



These Daily Devotionals on the Life of Joseph are designed for the young, i.e. the young in age and the young in their faith. Originally designed for our grandchildren, they are meant to be a starting point, a basic framework, for parents and mentors to launch out into further explanation, understanding and application to your specific life situations. Bible readings are taken from the New Living Translation.

Grandpa Devotional #1

The Robe

Read Genesis 37:1-4

1 So Jacob settled in the land of Canaan, where his father had lived as a foreigner.

2 This is the account of Jacob and his family. When Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks. He worked for his half-brothers, the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.

3 Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So, one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe.

4 But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him.

Who was Joseph's dad? Jacob. **Where did Joseph grow up (v. 1)?** In the land of Canaan (The Promised Land). **How old was Joseph at this time (v. 2)?** Seventeen

What was Joseph's job? He was a shepherd. **Who was he tending the sheep with?** His brothers.

What did Joseph do next (v. 2)? He tattled on his brothers.

What do we know about Joseph's dad Israel (or Jacob) (v. 3)? He loved Joseph more than his other sons.

Why did Jacob love Joseph more than his brothers? Because Joseph was born to him when he was old.

What special thing did Jacob do for Joseph? He made him a beautiful robe. **What's the problem with that?** That's showing favoritism which will divide a family if dad or mom loves one child more than the others.

What did Joseph's brothers do when they saw that their father loved Joseph more than them (v. 4)? They hated Joseph and wouldn't say anything nice to him. They were mean to Joseph. They were jealous of him.

Read Genesis 37:5-11

5 One night, Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever.

6 “Listen to this dream,” he said.

7 “We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!”

8 His brothers responded, “So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.

9 Soon Joseph had another dream, and again he told his brothers about it. “Listen, I have had another dream,” he said. “The sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed low before me!”

10 This time he told the dream to his father as well as to his brothers, but his father scolded him. “What kind of dream is that?” he asked. “Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow to the ground before you?”

11 But while his brothers were jealous of Joseph, his father wondered what the dreams meant.

When Joseph had a dream, what did he do next (v. 5)? He told his brothers. Kinda like he was bragging.

How did his brothers react? They hated him.

What was the dream? (Read v. 7)

How did his brothers react to Joseph’s dream (v. 8)? They were jealous and mad and they hated him even more.

What was the second dream Joseph had? (Read v. 9)

This time he told his father and his brothers. What did his father think about the dream (v. 10)? His father scolded Joseph. He thought the dream was ridiculous.

How did his brothers react (v. 11)? They were jealous

What did his father do? He thought about the meaning of the dream.

Do you think Joseph would have been better off by not telling anyone about his dreams?

Was Joseph being prideful?

Read Genesis 37:12-17

12 Soon after this, Joseph's brothers went to pasture their father's flocks at Shechem.

13 When they had been gone for some time, Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are pasturing the sheep at Shechem. Get ready, and I will send you to them." "I'm ready to go," Joseph replied.

14 "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are getting along," Jacob said. "Then come back and bring me a report." So, Jacob sent him on his way, and Joseph traveled to Shechem from their home in the valley of Hebron.

15 When he arrived there, a man from the area noticed him wandering around the countryside. "What are you looking for?" he asked.

16 "I'm looking for my brothers," Joseph replied. "Do you know where they are pasturing their sheep?"

17 "Yes," the man told him. "They have moved on from here, but I heard them say, 'Let's go on to Dothan.'" So, Joseph followed his brothers to Dothan and found them there.

Where did Joseph's brothers go (v. 12)? They had gone near Shechem to graze the sheep flocks

What did Joseph's father Jacob do (v. 13)? He sent Joseph to check on his brothers.

Why do you think Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers (v. 14)? To make sure they and their flocks of sheep were okay.

When He arrived at Shechem, did he find his brothers? No. They were not where he expected them to be.

What did He find (v. 15)? A man found him.

Do you think God put that man there to help Joseph?

What did the man ask Joseph? What are you looking for?

How did Joseph answer him (v. 16)? I'm looking for my brothers. Do you know where they are.

What did the man tell Joseph (v. 17)? He overheard them say they were going to Dothan.

Since Joseph's brothers hated him, do you think he was nervous about finding them?

Read Genesis 37:18-24

18 When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him.

19 "Here comes the dreamer!" they said.

20 "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

21 But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said.

22 "Why should we shed any blood? Let's just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father.

23 So when Joseph arrived, his brothers ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing.

24 Then they grabbed him and threw him into the cistern. Now the cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

When Joseph's brother saw him coming in the distance, how did they recognize him (v. 18)? Probably from the fancy robe he was wearing.

What did the brothers plan to do? They planned to kill Joseph.

What was the plan (v. 20)? They were going to throw him into a cistern.

What's a cistern? A hole in the ground to store water

Who Was Reuben (v. 21)? The oldest of the 12 brothers.

What did Reuben think of the plan (vv. 21-22)? He wasn't in favor of killing Joseph. He agreed with throwing Joseph into one of the cisterns.

What was Reuben's plan (v. 22b)? He was going to rescue Joseph later and take him back to their dad.

What did they do when Joseph arrived (vv. 23-24)? They took his robe off him and threw him into the cistern.

Can you imagine being that mean to your brother or sister?

Read Genesis 37:25-30

25 Then, just as they were sitting down to eat, they looked up and saw a caravan of camels in the distance coming toward them. It was a group of Ishmaelite traders taking a load of gum, balm, and aromatic resin from Gilead down to Egypt.

26 Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain by killing our brother? We’d have to cover up the crime.

27 Instead of hurting him, let’s sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!” And his brothers agreed.

28 So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph’s brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

29 Sometime later, Reuben returned to get Joseph out of the cistern. When he discovered that Joseph was missing, he tore his clothes in grief.

30 Then he went back to his brothers and lamented, “The boy is gone! What will I do now?”

What did the brothers see when they sat down to eat lunch (v. 25)? A caravan of traders was coming down the road.

Where were they going? They were taking a load of their goods to Egypt to trade for Egyptian things.

What was Judah’s idea (v. 26)? Instead of killing Joseph, let’s sell him to the traders and get some money for him.

Why didn’t he want to kill Joseph (v. 27)? Because Joseph was part of their family.

What did they do when the Midianite traders came by (v. 28)? They pulled Joseph out of the cistern and sold him to the traders.

How much did they sell Joseph for? Twenty shekels of silver.

What did the traders do with Joseph? They took him to Egypt.

What happened when Reuben returned to the cistern (v. 29)? He was shocked to find that Joseph was missing. That he had been sold.

What do you think Reuben was so worried about Joseph (v. 30)? Probably because Reuben was the oldest of the brothers and was responsible for the safety of the others. He didn’t want to have to tell his father Jacob the bad news. Especially since Joseph was his favorite.

Read Genesis 37:31-36

31 Then the brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood.

32 They sent the beautiful robe to their father with this message: "Look at what we found. Doesn't this robe belong to your son?"

33 Their father recognized it immediately. "Yes," he said, "it is my son's robe. A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph has clearly been torn to pieces!"

34 Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time.

35 His family all tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. "I will go to my grave mourning for my son," he would say, and then he would weep.

36 Meanwhile, the Midianite traders arrived in Egypt, where they sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Potiphar was captain of the palace guard.

What did the brothers do next (v. 31)? They killed a goat and dipped Joseph's robe in it.

Where did they take the robe that had been dipped in blood (v. 32)? They took it back to their father Jacob.

What did they ask their father? Is this the robe you made for Joseph?

What were they trying to do with their father? Deceive him into thinking Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.

What did Jacob say (v. 33)? Yes, it is the same robe. Some ferocious animal must have killed Joseph.

What did Jacob do next (v. 34)? He tore his clothes and put on sackcloth/burlap and mourned for his son for many days

Why did he dress in burlap? It was a sign of mourning. It's also very scratchy and uncomfortable.

Who came to comfort him (v 35)? All his kids.

How did Jacob respond to them? I cannot be comforted. I will mourn for Joseph the rest of my life,

What happened with the trader caravan taking Joseph to Egypt (v. 36)? When they arrived in Egypt, they sold Joseph to Potiphar who worked for Pharaoh the King.

Read Genesis 39:1-6a

1 When Joseph was taken to Egypt by the traders, he was purchased by Potiphar, an Egyptian officer. Potiphar was captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

2 The LORD was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did as he served in the home of his Egyptian master.

3 Potiphar noticed this and realized that the LORD was with Joseph, giving him success in everything he did.

4 This pleased Potiphar, so he soon made Joseph his personal attendant. He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned.

5 From the day Joseph was put in charge of his master's household and property, the LORD began to bless Potiphar's household for Joseph's sake. All his household affairs ran smoothly, and his crops and livestock flourished.

6 So Potiphar gave Joseph complete administrative responsibility over everything he owned. With Joseph there, he didn't worry about a thing—except what kind of food to eat!

Who bought Joseph from the traders (v. 1)? Potiphar

What was Potiphar's job? He worked for Pharaoh. He had an important job -- Captain of the guard. He was in charge of all of Pharaoh's personal soldiers.

Do you think the Joseph was wondering if God had forgotten about him?

Did God forget about Joseph (v. 2)? No. God blessed Joseph and made him very successful.

What did Potiphar see in Joseph (v. 3)? He realized that Joseph's God was with him and his God gave him success in everything he did.

What did Potiphar do for Joseph (v. 4)? He put him in charge of his entire household and everything he owned.

What happened to Potiphar because of Joseph (v. 5)? God blessed his home and his fields and animals.

What did Potiphar do for Joseph (v. 6) He put Joseph in charge of everything he owned and didn't have to worry about anything except what he was going to eat.

Why was Potiphar not worried about letting a Jew take care of his things? Because he knew Joseph's God was with him (v. 3). And he saw what a great job Joseph was doing.

Do your friends realize your God is with you?

Read Genesis 39:6b-12

Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man,

7 and Potiphar's wife soon began to like him. ~~look at him lustfully~~. "Come here and ~~sleep with~~ kiss me," she demanded.

8 But Joseph refused. "Look," he told her, "my master trusts me with everything in his entire household.

9 No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God."

10 She kept putting pressure on Joseph day after day, but he refused to kiss ~~sleep with~~ her, and he kept out of her way as much as possible.

11 One day, however, no one else was around when he went in to do his work.

12 She came and grabbed him by his cloak, demanding, "Come on, ~~sleep with~~ kiss me!" Joseph tore himself away, but he left his cloak in her hand as he ran from the house.

