

Hello Kids!

I'm so excited to share more wonderful Bible stories with you this quarter! I wonder . . . have you heard these stories before? Why don't you look for something new or special as you read.

All of these stories are true and can be found in your Bible. When your mommy, daddy, grandma, or grandpa read these stories to you, look carefully at the pictures. Imagine how the people felt and what they thought, and remember that God loves you as much as He loved the people

in the Bible. God is with you when you sleep or when you play, and He wants to be your best friend.

Your Friend,

Mrs. Nina

and your General Conference Sabbath School Team

Dear Parents,

As you spend time with your child today, remember that God is with you. He is your heavenly Father and cares for you even more than you care for your growing child. Will you spend time with Him today, amidst the busy routines of life? Time with Him is time well spent.

So today, and in the days ahead, look for ways you can grow your own friendship with God. Here are some tips:

- Ask God to wake you early one morning. Go somewhere quiet and whisper aloud your prayer to God, asking Him to help you and bless your family. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 and consider God's words to you.
- Go for a walk in nature. Pray as you walk and notice the detail of God's creation. Thank Him for caring for you more than the sparrow that falls (Matthew 10:31).
- In a journal or notebook, copy out Isaiah 55. Underline any words or ideas that stand out to you. Then, come back to those messages and think about them in relation to your life right now.



Talk with God about whatever is on your mind and heart. Tell Him that you trust Him and His plans for your future.

As you seek God more, you'll naturally find that you want to lead your son or daughter to Him in a deeper way.

You're in our prayers as you do this most important work,

Nina

and your General Conference Sabbath School Team



Short Devotions

One of the most important life skills you can teach your child is to seek God every day in personal devotion. Although your child is only 4, 5, or 6 years old, it's not too early to begin teaching them how to do this in simple ways.

How can I teach my Kindergarten child to turn his or her heart to Jesus?

1. **PRAY:** Every day, pray for your child's heart to be opened to Jesus and for their mind to understand the Bible stories you read.
2. **IN THE EVERYDAY MOMENTS:** Find ways to talk about Jesus in the everyday moments—outdoors in nature, as you cook, and as you teach them to interact with others. Most of all, look for genuine ways to talk about how you love Jesus in your daily moments together.
3. **YOUR DEVOTIONAL PLACE:** Choose a chair, windowsill, or regular place where you will daily read your Bible and pray. Do this in a visible part of your home, such as the living area, so your child sees you spending time with Jesus.
4. **YOUR CHILD'S DEVOTIONAL PLACE:** Create a special place for your child to spend time with Jesus each day (at the same time you do). Ensure that other toys or distractions are removed from nearby, and that your child isn't hungry or tired at this time.

5. **TIME WITH JESUS:** Explain to your child that every day, at a regular time, you are both going to spend time with Jesus. Share that when Mommy/Daddy spends time with Jesus, they will spend time with Jesus too. They won't talk or read stories together during this time, because it's a special time just with them and Jesus. Model and explain these simple steps:

- Say a short prayer with your child.
- Encourage your child to look at a picture Bible and think about the stories and what they tell us about God.
- Invite your child to sing or pray to Jesus after five to seven minutes to conclude their personal devotion time. You may like to increase this time as your child gets older.

"Let the youth [children and teens] be taught to love the study of the Bible. Let the first place in our thoughts and affections be given to the Book of books, for it contains knowledge which we need above all other. . . . In order to do this work, parents must themselves become acquainted with the Word of God. . . . And instead of speaking vain words and telling idle tales to their children, they will talk with them upon Bible subjects" (Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 513).

Isaac and Rebekah

Big Idea: God is with me. He helps me to be kind.

● Memory Verse
"Blessed be the Lord, for He has shown me His marvelous kindness" (Psalm 31:21).

Word of the Week
"Kindness" - Kindness is love in action. When you are kind, you are helpful and friendly to others. We can show kindness with caring words, listening ears, willing feet, and helpful hands.

This week's lesson is based on **Genesis 24, 25** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 171–182.

Sunday

An Important Decision

Abraham walked slowly toward the door and stepped outside his tent into the fresh air and warm sunshine. He leaned on his walking stick. In the distance he could see his olive trees and golden fields of grain. Beside them were his green fields filled with fat, woolly sheep. Abraham smiled. God had been so kind and generous. He had given Abraham a family, land, food, money, and more sheep and cows than he could count. But Abraham's best gift was God's friendship. Abraham was so happy to be called a "friend of God" (James 2:23).

