replied. “But God meant it for good. He made it possible for me to help all of you.”

How has God made it possible for you to care for your family? You may never be an officer in your country's government. You may never save your family from starvation. But you are part of a family. What can you do now to help and

show love to the people you live with? What can you do to show your church family that you care?



S A B B A T H

DO With your family take a walk near a field of grain or grass. Think about how some creatures need grain or grass to live.

READ Find a place to sit and read the Bible lesson story. Read Galatians 6:10 and tell what it means.

SING Sing "A Happy Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 136). Then thank God for your family.

M O N D A Y

READ Together with your family, read Genesis 46. Draw a picture of Joseph meeting his father. Put it in your *Story of Joseph* book. How do you think Jacob and Joseph felt when they saw each other again? How would you have felt?

DO Look on a Bible map and find Canaan, Egypt, and Goshen. About how far did Joseph's family travel to move to Egypt? If you could travel that far from home, where would you go?

PRAY Pray for people who are traveling today.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 50:15-21. Why were Joseph's brothers worried when their father died? Why do you think Joseph cried?

SHARE What kind of grain did you eat today? Was it bread? Cereal? Look at your memory verse food container and say the verse. Look in your food cupboard. How many things are made of grain or corn? Thank God for food.

SING Think about how you really care for your family as you sing together "Love at Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 137).

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 45:16-28. Draw a picture of Joseph's brothers showing their father the carts, donkeys, food, and other gifts. Put it in your *Story of Joseph* book.

DO Why do you think Joseph gave his brother Benjamin more clothes than he gave his other brothers? Why did Joseph tell his brothers not to quarrel on the way? What kinds of gifts do you give your family?

DO Write your memory verse on gift wrap paper. Cut out each word, mix them up, then put the verse in the right order.

PRAY Thank God for the greatest gift of all—Jesus.

T U E S D A Y

READ For family worship, read and discuss Genesis 47:1-12. Draw a picture of Joseph's father meeting Pharaoh. Put it in your *Story of Joseph* book.

DO Write your memory verse on paper. Attach it to a cereal box or other food container you use often. (Don't forget the text.) Each time you see it this week, say the verse.

T H U R S D A Y

READ With your family, read Genesis 47:1-12 again. How did Joseph care for his family?

DO List the five most important things you would do to care for a pet. Now think how much more your family does for you. Thank them for it.

F R I D A Y

DO For worship today use your *Story of Joseph* book to review Joseph's story. Begin with his childhood dreams. Review the memory verses that go with each part of the story (Lessons 9-13). You may want to act out certain parts.

DO Read Romans 12:13 together. If possible, plan to invite someone to Sabbath dinner tomorrow.

SING Sing happy family songs before prayer. Then thank God for a new Sabbath.

God wanted Jacob's family in Egypt to live in peace and grow into a great nation.



Together Again

PUZZLE

Directions: Look at the pictures to find out what Joseph gave his brothers. Write the words in the blanks provided.