What did Joseph look like (v. 6b)? He was handsome and muscular.

What did Potiphar's wife think about Joseph (v. 7)? She liked him.

What did she say to Joseph? Come over here and kiss me.

What did Joseph say to her (v. 8)? NO.

Why did he say NO to her (vv. 8-9)? Because his master Potiphar trusted him with everything. And she belonged to Potiphar. She was his wife.

Who was Joseph worried about sinning against? Potiphar? God

Who do you sin against? Against Mom and Dad? No. All sin is against God.

What did Potiphar's wife continue to do (v. 10)? She kept asking Joseph to kiss her.

What did Joseph continue to do? He kept saying NO.

What did Joseph do one day when nobody was around (v. 11)? He went to the house to do his normal job.

What did Potiphar's wife do (v. 12)? She grabbed him and tried to kiss him.

What did Joseph do? He ran away but his jacket came off when he ran away

Read Genesis 39:13-20a

13 When she saw that she was holding his cloak and he had fled,

14 she called out to her servants. Soon all the men came running. "Look!" she said. "My husband has brought this Hebrew slave here to make fools of us! He came into my room to ~~rape~~ kiss me, but I screamed.

15 When he heard me scream, he ran outside and got away, but he left his cloak behind with me."

16 She kept the cloak with her until her husband came home.

17 Then she told him her story. "That Hebrew slave you've brought into our house tried to come in and fool around with me," she said.

18 "But when I screamed, he ran outside, leaving his cloak with me!"

19 Potiphar was furious when he heard his wife's story about how Joseph had treated her.

20 So he took Joseph and threw him into the prison where the king's prisoners were held, and there he remained.

What did Potiphar's wife see (v. 13)? After she had grabbed him and tried to kiss him, she realized Joseph had ran away so fast that he had left his jacket in her hand.

What did she do next (v. 14)? She called all her servants together.

What did she tell her servants (vv. 14-15)? Joseph tried to kiss me. She lied

What did she do while she was waiting for her husband to come home (v. 16)? She kept Joseph's jacket beside her.

What did she tell her husband when he came home (vv. 17-18)? Your servant Joseph tried to kiss me. But when I screamed for help, he ran away and left his jacket here. She lied again.

How did her husband Potiphar feel (v. 19)? He was very angry at Joseph.

What did Potiphar do with Joseph (v. 20a)? He put him in prison

Oh no! Joseph was in the pit and now he's in prison. And he didn't deserve either one. Was he angry with God? Did he still trust God? Did God leave him or forget about him? Can we trust God when bad things happen to us?

Read Genesis 39:20b--40:4

21 But the LORD was with Joseph in the prison and showed him his faithful love. And the LORD made Joseph a favorite with the prison warden.

22 Before long, the warden put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners and over everything that happened in the prison.

23 The warden had no more worries, because Joseph took care of everything. The LORD was with him and caused everything he did to succeed.

1 Sometime later, Pharaoh's cup-bearer and baker offended their royal master.

2 Pharaoh became angry with these two officials,

3 and he put them in the prison where Joseph was, **in the palace of the captain of the guard.**

4 They remained in prison for quite some time, and the captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, who looked after them

What did the Lord do with Joseph in the prison (v. 21)? He was with Joseph and showed him how much He loved him. God caused the prison warden to really like Joseph.

What did the warden do (v. 22)? He put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners and all the activities in the prison. Just like Potiphar had put Joseph in charge of everything he owned.

How did Joseph do in his new job (v. 23)? He did so well the warden didn't have to worry about anything that happened in the prison. Same as he did with Potiphar.

Why was Joseph so successful in everything he did? He believed in God, he didn't whine and complain and God blessed him.

What did the cup-bearer and the baker do (vv. 1-2)? They made the Pharaoh mad.

What did Pharaoh do with them (v. 3)? He put them in prison

Who else was in the same prison? Joseph

Do you think it was a coincidence that the cup-bearer and the baker were put in the prison where Joseph was or do you think God might have a plan for all of them?

How long did they stay in the prison? For a long time

What did the captain of the guard do (v. 4)? He assigned Joseph to watch over the two men.

Read Genesis 40:5-11

5 While they were in prison, Pharaoh's cup-bearer and baker each had a dream one night, and each dream had its own meaning.

6 When Joseph saw them the next morning, he noticed that they both looked upset.

7 "Why do you look so worried today?" he asked them.

8 And they replied, "We both had dreams last night, but no one can tell us what they mean." "Interpreting dreams is God's business," Joseph replied. "Go ahead and tell me your dreams."

9 So the cup-bearer told Joseph his dream first. "In my dream," he said, "I saw a grapevine in front of me.

10 The vine had three branches that began to bud and blossom, and soon it produced clusters of ripe grapes.

11 I was holding Pharaoh's wine cup in my hand, so I took a cluster of grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup. Then I placed the cup in Pharaoh's hand."

What happened next to the cupbearer and the baker (v. 5)? They each had a dream and the meaning of each dream was different.

What did Joseph notice about them the next morning (v. 6)? They were upset.

What did Joseph ask them (v. 7)? Why are you so worried.

What did they tell Joseph (v. 8)? They both had dreams but they didn't know how to interpret them.

What did Joseph tell them about dreams? Only God can interpret dreams. Tell me what your dreams were.

What was the cupbearers dream (vv. 9-11)? (Read)

Read Genesis 40:12-19

12 “This is what the dream means,” Joseph said. “The three branches represent three days.

13 Within three days Pharaoh will lift you up and restore you to your position as his cup-bearer.

14 And please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place.

15 For I was kidnapped from my homeland, the land of the Hebrews, and now I’m here in prison, but I did nothing to deserve it.”

16 When the baker saw that Joseph had given the first dream such a positive interpretation, he said to Joseph, “I had a dream, too. In my dream there were three baskets of white pastries stacked on my head.

17 The top basket contained all kinds of pastries for Pharaoh, but the birds came and ate them from the basket on my head.”

18 “This is what the dream means,” Joseph told him. “The three baskets also represent three days.

19 Three days from now Pharaoh will lift you up and impale your body on a pole. Then birds will come and peck away at your flesh.”

(Review) **What was the cupbearer’s dream (vv. 9-11)?** (Read)

How did Joseph interpret the cupbearer’s dream (vv. 12-13)? (Read)

What did Joseph ask the cupbearer to do for him (v. 14)? Remember him and tell Pharaoh to get him out of prison.

What else did Joseph tell the cupbearer (v. 15)? He told him why he was in jail and that he didn’t deserve to be there

Why do you think He told him that?

Why did the baker tell Joseph his dream (v. 16)? Because he saw that Joseph had given the cupbearer a good interpretation of his dream and he wanted a good interpretation of his also.

What was the baker’s dream (vv. 16-17)? (Read)

How did Joseph interpret the baker’s dream (vv. 18-19)? (Read)

Read Genesis 40:20-23

20 Pharaoh's birthday came three days later, and he prepared a banquet for all his officials and staff. He summoned his cup-bearer and chief baker to join the other officials.

21 He then restored the cup-bearer to his former position, so he could again give Pharaoh his cup.

22 But Pharaoh hanged the baker, just as Joseph had predicted when he interpreted his dream.

23 Pharaoh's cup-bearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought.

What did Pharaoh do on his birthday (v. 20)? Threw a big party.

What did he do for the cupbearer (v. 21)? He gave him his old job back again.

What did he do for the baker (v. 22)? He hanged him.

Did the dreams come true just as Joseph said they would? Yes. Both of them.

How did Joseph know how to interpret dreams? God told him (v. 8b).

Did the cupbearer remember to tell Pharaoh about Joseph (v. 23)? No. He forgot.

How do you think Joseph felt? Disappointed. Maybe angry.

Read Genesis 41:1-8

1 Two full years later, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing on the bank of the Nile River.

2 In his dream he saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass.

3 Then he saw seven more cows come up behind them from the Nile, but these were scrawny and thin. These cows stood beside the fat cows on the riverbank.

4 Then the scrawny, thin cows ate the seven healthy, fat cows! At this point in the dream, Pharaoh woke up.

5 But he fell asleep again and had a second dream. This time he saw seven heads of grain, plump and beautiful, growing on a single stalk.

6 Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were shriveled and withered by the east wind.

7 And these thin heads swallowed up the seven plump, well-formed heads! Then Pharaoh woke up again and realized it was a dream.

8 The next morning Pharaoh was very disturbed by the dreams. So, he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt. When Pharaoh told them his dreams, not one of them could tell him what they meant.

Two years later where was Joseph? He was still in prison.

What happened when Joseph was in prison (v. 1)? Pharaoh had a dream.

What did Pharaoh dream (2-4)? (Read)

After Pharaoh woke up, what happened when he went back to sleep (v. 5)? He had another dream.

What was his second dream (vv. 5-7)? (Read)

How did Pharaoh feel about his dreams (v. 8)? He was troubled. His mind was disturbed. He was probably scared a little.

What did he do next? He called in all his magicians and wise men to tell him what his dreams meant.

Could any of Pharaoh's magicians and wise men tell him what his dreams meant? No

Why couldn't they interpret his dreams (40:8b)? They worshipped the wrong God. Their "god" couldn't interpret dreams.

Read Genesis 41:9-16

9 Finally, the king's cup-bearer spoke up. "Today I have been reminded of my failure," he told Pharaoh.

10 "Some time ago, you were angry with the baker and me, and you imprisoned us in the palace of the captain of the guard.

11 One night the baker and I each had a dream, and each dream had its own meaning.

12 There was a young Hebrew man with us in the prison who was a slave of the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams, and he told us what each of our dreams meant.

13 And everything happened just as he had predicted. I was restored to my position as cup-bearer, and the baker was executed and impaled on a pole."

14 Pharaoh sent for Joseph at once, and he was quickly brought from the prison. After he shaved and changed his clothes, he went in and stood before Pharaoh.

15 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream last night, and no one here can tell me what it means. But I have heard that when you hear about a dream you can interpret it."

16 "It is beyond my power to do this," Joseph replied. "But God can tell you what it means and set you at ease."

What did the cup bearer do (v. 9)? He finally remembered about Joseph.

How long had it been since Joseph asked the cup bearer to remember him (41:1)? 2 years

Why did he finally remember to tell Pharaoh about Joseph? God reminded him.