Abraham loved to tell others about his Friend, the one true God. But in the nearby towns in Canaan, people didn't believe in God. Instead they prayed to wooden idols that couldn't see or hear. These idols definitely couldn't show love or kindness to others.

Abraham had taught his son Isaac about the one true God. Isaac loved God too. Now that Isaac was all grown up, it was time to find him a wife who also loved and worshipped the God of heaven.

Abraham called for Eliezer, his most trusted servant. What did he ask Eliezer to do?

Read **Genesis 24:4**.

How exciting! Eliezer was to go on a big trip to Abraham's faraway family. There, Eliezer was to find Isaac a wife who believed in God and lived for Him.

I Wonder

- » What kind gifts has God given to your family?
- » How do you know that God is your Friend?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for being our kind Friend who loves to give us good gifts.

Do

Make kindness soup together to give to someone who is hungry, alone, or sick. Choose your favorite recipe. As each ingredient is added, talk about one kind thing (blessing) that God has given to your family and say your memory verse to encourage them. Deliver the soup.

Monday

Trusting God

Eliezer was in a hurry! He counted . . . 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Yes, that should be enough camels. Quickly he led them out of the stables and lined them up. Abraham had just given him a very important job, and Eliezer didn't want to waste a second. He must find the right wife for Isaac!

Eliezer quickly packed his bags. He mustn't forget gifts. It would be kind to give Isaac's future wife some presents. The camels' sacks jingled and jangled with gold, silver, and other treasures as he set off down the road. It would be a long journey. But he knew God would lead him.

After many days of travel, Eliezer finally saw the tall stone walls of the city where Abraham's family lived. At last he had arrived!

"He made the camels kneel down at the well outside the city" (Genesis 24:11, ICB). It was a perfect place to rest after such a long trip. Eliezer didn't know anyone in this town. How would he find the best wife for Isaac? The Bible tells us he dropped to his knees and prayed, "O Lord God . . . please give me success this day, and show kindness to my master Abraham" (Genesis 24:12).

Then he prayed for a sign to help him know whom God had chosen. What was the sign? Read **Genesis 24:13, 14**.

Abraham's family always fed visitors and showed kindness to strangers. Had God chosen someone like this for Isaac? He would trust God and see—very soon!

I Wonder

- » Why did Eliezer pray before doing anything else in this new town?
- » What can you do when you need help doing something new?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that we can trust Him to always help us.

Do

Make a card to give to someone who's new to your play group, school, or Sabbath School. Think of other ways you can show them kindness.

Memory Verse





Tuesday

A Prayer Answered

Before Eliezer had even finished his prayer, a lovely woman appeared. She had walked from the city to the well and started to fill her water jar. Eliezer saw that she was very beautiful. She was also kind to the other women at the well.

The Bible tells us he ran to her and said, “Please let me drink a little water from your pitcher” (Genesis 24:17). Rebekah gave a big welcoming smile and lowered the jar from her shoulder. “Drink, my lord,” she answered kindly as she poured him some water (Genesis 24:18).

When he had finished drinking, what did Rebekah say and do? Read **Genesis 24:19, 20**.

Camels can be very thirsty animals. And Eliezer had 10 camels! They would have needed enough water to fill two or three bathtubs. That’s a lot of jars of water! That’s a lot of running back and forth. What kindness Rebekah showed.

Eliezer gave her a big thank you and gifts of gold. He asked her, “Who is your father?” Rebekah said, “My father is Bethuel. He is the son of Milchah and Nahor” (Genesis 24:23, 24, ICB).

Eliezer was amazed. Nahor was Abraham’s brother, which meant that Rebekah was Abraham’s relative!

What did Eliezer do next? Read **Genesis 24:26**.

Rebekah had used her hands and feet to care for a stranger. She had shown God’s kindness in a very helpful way. God had used this kindness to lead Eliezer right to her!

I Wonder

» How do you think Rebekah felt after she had finished giving water to the camels?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you show His lovingkindness, even when it’s hard work.

Do

Give each family member a cup of water—but not to drink. Invite each person to use their cup of water to show kindness. For example: to clean or cook with; as a drink for a person or a plant.

Memory Verse



Wednesday

A Match Made in Heaven

Rebekah had never run so fast. Racing through the doors of her home, she breathlessly told her family what had just happened at the well. God had led Eliezer right to her!

Rebekah's family welcomed Eliezer into their home. They kindly looked after his camels, washed his dirty feet, and prepared dinner for him. Then Eliezer told the family about his prayer for help and wisdom. He explained that Rebekah's kindness was the answer to his prayer.

Everyone was amazed. They all agreed that God had chosen Rebekah to marry Isaac. "This is clearly from the Lord," her father and uncle said with a smile (Genesis 24:50, ICB).

