

21. Joseph Is Reunited with His Brothers

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

21. Joseph Is Reunited with His Brothers

- a. Point out that Joseph had been away from his brothers for more than twenty years. This is why they didn't know him. Also, they spoke a different language than he spoke in Egypt. So he could understand them, but they didn't know that. When they spoke about how they were sorry for what they had done to Joseph, he knew they were speaking the truth.
- b. The brothers were very afraid, because Joseph could have taken revenge on them. But he was a very good man and he didn't. He told them that God had used him to save many people from starving to death. They did a bad thing, but the Lord made it come to good.
- c. Emphasize how wonderfully thrilled Jacob was when he learned that his favorite son was alive and the ruler in Egypt.



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The Lord Helps Joseph Forgive His Brothers

Just as Joseph had told Pharaoh, there came seven years with plenty of food, but after that came seven years of no food. The famine was over all the earth and there was no food to eat in all the country round about Egypt. And Joseph opened all the storehouses where he had saved grain for bread, and he sold it to all the countries. And all the countries came to Egypt, to Joseph, to buy grain.

And when Jacob, Joseph's father, who lived in the land of Canaan, saw that there was food in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Go to Egypt and buy for us that we may live and not die." And so Joseph's brothers went to buy grain in Egypt.

When Joseph saw them, he recognized them, but they did not know that he was their lost brother. Joseph listened to them talking and he heard that they were sorry for what they had done to him. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" And his brothers could not answer him for they were afraid of him.

And Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me", and they came near to him. And he said, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be sad or angry with yourselves that you did this to me, for the Lord did send me and look after me all these years in order to save your lives. He has made me a ruler throughout the land of Egypt." And Joseph said to his brothers, "Hurry and go back to my father and bring him and all the families and all the servants and your sheep and cattle and come and live with me. And I will take care of you so that you do not die." Joseph kissed all his brothers and forgave them.

Then Joseph told it all to Pharaoh who was pleased for Joseph and said, "Go and tell your brothers to fetch Jacob and all his family, that they may come and live in Egypt with you." And Joseph sent his brothers back to Jacob with wagons to bring everything that they had back to Egypt and he sent many gifts to his father, Jacob.

When Jacob saw the gifts and heard from Joseph's brothers all that had happened he said, "I will go and see my son Joseph." And so Jacob's whole family came to live in Egypt, in a place called Goshen, and Joseph took care of them and gave them food to eat.

Genesis 42, 45