Why do you think God waited two years? The Bible doesn't tell us why. It was just part of God's plan and God's perfect timing for Joseph.

What did the cup bearer do next (vv. 10-13)? He told Pharaoh how Joseph had interpreted his and the baker's dreams.

What did Pharaoh do next (v. 14)? He told his servants to bring Joseph to him.

What did they have Joseph do? Shave and change his clothes. He was going to see the Pharaoh. He had to look good and be clean.

What did Pharaoh say to Joseph (v. 15)? I had a dream and no one could interpret it for me. But I hear you can interpret dreams.

What did Joseph say to Pharaoh (v. 16)? I can't interpret dreams but God can and He will tell me what your dream means.

Read Genesis 41:17-27

17 So Pharaoh told Joseph his dream. “In my dream,” he said, “I was standing on the bank of the Nile River,

18 and I saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river and begin grazing in the marsh grass.

19 But then I saw seven sick-looking cows, scrawny and thin, come up after them. I’ve never seen such sorry-looking animals in all the land of Egypt.

20 These thin, scrawny cows ate the seven fat cows.

21 But afterward you wouldn’t have known it, for they were still as thin and scrawny as before! Then I woke up.

22 “In my dream I also saw seven heads of grain, full and beautiful, growing on a single stalk.

23 Then seven more heads of grain appeared, but these were blighted, shriveled, and withered by the east wind.

24 And the shriveled heads swallowed the seven healthy heads. I told these dreams to the magicians, but no one could tell me what they mean.”

25 Joseph responded, “Both of Pharaoh’s dreams mean the same thing. God is telling Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do.

26 The seven healthy cows and the seven healthy heads of grain both represent seven years of prosperity.

27 The seven thin, scrawny cows that came up later and the seven thin heads of grain, withered by the east wind, represent seven years of famine.

What was Pharaoh’s first dream (vv. 17-21)? (Read)

What did Pharaoh see in another dream (vv. 22-24)? (Read)

How did Joseph interpret Pharaoh’s dreams (v. 25)? Both dreams meant the same thing. God was telling Pharaoh what He was going to do.

What did they mean (vv. 26-27)? That Pharaoh’s land of Egypt was going to have 7 really good years of grain and lots of food. And then there would be 7 years of famine with no food because the weather would be so bad -- there would be no rain and it would be so hot -- that the crops wouldn’t grow and the people wouldn’t be able to get any food and they would starve to death.

Read Genesis 41:28-36

28 “This will happen just as I have described it, for God has revealed to Pharaoh in advance what he is about to do.

29 The next seven years will be a period of great riches and success throughout the land of Egypt.

30 But afterward there will be seven years of famine so great that all the riches and success will be forgotten in Egypt. Famine will destroy the land.

31 This famine will be so severe that even the memory of the good years will be erased.

32 As for having two similar dreams, it means that these events have been decreed by God, and he will soon make them happen.

33 “Therefore, Pharaoh should find an intelligent and wise man and put him in charge of the entire land of Egypt.

34 Then Pharaoh should appoint supervisors over the land and let them collect one-fifth of all the crops during the seven good years.

35 Have them gather all the food produced in the good years that are just ahead and bring it to Pharaoh’s storehouses. Store it away, and guard it so there will be food in the cities.

36 That way there will be enough to eat when the seven years of famine come to the land of Egypt. Otherwise this famine will destroy the land.”

Who did Joseph give credit to for interpreting the dreams (v. 28)? Joseph *described* the dreams but God *revealed* them to Joseph.

How does Joseph explain the dreams to Pharaoh (vv. 29-31)? (Read)

What does two dreams with the same meaning mean (v. 32)? Whenever the Bible repeats something, it means they will happen for sure.

What advice did Joseph give to Pharaoh about people to manage the next 14 years (vv. 33-34)? (Read)

What advice did Joseph give to Pharaoh about managing the crops (vv. 35-36)? (Read)

Joseph has spent a lot of his adult years in prison. How did he know all this? God revealed it to him just as He did with the dreams.

Why is God making all this happen? God doesn’t tell us exactly but it’s all part of His plan to teach is to trust and obey Him even when things looked bad just like Joseph did.

Read Genesis 41:37-45

37 Joseph's suggestions were well received by Pharaoh and his officials.

38 So Pharaoh asked his officials, "Can we find anyone else like this man so obviously filled with the spirit of God?"

39 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has revealed the meaning of the dreams to you, clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are.

40 You will be in charge of my court, and all my people will take orders from you. Only I, sitting on my throne, will have a rank higher than yours."

41 Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I hereby put you in charge of the entire land of Egypt."

42 Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his hand and placed it on Joseph's finger. He dressed him in fine linen clothing and hung a gold chain around his neck.

43 Then he had Joseph ride in the chariot reserved for his second-in-command. And wherever Joseph went, the command was shouted, "Kneel down!" So, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all Egypt.

44 And Pharaoh said to him, "I am Pharaoh, but no one will lift a hand or foot in the entire land of Egypt without your approval."

45 Then Pharaoh gave Joseph a new Egyptian name, Zaphenath-paneah. He also gave him a wife, whose name was Asenath. She was the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On. So Joseph took charge of the entire land of Egypt.

Did Pharaoh take Joseph's advice (v. 37)? Yes. He liked Joseph's plan.

What did Pharaoh ask his officials (v. 38)? Is there any Egyptian as godly as Joseph?

Did his officials know anyone more godly or smarter than Joseph? No

What did Pharaoh realize (v. 39)? That Joseph was smarter than anyone else in Egypt.

What did Pharaoh do next (vv. 40-41)? He made Joseph his second in command. Joseph was in charge of all of Egypt. Everyone had to obey Joseph.

What did Pharaoh do for Joseph (vv. 42-43)? (Read)

How important was Joseph (v. 44)? He was more important than everyone except Pharaoh.

What did Pharaoh give to Joseph (v. 45)? A new Egyptian name and a wife.

How did Joseph all of a sudden become so important after he was in prison for over two years? Because God blessed him for being obedient and faithful. Joseph trusted God even when he was in prison.

Read Genesis 41:46- 57

46 Joseph was thirty years old when he began serving in the court of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. And when Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he inspected the entire land of Egypt.

47 As predicted, for seven years the land produced bumper crops.

48 During those years, Joseph gathered all the crops grown in Egypt and stored the grain from the surrounding fields in the cities.

49 He piled up huge amounts of grain like sand on the seashore. Finally, he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure.

50 During this time, before the first of the famine years, two sons were born to Joseph and his wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On.

51 Joseph named his older son Manasseh, for he said, "God has made me forget all my troubles and everyone in my father's family."

52 Joseph named his second son Ephraim, for he said, "God has made me fruitful in this land of my grief."

53 At last the seven years of bumper crops throughout the land of Egypt came to an end.

54 Then the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had predicted. The famine also struck all the surrounding countries, but throughout Egypt there was plenty of food.

55 Eventually, however, the famine spread throughout the land of Egypt as well. And when the people cried out to Pharaoh for food, he told them, "Go to Joseph, and do whatever he tells you."

56 So with severe famine everywhere, Joseph opened up the storehouses and distributed grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout the land of Egypt.

57 And people from all around came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph because the famine was severe throughout the world.

How old was Joseph when he started serving in the court of Pharaoh (v. 46)? Thirty

What happened during the next seven years (v. 47)? There was lots of food

What did Joseph do during those seven years of plenty (vv. 48-49)? He gathered all the crops and stored them.

What happened in Joseph's life during this time (v. 50)? His wife had two baby boys.

What did Joseph name his sons and why (vv. 51-52)? (Read)

When the seven years of plenty come to an end, what happened (v. 54)? Seven years of famine began. The people soon ran out of food.

When the people ran out of food what did Pharaoh tell them to do (v. 55)? Go see Joseph.

What did Joseph do (v 56)? He had stored up all the extras crops and now he sold them to the people.

What did all the people do and why (v 47)? They came to buy grain from Joseph. He was the only one who had grain to sell.

Read Genesis 42:1-7

1 When Jacob heard that grain was available in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why are you standing around looking at one another?”

2 I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there, and buy enough grain to keep us alive. Otherwise we’ll die.”

3 So Joseph’s ten older brothers went down to Egypt to buy grain.

4 But Jacob wouldn’t let Joseph’s younger brother, Benjamin, go with them, for fear some harm might come to him.

5 So Jacob’s sons arrived in Egypt along with others to buy food, for the famine was in Canaan as well.

6 Since Joseph was governor of all Egypt and in charge of selling grain to all the people, it was to him that his brothers came. When they arrived, they bowed before him with their faces to the ground.

7 Joseph recognized his brothers instantly, but he pretended to be a stranger and spoke harshly to them. “Where are you from?” he demanded. “From the land of Canaan,” they replied. “We have come to buy food.”

When Jacob was still living in Canaan where the famine was going on, what did he hear (v. 1)? He heard there was grain in Egypt they could buy.

What did Jacob do (2)? He sent Joseph’s older brothers to Egypt to buy some grain.

What about Joseph’s younger brother Benjamin (v. 4)? Jacob would not let Benjamin go because he was afraid something bad might happen to him.

What did Joseph’s brothers do when they arrived in Egypt and went to buy grain from Joseph (v. 6)? They bowed down before Joseph with their faces to the ground.

Joseph hadn’t seen his brothers in 15 years. Did Joseph recognize his brothers (v. 7)? Yes, right away.

How did Joseph respond to his brothers? He pretended he didn’t know them and talked mean to them.

How did the brothers answer Joseph’s questions? They were from Canaan and wanted to buy some grain.

Do you think the brothers were nervous or scared?

Read Genesis 42:8-14

8 Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they didn't recognize him.

9 And he remembered the dreams he'd had about them many years before. He said to them, "You are spies! You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become."

10 "No, my lord!" they exclaimed. "Your servants have simply come to buy food.

11 We are all brothers—members of the same family. We are honest men, sir! We are not spies!"

12 "Yes, you are!" Joseph insisted. "You have come to see how vulnerable our land has become."

13 "Sir," they said, "there are actually twelve of us. We, your servants, are all brothers, sons of a man living in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is back there with our father right now, and one of our brothers is no longer with us."

14 But Joseph insisted, "As I said, you are spies!

Joseph recognized his brothers right away but did the brothers recognize Joseph (v. 8)? No.

Why didn't they recognize him? The Bible doesn't tell us. Maybe because of the way he was dressed. Or maybe he had a beard. He had probably changed a lot in 15 years.

What did Joseph remember (v. 9)? He remembered his dreams when his brothers were bowing down to him. Those dreams came true right here and now.

What did Joseph accuse the brothers of? Being spies. Trying to figure out how to attack Egypt.

How did they respond (vv. 10-11)? We're not spies. We just want to buy some food.

What did Joseph accuse them of again (vv. 12, 14)? Being spies.

Did Joseph really think they were spies? No. It was just a part of his plan of how he was going to treat his brothers.

How did the brothers describe themselves (v. 13)? (Read)

Who was the brother that is "no longer with us?" Joseph himself!

Read Genesis 42:15-20

15 This is how I will test your story. I swear by the life of Pharaoh that you will never leave Egypt unless your youngest brother comes here!

16 One of you must go and get your brother. I'll keep the rest of you here in prison. Then we'll find out whether or not your story is true. By the life of Pharaoh, if it turns out that you don't have a younger brother, then I'll know you are spies."

17 So Joseph put them all in prison for three days.

18 On the third day Joseph said to them, "I am a God-fearing man. If you do as I say, you will live.

19 If you really are honest men, choose one of your brothers to remain in prison. The rest of you may go home with grain for your starving families.

20 But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. This will prove that you are telling the truth, and you will not die." To this they agreed.

After Joseph accused his brothers of being spies, what did he do next (v. 15)? Joseph tested his brothers.

What did he say they had to do (v. 16)? One of them had to go back home and get their younger brother and bring him to Joseph.

Who was their younger brother? Benjamin

What did Joseph do next (v. 17)? He put them all in prison for three days.

Why would he put them in prison? The Bible doesn't exactly tell us. Maybe so they could be thinking about what they were going to do. Maybe which one of them would go to get Benjamin.

Then Joseph changed his plan. What did Joseph actually do (v. 19)? He let all the brothers could go home with the grain they bought. Except he kept one of the brothers in prison in Egypt.

What was the final thing the brothers had to do (v. 20)? They had to go get Benjamin and bring him back to Joseph.

What would that prove? That the brothers were not lying when they told him they had a younger brother (v. 13)

What did Joseph promise them if they brought Benjamin back? He wouldn't kill them and their brother that they left behind.

Read Genesis 42:21-28

21 Speaking among themselves, they said, “Clearly we are being punished because of what we did to Joseph long ago. We saw his anguish when he pleaded for his life, but we wouldn’t listen. That’s why we’re in this trouble.”

22 “Didn’t I tell you not to sin against the boy?” Reuben asked. “But you wouldn’t listen. And now we have to answer for his blood!”

23 Of course, they didn’t know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter.

24 Now he turned away from them and began to weep. When he regained his composure, he spoke to them again. Then he chose Simeon from among them and had him tied up right before their eyes.

25 Joseph then ordered his servants to fill the men’s sacks with grain, but he also gave secret instructions to return each brother’s payment at the top of his sack. He also gave them supplies for their journey home.

26 So the brothers loaded their donkeys with the grain and headed for home.

27 But when they stopped for the night and one of them opened his sack to get grain for his donkey, he found his money in the top of his sack.

28 “Look!” he exclaimed to his brothers. “My money has been returned; it’s here in my sack!” Then their hearts sank. Trembling, they said to each other, “What has God done to us?”

What were the brothers thinking and saying to each other (v. 21)? They were feeling guilty for what they had done to Joseph and they thought God was punishing them.

What did Reuben say (v. 22)? If you had listened to me, we wouldn’t be in this trouble.

Who was Reuben? The oldest of the brothers.

Did they realize Joseph could understand them when they were talking to each other in their own language (v. 23)? No. They thought he could only speak Egyptian because he was using an interpreter to talk to them.

When Joseph heard them talking, what did he do (v. 24)? He cried. He felt sad for his brothers.

Which brother did they decide to leave behind in prison? Simeon

What did Joseph have his servants do next (v. 25)? Fill their sacks with grain

What was Joseph’s secret? He also had his servants return their money they paid for the grain with. The servants put the money in the top of each brother’s sack of grain.

The brothers loaded the grain on their donkeys and left for home. What happened when they stopped for the night (27)? One of the brothers found the money in the top of his sack.

How did they feel when they discovered the money? They were really afraid. They thought Joseph would kill them.

Who did they blame for putting their money in their sacks (v. 28)? God

Read Genesis 42:29-38

29 When the brothers came to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan, they told him everything that had happened to them.

30 “The man who is governor of the land spoke very harshly to us,” they told him. “He accused us of being spies scouting the land.

31 But we said, ‘We are honest men, not spies.

32 We are twelve brothers, sons of one father. One brother is no longer with us, and the youngest is at home with our father in the land of Canaan.’

33 “Then the man who is governor of the land told us, ‘This is how I will find out if you are honest men. Leave one of your brothers here with me, and take grain for your starving families and go on home.

34 But you must bring your youngest brother back to me. Then I will know you are honest men and not spies. Then I will give you back your brother, and you may trade freely in the land.’”

35 As they emptied out their sacks, there in each man’s sack was the bag of money he had paid for the grain! The brothers and their father were terrified when they saw the bags of money.

36 Jacob exclaimed, “You are robbing me of my children! Joseph is gone! Simeon is gone! And now you want to take Benjamin, too. Everything is going against me!”

37 Then Reuben said to his father, “You may kill my two sons if I don’t bring Benjamin back to you. I’ll be responsible for him, and I promise to bring him back.”

38 But Jacob replied, “My son will not go down with you. His brother Joseph is dead, and he is all I have left. If anything should happen to him on your journey, you would send this grieving, white-haired man to his grave.”

When the brothers got home to their father Jacob, what did they tell him (v. 29)? Everything that had happened to them in Egypt.

What did they tell Jacob about the man who was governor over the land of Egypt (i.e. Joseph) (v. 30, 33-34)? (Read) He was mean to us.

What did the brothers tell Joseph about themselves (vv. 31-32)? We’re not spies. We’re just from a family of 12 brothers from Canaan.

What happened when they emptied their sacks of grain (v. 35)? They found the money each one of them had paid for the grain. They were all scared to death including Jacob.

How did Jacob respond (v. 36)? (Read) This is terrible! I’m losing my sons. Life is stacked against me.

What did Reuben promise his father (v. 37)? That he would bring Joseph home. If not, he gave his dad permission to kill his two sons.

How did Jacob respond (v. 38)? Benjamin is not going to Egypt! Since Joseph is dead, Benjamin is all I have left. If anything happened to him, I would die.

Read Genesis 43:1-10

1 But the famine continued to ravage the land of Canaan.

2 When the grain they had brought from Egypt was almost gone, Jacob said to his sons, “Go back and buy us a little more food.”

3 But Judah said, “The man was serious when he warned us, ‘You won’t see my face again unless your brother is with you.’

4 If you send Benjamin with us, we will go down and buy more food.

5 But if you don’t let Benjamin go, we won’t go either. Remember, the man said, ‘You won’t see my face again unless your brother is with you.’”

6 “Why were you so cruel to me?” Jacob moaned. “Why did you tell him you had another brother?”

7 “The man kept asking us questions about our family,” they replied. “He asked, ‘Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?’ So, we answered his questions. How could we know he would say, ‘Bring your brother down here?’”

8 Judah said to his father, “Send the boy with me, and we will be on our way. Otherwise we will all die of starvation—and not only we, but you and our little ones.

9 I personally guarantee his safety. You may hold me responsible if I don’t bring him back to you. Then let me bear the blame forever.

10 If we hadn’t wasted all this time, we could have gone and returned twice by now.”

Some time later, what was happening in Canaan (the Promised Land) (v. 1)? There was still a famine going on. Nobody had any food.

When their grain was running out, what did Jacob tell his sons to do (v. 2)? Go to Egypt and buy us some more food.

What did Judah remind Jacob of (vv. 3-5)? (Read) Remember what the governor over the land of Egypt told us -- We can’t go back unless we take Benjamin with us.

What did Jacob complain about (v. 6)? You make life so hard for me. Why did you have to tell him you had another brother anyway.

How did Judah respond (v. 7)? He just asked us questions and we answered them. We didn’t know he would want us to bring Benjamin back.

What did Judah promise his dad (vv. 8-9)? (read)

Which other brother had promised he would bring Benjamin back safely? Reuben (42:37)

How did Judah finish his conversation with his dad (v. 10)? Quit wasting time. We could have made two trips to Egypt and been back by now.

Read Genesis 43:11-17

11 So their father, Jacob, finally said to them, “If it can’t be avoided, then at least do this. Pack your bags with the best products of this land. Take them down to the man as gifts—balm, honey, gum, aromatic resin, pistachio nuts, and almonds.

12 Also take double the money that was put back in your sacks, as it was probably someone’s mistake.

13 Then take your brother, and go back to the man.

14 May God Almighty give you mercy as you go before the man, so that he will release Simeon and let Benjamin return. But if I must lose my children, so be it.”

15 So the men packed Jacob’s gifts and double the money and headed off with Benjamin. They finally arrived in Egypt and presented themselves to Joseph.

16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the manager of his household, “These men will eat with me this noon. Take them inside the palace. Then go slaughter an animal, and prepare a big feast.”

17 So the man did as Joseph told him and took them into Joseph’s palace.

After Judah pleaded with his dad, what did Jacob say (v. 11)? If you have to go, I guess you have to go. Jacob finally realized he didn’t have a choice.

What did Jacob tell his sons to take with them (vv. 11-12)? (Read) Lots of gifts for the governor of the land of Egypt and twice as much money as they found in their sacks.

Who did Jacob give the brothers permission to take back with them (v. 12)? Benjamin

What was Jacob’s prayer (v. 14)? He prayed for God’s mercy on his sons as they went back to Egypt. That they would all come back and bring both Simeon and Benjamin with them. But if my sons die, it’s okay. I will accept it.

What does that tell you about Jacob? He has quit worrying and is trusting God for his sons’ safety.

Can we trust God for our safety?

When the brothers arrived in Egypt with Benjamin, what did Joseph tell his manager to do (v. 16)? Prepare a big feast. These men will eat lunch with me today in the palace.

Read Genesis 43:18-25

18 The brothers were terrified when they saw that they were being taken into Joseph's house. "It's because of the money someone put in our sacks last time we were here," they said. "He plans to pretend that we stole it. Then he will seize us, make us slaves, and take our donkeys."

19 The brothers approached the manager of Joseph's household and spoke to him at the entrance to the palace.

20 "Sir," they said, "we came to Egypt once before to buy food.

21 But as we were returning home, we stopped for the night and opened our sacks. Then we discovered that each man's money—the exact amount paid—was in the top of his sack! Here it is; we have brought it back with us.

22 We also have additional money to buy more food. We have no idea who put our money in our sacks."

23 "Relax. Don't be afraid," the household manager told them. "Your God, the God of your father, must have put this treasure into your sacks. I know I received your payment." Then he released Simeon and brought him out to them.

24 The manager then led the men into Joseph's palace. He gave them water to wash their feet and provided food for their donkeys.

25 They were told they would be eating there, so they prepared their gifts for Joseph's arrival at noon.

How were the brothers feeling when they were taken into Joseph's house (v. 18)? They were scared to death.

Why were they scared? They thought they were going to be framed, i.e. accused of something they didn't do like stealing the money they found in their sacks. They were afraid that Joseph might make them his slaves.

Who did they approach to explain what they were doing (v. 19)? The manager of Joseph's household.

What did they explain to him (vv. 20-22)? (Read) Their story. Especially the part about the money they found.

What did the household manager say to them (v. 23)? Don't worry. God must have put the money in your sacks.

What else did the manager do (v. 23)? He released Simeon and brought him out to join the other brothers.

What happened next (v. 24)? (Read)

What did the brothers do when they found out they would be eating in Joseph's house (v. 25)? They got their gifts ready to give to Joseph.

Read Genesis 43:26-34

26 When Joseph came home, they gave him the gifts they had brought him, then bowed low to the ground before him.

27 After greeting them, he asked, "How is your father, the old man you spoke about? Is he still alive?"

28 "Yes," they replied. "Our father, your servant, is alive and well." And they bowed low again.

29 Then Joseph looked at his brother Benjamin, the son of his own mother. "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" Joseph asked. "May God be gracious to you, my son."

30 Then Joseph hurried from the room because he was overcome with emotion for his brother. He went into his private room, where he broke down and wept.

31 After washing his face, he came back out, keeping himself under control. Then he ordered, "Bring out the food!"

32 The waiters served Joseph at his own table, and his brothers were served at a separate table. The Egyptians who ate with Joseph sat at their own table, because Egyptians despise Hebrews and refuse to eat with them.

33 Joseph told each of his brothers where to sit, and to their amazement, he seated them according to age, from oldest to youngest.

34 And Joseph filled their plates with food from his own table, giving Benjamin five times as much as he gave the others. So, they feasted and drank freely with him.

When Joseph came home what did the brothers do (v. 26)? They gave him their gifts and bowed down to the ground before him.

What did Joseph ask them (v. 27)? How was their dad doing? Was he still alive?

What did they say (v. 28)? Yes, he is alive and well. And they bowed down before him again.

What did Joseph do next (v. 29)? He looked at Benjamin, the youngest of the brothers, and said some kind words to him. He asked God to bless him.

Why did Joseph rush out to the room (v. 30)? He didn't want them to see that he was crying because he loved Benjamin so much and he hadn't seen him in several years.

When Joseph came back in and they served the food, where was everyone sitting and why (32)? The brothers ate at their own table. Joseph ate at a different table with other Egyptians. Egyptians hated Hebrews/Jews and refused to eat with them.

How were the brothers sitting (v. 33)? They were sitting in order from the oldest to the youngest.

What should that have told them? That Joseph knew them.

What did Joseph do (v. 34)? He filled their plates with food from his own table and gave Benjamin five times as much food because Benjamin was his special younger brother.

Read Genesis 44:1-10

1 When his brothers were ready to leave, Joseph gave these instructions to his palace manager: “Fill each of their sacks with as much grain as they can carry, and put each man’s money back into his sack.

2 Then put my personal silver cup at the top of the youngest brother’s sack, along with the money for his grain.” So, the manager did as Joseph instructed him.

3 The brothers were up at dawn and were sent on their journey with their loaded donkeys.

4 But when they had gone only a short distance and were barely out of the city, Joseph said to his palace manager, “Chase after them and stop them. When you catch up with them, ask them, ‘Why have you repaid my kindness with such evil?

5 Why have you stolen my master’s silver cup, which he uses to predict the future? What a wicked thing you have done!’”

6 When the palace manager caught up with the men, he spoke to them as he had been instructed.

7 “What are you talking about?” the brothers responded. “We are your servants and would never do such a thing!

8 Didn’t we return the money we found in our sacks? We brought it back all the way from the land of Canaan. Why would we steal silver or gold from your master’s house?

9 If you find his cup with any one of us, let that man die. And all the rest of us, my lord, will be your slaves.”

10 “That’s fair,” the man replied. “But only the one who stole the cup will be my slave. The rest of you may go free.”

What did Joseph tell his palace manger to do before the brothers left for home (vv. 1-2)? (Read)

When the brothers had left with their loaded donkeys, what did Joseph tell his palace manager to do (vv. 4-5)? (Read)

Was Joseph trying to trick his brothers? No. He is starting a plan to see if his brothers were sorry for what they had done to him several years ago.

When the palace manager caught up with the brothers, what did the brothers say (vv. 7-8)? (Read)

What did the brothers agree to do if anyone was caught with the silver cup in their sack (v. 9)?
That person would die and the rest of them would be the palace manager’s slaves.

What did the palace manger agree to do (v. 10)? Only the one who had stolen the cup would become his slave but would not be killed. And the rest of them could go home.

Read Genesis 44:11-17

11 They all quickly took their sacks from the backs of their donkeys and opened them.

12 The palace manager searched the brothers' sacks, from the oldest to the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack!

13 When the brothers saw this, they tore their clothing in despair. Then they loaded their donkeys again and returned to the city.

14 Joseph was still in his palace when Judah and his brothers arrived, and they fell to the ground before him.

15 "What have you done?" Joseph demanded. "Don't you know that a man like me can predict the future?"

16 Judah answered, "Oh, my lord, what can we say to you? How can we explain this? How can we prove our innocence? God is punishing us for our sins. My lord, we have all returned to be your slaves—all of us, not just our brother who had your cup in his sack."

17 "No," Joseph said. "I would never do such a thing! Only the man who stole the cup will be my slave. The rest of you may go back to your father in peace."

When the palace manager caught up with the brothers and searched their sacks, what did he find (vv. 11-12)? He found the silver cup in Benjamin's sack.

How did the brothers react (v. 13)? They were so upset. They tore their clothes. They thought the governor of the land (Joseph) was going to take Benjamin away from them and make them go home to Jacob without him.

Where did they all go then? Back to the city and the palace.

What did they do when they saw Joseph (v. 14)? They fell down to the ground in front of him. They were ashamed and embarrassed and afraid.

What did Joseph say to them (v. 15)? Don't you realize how important the silver cup is to me. I can use it to predict the future.

Did Joseph really use the silver cup to predict the future? No. Only God can predict the future. But Joseph could interpret dreams if God explained them to him. He didn't use the silver cup to do it though. That would make the silver cup like an idol.

What did Judah say to Joseph (v. 16)? (Read)

Judah spoke up even though Reuben was the oldest of the brothers. What does that say about Judah? He is a leader. He is willing to speak up even when it's hard and scary.

What did Joseph say then (v. 17)? Only the one who stole the silver cup has to stay here to be my slave. The rest of you can go home.

Did Benjamin really steal the silver cup? No. The palace manager put it in his sack to make it look like he stole it.

Read Genesis 44:18-29

18 Then Judah stepped forward and said, “Please, my lord, let your servant say just one word to you. Please, do not be angry with me, even though you are as powerful as Pharaoh himself.

19 “My lord, previously you asked us, your servants, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’

20 And we responded, ‘Yes, my lord, we have a father who is an old man, and his youngest son is a child of his old age. His full brother is dead, and he alone is left of his mother’s children, and his father loves him very much.’

21 “And you said to us, ‘Bring him here so I can see him with my own eyes.’

22 But we said to you, ‘My lord, the boy cannot leave his father, for his father would die.’

23 But you told us, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes with you, you will never see my face again.’

24 “So we returned to your servant, our father, and told him what you had said.

25 Later, when he said, ‘Go back again and buy us more food,’

26 we replied, ‘We can’t go unless you let our youngest brother go with us. We’ll never get to see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’

27 “Then my father said to us, ‘As you know, my wife had two sons,

28 and one of them went away and never returned. Doubtless he was torn to pieces by some wild animal. I have never seen him since.

29 Now if you take his brother away from me, and any harm comes to him, you will send this grieving, white-haired man to his grave.’

How did Judah begin his conversation with Joseph (v. 18)? Pleading with him. Judah wanted to explain their situation. He didn’t want Joseph to get mad.

What did Judah tell Joseph (vv. 19-23)? (Read) Judah reminded Joseph of the conversation the brothers had with him earlier.

Then what did Judah tell Joseph (vv. 24-26)? (Read) He told Joseph what happened when they went back home.

What did Judah tell Joseph his dad (Jacob) said to his sons when they came home (vv. 27-29)? (Read) First I lost Joseph. Some wild animal killed him. Now if anything happens to Benjamin I will be devastated.

Why do you think Judah did all the talking to Joseph? He really loved his dad. And he wanted to take care of his dad so he could enjoy his old age. Plus, we see that Judah was a leader among his brothers. That’s one place we can learn to be a leader – among our family and among our friends/peers.

Read Genesis 44:30-34 and 45:1-2

30 "And now, my lord, I cannot go back to my father without the boy. Our father's life is bound up in the boy's life.

31 If he sees that the boy is not with us, our father will die. We, your servants, will indeed be responsible for sending that grieving, white-haired man to his grave.

32 My lord, I guaranteed to my father that I would take care of the boy. I told him, 'If I don't bring him back to you, I will bear the blame forever.'

33 "So please, my lord, let me stay here as a slave instead of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers.

34 For how can I return to my father if the boy is not with me? I couldn't bear to see the anguish this would cause my father!"

Why could Judah not go back home without Benjamin (v. 30)? Because Jacob loved Benjamin so much.

What did Judah say would happen to Jacob if anything happened to Benjamin (v. 31)? Jacob would die.

What did Judah guarantee his father (v. 32)? That he would take care of Benjamin and he would take the blame forever if anything happened to him.

What did Judah offer Joseph (v. 33)? He offered to stay as his personal slave if he would let Benjamin go home.

Why did Judah make that offer (v. 34)? He couldn't stand to see how his dad would act if he lost Benjamin.

1 Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So, he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was.

2 Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace.

What finally happened to Joseph (v. 1)? He couldn't keep pretending that he wasn't their brother any more.

What did Joseph do next (v. 1)? He told all his servants to leave him alone with his brothers.

What did Joseph do after he told his brothers who he was (v. 2)? He cried very loudly.

Why do you think he cried? Was he sad? He was probably sad and happy and relieved all at the same time.

Read Genesis 45:3-11

3 “I am Joseph!” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them.

4 “Please, come closer,” he said to them. So, they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt.

5 But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.

6 This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting.

7 God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors.

8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

9 “Now hurry back to my father and tell him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So, come down to me immediately!’

10 You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own.

11 I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.”

After Joseph told his brothers who he was, what did he ask them (v. 3)? Is my dad still alive?

Why do you think that was the first thing he asked them? He knew his dad loved him and he hoped he could show his dad how his life had turned out and bring him great joy in his old age.

How did his brothers react when they found out who he was (v. 3)? They were shocked!

Why did Joseph tell them not to be upset and worry (vv. 5-7)? When they sold him into slavery, it was all part of God’s plan to take care of them and give them food so they wouldn’t starve to death during the famine.

Isn’t that a strange plan? What does that tell us about God? (Read Isaiah 55:8-9)

What did Joseph tell his brothers to tell their dad (v. 9)? That he was in charge of all of Egypt, so hurry and come to him and he would take care of them.

What was Joseph’s plan for where they should live (v. 10)? They would live in Goshen where they could be close to Joseph. Goshen was a wonderful place to live.

What did Joseph promise his brothers (v. 11)? He would take care of them because there were going to be five more years of famine.

Read Genesis 45:12-20

12 Then Joseph added, “Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph!

13 Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly.”

14 Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same.

15 Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.

16 The news soon reached Pharaoh’s palace: “Joseph’s brothers have arrived!” Pharaoh and his officials were all delighted to hear this.

17 Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, “This is what you must do: Load your pack animals, and hurry back to the land of Canaan.

18 Then get your father and all of your families, and return here to me. I will give you the very best land in Egypt, and you will eat from the best that the land produces.”

19 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Tell your brothers, “Take wagons from the land of Egypt to carry your little children and your wives, and bring your father here.

20 Don’t worry about your personal belongings, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.”

What was the message Joseph was trying to send to his brothers (v. 12)? It really is me, your long-lost brother.

What did he tell the brothers to do (v. 13)? Tell my father how important I am in Egypt. And bring him here quickly.

Why was it important that his father know how important Joseph was? So he would feel protected, knowing no harm would come to him and his family.

What did he and his brothers do next (vv. 14-15)? They cried and hugged each other and talked together.

Who heard about his brothers next (v. 16)? Pharaoh and his officials.

What did they think about Joseph’s brothers arriving? They thought it was great!

What did Pharaoh tell Joseph to do (v. 17)? Tell your brothers to load up their donkeys and go back to Canaan.

What did Pharaoh promise Joseph’s family when they returned to Egypt (v. 18)? He would give them the best place to live where they could grow all their food.

What did Pharaoh tell Joseph to do next (v. 19)? Take some of my wagons to Canaan and bring your wives and children back here.

What was the last thing Pharaoh told Joseph to do (v. 20)? Don’t worry about your personal things. You can have anything you want when you get to Egypt.

Read Genesis 45:21-28

21 So the sons of Jacob did as they were told. Joseph provided them with wagons, as Pharaoh had commanded, and he gave them supplies for the journey.

22 And he gave each of them new clothes—but to Benjamin he gave five changes of clothes and 300 pieces of silver.

23 He also sent his father ten male donkeys loaded with the finest products of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain and bread and other supplies he would need on his journey.

24 So Joseph sent his brothers off, and as they left, he called after them, “Don’t quarrel about all this along the way!”

25 And they left Egypt and returned to their father, Jacob, in the land of Canaan.

26 “Joseph is still alive!” they told him. “And he is governor of all the land of Egypt!” Jacob was stunned at the news—he couldn’t believe it.

27 But when they repeated to Jacob everything Joseph had told them, and when he saw the wagons Joseph had sent to carry him, their father’s spirits revived.

28 Then Jacob exclaimed, “It must be true! My son Joseph is alive! I must go and see him before I die.”

What did Joseph give his brothers for the trip back home to Canaan (vv. 21-22)? Wagons and supplies and new clothes.

Why did he give Benjamin more clothes and money? He loved Benjamin more than the other brothers who had sold him into slavery.

Why was that not a good idea? It was favoritism. The very same thing his dad had done to him which caused all the trouble.

What did Joseph send his father (v. 23)? (Read) Things Jacob would need for his trip to Egypt.

What were Joseph’s instructions to his brothers as they left on their journey (v. 24)? Don’t argue.

Why do you think they might argue with each other? They might blame each other for the way they had treated Joseph when they had sold him into slavery.

When the brothers got home and told Jacob that Joseph was alive, how did he react (v. 26)? He was shocked. He didn’t believe them.

What did the brothers do to prove that Joseph was still alive (v. 27)? They told him all that Joseph said to them and showed him the wagons and supplies that Joseph had given them to come back to Egypt.

How did Jacob react to the brothers’ story (v. 28)? He believed them and wanted to go to Egypt quickly so he could see his son.

Read Genesis 46:1-7

1 So Jacob set out for Egypt with all his possessions. And when he came to Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to the God of his father, Isaac.

2 During the night God spoke to him in a vision. "Jacob! Jacob!" he called. "Here I am," Jacob replied.

3 "I am God, the God of your father," the voice said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make your family into a great nation.

4 I will go with you down to Egypt, and I will bring you back again. You will die in Egypt, but Joseph will be with you to close your eyes."

5 So Jacob left Beersheba, and his sons took him to Egypt. They carried him and their little ones and their wives in the wagons Pharaoh had provided for them.

6 They also took all their livestock and all the personal belongings they had acquired in the land of Canaan. So, Jacob and his entire family went to Egypt—

7 sons and grandsons, daughters and granddaughters—all his descendants. '

When Jacob left Canaan and arrived at Beersheba, what did he do (v. 1)? Offered sacrifices to God.

Why did he offer sacrifices? He was worshipping God. Leaving the Promised Land was a big deal for Jacob. He was probably praying for a safe trip and for his new home in Egypt. He was probably nervous about seeing Joseph again after many years.

What did God say to Jacob in the middle of the night (vv. 2-3)? (Read) Don't be afraid.

Why do you think God told Jacob not to be afraid? Because God knew Jacob was afraid of the future.

Are you ever afraid of the future? What do you do when you're afraid? Pray like Jacob did and remember God's promises.

What did God promise Jacob (vv. 3-4)? (Read) That He would bless him.

What did Jacob take with him on his trip to Egypt (v. 6)? All his animals and all the things that belonged to him.

Who did Jacob take with him to Egypt (v. 6-7)? His entire family listed in vv. 8-25

Read Genesis 46:26-34

26 The total number of Jacob's direct descendants who went with him to Egypt, not counting his sons' wives, was sixty-six.

27 In addition, Joseph had two sons who were born in Egypt. So altogether, there were seventy members of Jacob's family in the land of Egypt.

28 As they neared their destination, Jacob sent Judah ahead to meet Joseph and get directions to the region of Goshen. And when they finally arrived there,

29 Joseph prepared his chariot and traveled to Goshen to meet his father, Jacob. When Joseph arrived, he embraced his father and wept, holding him for a long time.

30 Finally, Jacob said to Joseph, "Now I am ready to die, since I have seen your face again and know you are still alive."

31 And Joseph said to his brothers and to his father's entire family, "I will go to Pharaoh and tell him, 'My brothers and my father's entire family have come to me from the land of Canaan.

32 These men are shepherds, and they raise livestock. They have brought with them their flocks and herds and everything they own."

33 Then he said, "When Pharaoh calls for you and asks you about your occupation,

34 you must tell him, 'We, your servants, have raised livestock all our lives, as our ancestors have always done.' When you tell him this, he will let you live here in the region of Goshen, for the Egyptians despise shepherds."

Verses 8-25 tell us the names of Jacob's children and grandchildren. What was the total number of Jacob's family that went to Egypt with him (vv. 26-27)? Sixty-six.

What did Jacob do when they got close to Egypt (v. 28)? (Read) He sent Judah ahead of them to talk to Joseph and find out how to get to Goshen.

Why did he send Judah? Judah had established himself as the trusted leader of the brothers.

What did Joseph do when his father arrived in Goshen (v. 29)? He went down to meet him and they hugged and cried for a long time. They were so happy to see each other. The last time they had seen each other was around 24 years before this.

What did Jacob say to his son Joseph (v. 30)? Now I can die in peace since I know you are alive.

What did Joseph tell his brothers and family (vv. 31-32)? He was going to tell Pharaoh that they had arrived safely and they have brought their animals with them.

What did Joseph tell his family to say to Pharaoh (vv. 33-34)? That they have always been shepherds.

Why did Pharaoh let Jacob and his family live in Goshen? It wasn't real close to where Pharaoh and his people lived which was good because Egyptians didn't like shepherds.

Read Genesis 47:1-10

1 Then Joseph went to see Pharaoh and told him, “My father and my brothers have arrived from the land of Canaan. They have come with all their flocks and herds and possessions, and they are now in the region of Goshen.”

2 Joseph took five of his brothers with him and presented them to Pharaoh.

3 And Pharaoh asked the brothers, “What is your occupation?” They replied, “We, your servants, are shepherds, just like our ancestors.

4 We have come to live here in Egypt for a while, for there is no pasture for our flocks in Canaan. The famine is very severe there. So please, we request permission to live in the region of Goshen.”

5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Now that your father and brothers have joined you here,

6 choose any place in the entire land of Egypt for them to live. Give them the best land of Egypt. Let them live in the region of Goshen. And if any of them have special skills, put them in charge of my livestock, too.”

7 Then Joseph brought in his father, Jacob, and presented him to Pharaoh. And Jacob blessed Pharaoh.

8 “How old are you?” Pharaoh asked him.

9 Jacob replied, “I have traveled this earth for 130 hard years. But my life has been short compared to the lives of my ancestors.”

10 Then Jacob blessed Pharaoh again before leaving his court.

What did Joseph tell Pharaoh (v. 1)? (Read) My family is now living in Goshen with all their animals.

Who did Joseph take with him to talk to Pharaoh (v. 2)? Five of his brothers. **Why only five? Which five did he pick to take with him?** The Bible doesn't tell us.

What did Pharaoh ask the brothers (v. 3)? What was their job? What did they do to make a living?

How did the brothers answer Pharaoh (vv. 3-4)? (Read) We are shepherds. Please let us live in Goshen.

What did Pharaoh tell Joseph to do (vv. 5-6)? (Read) Let them live wherever they want to. And give them jobs taking care of my animals. **What do we know about Goshen?** It was the best land in Egypt.

Who did Joseph bring in next to introduce to Pharaoh (v. 7)? His father Jacob **What did Jacob do?** He blessed Pharaoh.

What did Pharaoh ask Jacob (v. 8)? How old he was. **Why did Pharaoh want to know Jacob's age?** The Bible doesn't tell us.

How did Jacob answer (v. 9)? 130 years old, but not as old as my relatives.

What was the last thing Jacob did before leaving Pharaoh's court (v. 10)? Jacob blessed Pharaoh again.

Read Genesis 47:11-17

11 So Joseph assigned the best land of Egypt—the region of Rameses—to his father and his brothers, and he settled them there, just as Pharaoh had commanded.

12 And Joseph provided food for his father and his brothers in amounts appropriate to the number of their dependents, including the smallest children.

13 Meanwhile, the famine became so severe that all the food was used up, and people were starving throughout the lands of Egypt and Canaan.

14 By selling grain to the people, Joseph eventually collected all the money in Egypt and Canaan, and he put the money in Pharaoh's treasury.

15 When the people of Egypt and Canaan ran out of money, all the Egyptians came to Joseph. "Our money is gone!" they cried. "But please give us food, or we will die before your very eyes!"

16 Joseph replied, "Since your money is gone, bring me your livestock. I will give you food in exchange for your livestock."

17 So they brought their livestock to Joseph in exchange for food. In exchange for their horses, flocks of sheep and goats, herds of cattle, and donkeys, Joseph provided them with food for another year.

What did Joseph do next for his family (v. 11)? He gave them the best land in Egypt (Goshen) and helped them get settled there.

How did Joseph take care of his family during the famine (v. 12)? He gave them enough food for all of them.

Was the famine becoming better or worse (v. 13)? It was getting so bad that all the food the people had was used up.

How were the people doing? They were starving.

What did Joseph do with the grain (v. 14)? He sold it to the people and gave the money to Pharaoh.

What did the people do when they ran out of money (v. 15)? They came crying to Joseph and begging for food

What did Joseph offer to do for them (v. 16)? He offered to buy all their animals.

So, what did the people do with their animals (v. 17)? They sold them to Joseph.

And what did Joseph do for the people? He gave them enough food for another whole year.

Read Genesis 47:18-25

18 But that year ended, and the next year they came again and said, “We cannot hide the truth from you, my lord. Our money is gone, and all our livestock and cattle are yours. We have nothing left to give but our bodies and our land.

19 Why should we die before your very eyes? Buy us and our land in exchange for food; we offer our land and ourselves as slaves for Pharaoh. Just give us grain so we may live and not die, and so the land does not become empty and desolate.”

20 So Joseph bought all the land of Egypt for Pharaoh. All the Egyptians sold him their fields because the famine was so severe, and soon all the land belonged to Pharaoh.

21 As for the people, he made them all slaves, from one end of Egypt to the other.

22 The only land he did not buy was the land belonging to the priests. They received an allotment of food directly from Pharaoh, so they didn’t need to sell their land.

23 Then Joseph said to the people, “Look, today I have bought you and your land for Pharaoh. I will provide you with seed so you can plant the fields.

24 Then when you harvest it, one-fifth of your crop will belong to Pharaoh. You may keep the remaining four-fifths as seed for your fields and as food for you, your households, and your little ones.”

25 “You have saved our lives!” they exclaimed. “May it please you, my lord, to let us be Pharaoh’s servants.”

(Review v. 17.) What happened when the year came to an end (v. 18)? The people ran out of both their food and money. They were desperate and scared.

What did the people offer Joseph (v. 19)? They offered to sell Joseph their land and become his slaves.

What did Joseph do (vv. 20-21)? He bought all their land and he made the people Pharaoh’s slaves.

What land did Joseph not buy (v. 22)? The land the Egyptian priests owned.

Why not? The Egyptian priests were special to Pharaoh. He took care of them himself and gave them food so they didn’t have to sell their land.

What did Joseph tell the people he would do (v. 23)? He would provide them with seed so they could plant their crops and grain and get food.

What did Joseph tell the people to do (v. 24)? (Read) Share their crops with Pharaoh.

How did the people react (v. 25)? They were very happy that Joseph didn’t let them starve to death.

Read Genesis 47:26-31

26 Joseph then issued a decree still in effect in the land of Egypt, that Pharaoh should receive one-fifth of all the crops grown on his land. Only the land belonging to the priests was not given to Pharaoh.

27 Meanwhile, the people of Israel settled in the region of Goshen in Egypt. There they acquired property, and they were fruitful, and their population grew rapidly.

28 Jacob lived for seventeen years after his arrival in Egypt, so he lived 147 years in all.

29 As the time of his death drew near, Jacob called for his son Joseph and said to him, "Please do me this favor. Put your hand under my thigh and swear that you will treat me with unfailing love by honoring this last request: Do not bury me in Egypt.

30 When I die, please take my body out of Egypt and bury me with my ancestors." So, Joseph promised, "I will do as you ask."

31 "Swear that you will do it," Jacob insisted. So, Joseph gave his oath, and Jacob bowed humbly at the head of his bed.

What did Joseph do next (v. 26)? He made a new law.

What did the new law say? Since Joseph gave the people seed to grow food, they had to give some of their crops to Pharaoh.

What did the Jewish people do (v. 27)? (Read) The famine was over and they started to grow into a large nation. More and more Jews were born.

How long did Jacob live (v. 28)? He lived for 17 more years in Egypt and finally died when he was 147 years old.

When he knew he was going to die, what did Jacob do (v. 29)? He called for Joseph and told him to put his hand under his thigh.

Why did he do that? It was a way the Jewish people made a promise to each other that was a really important promise that they would keep forever.

What are some of the things we do when we make a promise? Put our hand on a Bible. Or shake hands. Or write it down on paper and sign it.

What did Jacob ask Joseph to promise to do (vv. 29-30)? To not bury him in Egypt.

Why was that important to Jacob? He wanted to be buried in the Promised Land that God had given to the Jewish people where all his relatives were buried. That was his true home, not Egypt.

How did Joseph respond to his father's request (v. 31)? He promised Jacob that he would bury him in the Promised Land of Canaan.

Read Genesis 48:1-7

1 One day not long after this, word came to Joseph, “Your father is failing rapidly.” So, Joseph went to visit his father, and he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

2 When Joseph arrived, Jacob was told, “Your son Joseph has come to see you.” So, Jacob gathered his strength and sat up in his bed.

3 Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me.

4 He said to me, ‘I will make you fruitful, and I will multiply your descendants. I will make you a multitude of nations. And I will give this land of Canaan to your descendants after you as an everlasting possession.’

5 “Now I am claiming as my own sons these two boys of yours, Ephraim and Manasseh, who were born here in the land of Egypt before I arrived. They will be my sons, just as Reuben and Simeon are.

6 But any children born to you in the future will be your own, and they will inherit land within the territories of their brothers Ephraim and Manasseh.

7 “Long ago, as I was returning from Paddan-aram, Rachel died in the land of Canaan. We were still on the way, some distance from Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem). So with great sorrow I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath.”

What was happening to Jacob (v. 1)? He was getting ready to die.

What did Joseph do when he got the news? He went to visit his father and took his two sons with him.

Why didn’t any of Joseph’s brothers come also since their dad was getting ready to die? The Bible doesn’t tell us.

What happened when Joseph and his sons arrived (v. 2)? Jacob got up all his energy and sat up in bed.

What did Jacob say to Joseph (v. 3)? He told Joseph about a time when God appeared to him a long time ago (Genesis 29:13).

What did God tell Jacob back then (v. 4)? (Read) You will have lots of children and I will give you, and all your family after you, the Promised Land to live in forever.

What did Jacob tell Joseph about his two sons (v. 5)? Jacob was adopting Ephraim and Manasseh as his own sons. They would be his sons just the same as Joseph and his 11 brothers.

What did he tell Joseph about any more children that Joseph might have (v. 6)? Jacob wouldn’t be adopting them. They would be like the children of Ephraim and Manasseh when it came to inheriting land to live in.

What did Jacob talk about next (v. 7)? He was remembering the time when his favorite wife Rachel died and how he had buried her beside the road. In Jacob’s eyes, Ephraim and Manasseh took the place of other sons that Rachel might have had if she hadn’t died.

Read Genesis 48:8-14

8 Then Jacob looked over at the two boys. "Are these your sons?" he asked.

9 "Yes," Joseph told him, "these are the sons God has given me here in Egypt." And Jacob said, "Bring them closer to me, so I can bless them."

10 Jacob was half blind because of his age and could hardly see. So, Joseph brought the boys close to him, and Jacob kissed and embraced them.

11 Then Jacob said to Joseph, "I never thought I would see your face again, but now God has let me see your children, too!"

12 Joseph moved the boys, who were at their grandfather's knees, and he bowed with his face to the ground.

13 Then he positioned the boys in front of Jacob. With his right hand he directed Ephraim toward Jacob's left hand, and with his left hand he put Manasseh at Jacob's right hand.

14 But Jacob crossed his arms as he reached out to lay his hands on the boys' heads. He put his right hand on the head of Ephraim, though he was the younger boy, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, though he was the firstborn.

When Jacob saw Joseph's two sons what did he say (v. 8)? He asked Joseph if the boys were Joseph's sons.

Why didn't Jacob know who they were? He had never seen them before. They were born to Joseph and his wife while he was in Egypt.

What did Jacob ask Joseph to do (v. 9)? Bring the boys closer so he could give them the family blessing.

Why did Jacob ask Joseph to bring the boys closer to him (v. 10)? Jacob was old and couldn't see very well. He was half blind.

How did Jacob treat the boys? He hugged them and kissed them. He loved them. They were the grandsons of his favorite son.

Why was Joseph so happy (v. 11)? He thought he would never see Joseph again but he got to see not only Joseph but his sons also.

What did Joseph do next (vv. 12-13)? (Read) He put Manasseh near Jacob's right hand. Manasseh was the oldest and he would get the family blessing. He put Ephraim near Jacob's left hand.

What did Jacob do next (v. 14)? He crossed his hands and put his right hand, the blessing hand, on Ephraim the youngest.

Read Genesis 48:15-22

15 Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac, walked— the God who has been my shepherd all my life, to this very day,

16 the Angel who has redeemed me from all harm— may he bless these boys. May they preserve my name and the names of Abraham and Isaac. And may their descendants multiply greatly throughout the earth.”

17 But Joseph was upset when he saw that his father placed his right hand on Ephraim’s head. So, Joseph lifted it to move it from Ephraim’s head to Manasseh’s head.

18 “No, my father,” he said. “This one is the firstborn. Put your right hand on his head.”

19 But his father refused. “I know, my son; I know,” he replied. “Manasseh will also become a great people, but his younger brother will become even greater. And his descendants will become a multitude of nations.”

20 So Jacob blessed the boys that day with this blessing: “The people of Israel will use your names when they give a blessing. They will say, ‘May God make you as prosperous as Ephraim and Manasseh.’” In this way, Jacob put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

21 Then Jacob said to Joseph, “Look, I am about to die, but God will be with you and will take you back to Canaan, the land of your ancestors.

22 And beyond what I have given your brothers, I am giving you an extra portion of the land that I took from the Amorites with my sword and bow.”

What did Jacob do (v. 15)? He blessed Joseph.

What did Jacob do next (v. 16)? He blessed Joseph’s sons and promised they would be mighty Jewish men and would have many children and grandchildren.

Why was Joseph so upset (v. 17)? Because Jacob placed his right hand, the blessing hand, on Ephraim, the youngest of the two. The oldest son, Manasseh, deserved to get the family blessing.

What did Joseph do (vv. 17-18)? He tried to move Jacob’s hand onto Manasseh’s head.

How did Jacob react (19)? He wouldn’t let Joseph move his hand.

What did Jacob do next (v. 20)? He blessed both of the boys but he put Ephraim ahead of Manasseh.

Why did Jacob bless the youngest son? Somehow, he knew it was God’s plan for Ephraim to receive the blessing.

What did Jacob say to Joseph (v. 21-22)? I’m getting ready to die but God will take you back to the Promised Land. And I’m going to give you an extra piece of land more than your brothers.

What is Jacob doing here? He is continuing to show favoritism to Joseph more than his brothers. He should have learned a lesson.

Read Genesis 49:1-33

1 Then Jacob called together all his sons and said, “Gather around me, and I will tell you what will happen to each of you in the days to come.

2 “Come and listen, you sons of Jacob; listen to Israel, your father.

28 These are the twelve tribes of Israel, and this is what their father said as he told his sons good-bye. He blessed each one with an appropriate message.

29 Then Jacob instructed them, “Soon I will die and join my ancestors. Bury me with my father and grandfather in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite.

30 This is the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre in Canaan, that Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite as a permanent burial site.

31 There Abraham and his wife Sarah are buried. There Isaac and his wife, Rebekah, are buried. And there I buried Leah.

32 It is the plot of land and the cave that my grandfather Abraham bought from the Hittites.”

33 When Jacob had finished this charge to his sons, he drew his feet into the bed, breathed his last, and joined his ancestors in death.

What was Jacob doing (vv. 1-2)? He gathered all his twelve sons together so he could bless them before he died.

How did he bless them (vv. 3-28)? They each received whatever blessing they deserved.

Who did his twelve sons become (v. 28)? The twelve tribes of Israel.

What did Jacob tell his sons to do (v. 29)? When he died, he told them to take his body back to the Promised Land and bury him in the cave there (Genesis 47:30).

Which cave was this (v. 30)? The cave in the field of Machpelah that Abraham bought from Ephron the Hittite (Genesis 23).

Who else was buried there (v. 31)? Abraham and his wife Sarah. Isaac and his wife Rebekah and Jacob’s wife Leah. All the patriarchs and their wives were buried in the cave except Jacob’s other wife Rachel who was buried alongside the road (Genesis 35:19).

When Jacob had finished blessing his sons, what did he do next (v. 33)? He curled up in bed and died.

Read Genesis 50:1-6

1 Joseph threw himself on his father and wept over him and kissed him.

2 Then Joseph told the physicians who served him to embalm his father's body; so, Jacob was embalmed.

3 The embalming process took the usual forty days. And the Egyptians mourned his death for seventy days.

4 When the period of mourning was over, Joseph approached Pharaoh's advisers and said, "Please do me this favor and speak to Pharaoh on my behalf.

5 Tell him that my father made me swear an oath. He said to me, 'Listen, I am about to die. Take my body back to the land of Canaan, and bury me in the tomb I prepared for myself.' So please allow me to go and bury my father. After his burial, I will return without delay."

6 Pharaoh agreed to Joseph's request. "Go and bury your father, as he made you promise," he said.

When his father died, what did Joseph do (v. 1)? He hugged his father and kissed him and cried over him. Joseph was very sad that his father had died.

What did Joseph tell the doctors to do (v. 2)? He told them to wrap up and preserve Jacob's body to get ready for the funeral.

How long did that take (v. 3)? Forty days

How long did the Egyptians mourn Jacob' death? Seventy days.

Why do you think the Egyptians mourned Jacob's death since he was Jewish and they were Gentiles? This shows the great respect the Egyptians had for Joseph but also for Jacob because he was Joseph's father.

When the period of mourning was over, what did Joseph do next (v. 4)? He talked to Pharaoh's advisors and explained the dying wishes of his father. He gave them a message for Pharaoh.

What message did Joseph ask Pharaoh's advisers to take to Pharaoh (v. 5)? Ask Pharaoh if he could go back to the Promised Land of Canaan and bury his father in their special family cave. Then he would come back to Egypt.

What did Pharaoh say (v. 6)? You can go since you promised your father you would take his body back home.

Read Genesis 50:7-14

7 So Joseph went up to bury his father. He was accompanied by all of Pharaoh's officials, all the senior members of Pharaoh's household, and all the senior officers of Egypt.

8 Joseph also took his entire household and his brothers and their households. But they left their little children and flocks and herds in the land of Goshen.

9 A great number of chariots and charioteers accompanied Joseph.

10 When they arrived at the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan River, they held a very great and solemn memorial service, with a seven-day period of mourning for Joseph's father.

11 The local residents, the Canaanites, watched them mourning at the threshing floor of Atad. Then they renamed that place (which is near the Jordan) Abel-mizraim, for they said, "This is a place of deep mourning for these Egyptians."

12 So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them.

13 They carried his body to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre. This is the cave that Abraham had bought as a permanent burial site from Ephron the Hittite.

14 After burying Jacob, Joseph returned to Egypt with his brothers and all who had accompanied him to his father's burial.

When Joseph went back to the Promised Land to bury His father, who went with him (vv. 7-9)? All the important Egyptians that worked for Pharaoh. Plus, all of Joseph's family including his brothers and their families.

Who did they leave behind? The small children and animals.

Why do you think they might have done that? They had a long way to travel and it would have been a lot harder if they took the small children and a lot of animals.

Who took care of the children? The Bible doesn't tell us but God took care of them for sure.

What did they do when they arrived in the Promised Land (v. 10)? They had a church service to honor Joseph's father including a seven-day time of mourning.

What did the local residents do (v. 11)? They watched all that was going on and were so impressed that they gave that place a new name to remind them of what had happened there.

What did Jacob's sons do (vv. 12-13)? They did exactly as Jacob had asked them to do. They left that place and carried his body to the family cave. And buried him there.

What did Joseph do after he had buried his father (v. 14)? He kept his promise to Pharaoh and went back to Egypt.

Read Genesis 50:15-21

15 But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said.

16 So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us

17 to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So, we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept.

18 Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said.

19 But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?"

20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

21 No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So, he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

Now that Jacob had died, what were the brothers worried about (v. 15)? That Joseph would remember the time when they sold him into slavery and they were afraid that he would get mad and punish them.

So, what message did they send to Joseph (vv. 16-17)? Before he died, our father told us to give you this message -- forgive your brothers for being so mean to you.

Was that true? No. They were lying. But they did beg Joseph for forgiveness.

How did Joseph react when he got the message? He cried.

Why did he cry? He was so sad that his brothers would think he didn't love them and were scared of him and thought he would punish them

What did the brothers do next (v. 18)? They bowed down before Joseph and promised to be his slaves.

What did Joseph say to his brothers (v. 19)? Don't be afraid of me. I'm not going to punish you.

What did Joseph say to his brothers (v. 20)? You thought you were going to hurt me but God protected me and took care of me and gave me this job so I could save lots of peoples' lives.

What did Joseph say to his brothers (v. 21)? Don't worry or be afraid. I will take care of you and your families. He was kind and gentle with his brothers. He loved them.

Read Genesis 50:22-26

22 So Joseph and his brothers and their families continued to live in Egypt. Joseph lived to the age of 110.

23 He lived to see three generations of descendants of his son Ephraim, and he lived to see the birth of the children of Manasseh's son Makir, whom he claimed as his own.

24 "Soon I will die," Joseph told his brothers, "but God will surely come to help you and lead you out of this land of Egypt. He will bring you back to the land he solemnly promised to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear an oath, and he said, "When God comes to help you and lead you back, you must take my bones with you."

26 So Joseph died at the age of 110. The Egyptians embalmed him, and his body was placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Did Joseph ever leave Egypt and go back to the Promised Land (v. 22)? No. He lived in Egypt for the rest of his life.

How old was Joseph when he died? 110

How many grandchildren and great grandchildren did Joseph have when he was still alive (v. 23)? Lots and lots from the families of his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim.

What did Joseph tell his brothers (v. 24)? That he was going to die soon but God would take care of them. God promised to take their descendants out of Egypt and back to the Promised Land to live (Genesis 15:13-16). Joseph was probably the first of the brothers to die.

Why was the land of Canaan called the Promised Land? Because God had promised to Abraham, who was the first Jew, that He would give the Jewish people the land of Canaan to live in forever.

What did Joseph make his brothers do (v. 25)? He made them promise that they would take his bones back to the Promised Land and bury him there.

What happened when Joseph died (v. 26)? The Egyptians wrapped and preserved his body just like they did with Jacob. Then they put his body in a casket until they could take his body back to the land of Canaan.