Turning to Rebekah her family asked, "Do you want to go with this man now?" (Genesis 24:58, ICB). What was Rebekah's answer? Read the rest of **Genesis 24:58**.

Many days later, in the land of Canaan, Isaac walked slowly through a field under the early evening stars. He thought and prayed as he walked. Suddenly he saw 10 camels up ahead. It must be Eliezer, back from his special trip!

Rebekah's heart fluttered as she watched Isaac coming near. This was the man God had chosen to be her husband! She climbed off the camel and pulled a veil over her face, like a bride on her wedding day.

Eliezer introduced them. He told Isaac that God had chosen this kind and thoughtful woman to be his wife. What a wonderful God! Isaac married Rebekah "and he loved her" (Genesis 24:67).

I Wonder

» Why did Rebekah leave her family and go with Eliezer?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you trust His goodness and do whatever He asks you to do.

Do

Make a wedding gift for Isaac and Rebekah. You might make flowers from muffin papers with pipe cleaner stems, shape an animal from clay/dough, or make a useful tool.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Double Blessing

Rebekah frowned as she looked down at her big, round tummy. *Kick. Kick. Thud. Kick. Wobble. Thud. What is this baby doing? It will not stop moving!*

Rebekah had waited 20 years for a baby. Isaac had asked God for help, and “The Lord heard Isaac’s prayer, and Rebekah became pregnant” (Genesis 25:21, ICB).

She smiled as she felt another surprising kick in her side. God had shown such great lovingkindness. Their family was finally growing!

But the bigger her tummy grew, the bigger the kicks became. She felt as though there was an endless battle going on inside her! “*If all is well, why am I like this?*” she thought to herself (Genesis 25:22).

Rebekah talked to God about it. What did God tell her? Read **Genesis 25:23**.

She was having not one but two babies! Twins! And already those two babies weren’t getting along very happily. No wonder it felt like a wrestling competition in her tummy!

Finally the day arrived for Rebekah to give birth. The first baby born was covered in thick red hair. They named him Esau. His brother quickly followed, holding tightly onto Esau’s heel. They named him Jacob.

Rebekah and Isaac were so happy! They’d asked God for a child of their own, and He had given them two.

Like Rebekah and Isaac, your family has been given a precious gift from God: you! Your church family is grateful for you too. Let’s say these words from the Bible, “How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God!” (Psalm 36:7).

I Wonder

- » Why do you think Rebekah talked to God about the kicking inside of her?
- » What is the most special gift God has given you?

Prayer Idea

Thank You, God, for our lives and for Your great love.

Do

Take out your baby photos and look through them with your family. Remember you are a precious gift from God.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

- » Share with your children a time you experienced the kindness of God in your life.
- » Share a time you were able to show the kindness of God to someone else and the difference it made.





Friday

The Stew Swap

Jacob dropped the potatoes, lentils, and carrots into the stew. *Mmm. Yummy!* His twin brother Esau smelled the stew and his tummy grumbled. He had been out hunting all day. He was so tired and was so very hungry! "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary," he begged his brother (Genesis 25:30).

Many years had passed since God had told Rebekah about her very different babies. Now they had become very different young men. Jacob was quiet and gentle; Esau was loud and rough. Jacob planned ahead; Esau acted without thinking. Jacob spent his time helping at home and caring for the sheep; Esau liked to go on exciting hunting adventures in the mountains. God had made them both. He loved them both.

Jacob looked up from his stew to his hungry brother. Being the oldest Esau had been promised something that Jacob wanted: the birthright. The birthright meant that Esau would become God's leader for their family. One day he would be given most of the family's land and belongings.

Jacob really wanted Esau's birthright. Instead of showing kindness and giving him stew, Jacob suggested a sneaky swap. "Jacob said, 'Sell me your birthright'" (Genesis 25:31). The birthright for a bowl of stew? What would he do? Read **Genesis 25:32, 33**.

Without thinking or caring about the birthright, Esau promised Jacob he could have it all.

I Wonder

- » Do you think Jacob showed kindness? What should he have done?
- » Do you think Esau did the right thing? Why or why not?

Prayer Idea

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you His heart so we can show His kindness, even when it is sometimes hard.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Have each member of the family draw a picture of a time someone has shown them kindness. Share the pictures and glue them into your family journal.

For You, Parents

"The members of the family do not all have the same stamp of character, and there will be frequent occasion for the exercise of patience and forbearance; but through love and self-discipline all may be bound together in the closest union" (Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 176).

A Box of Kindness

A heavy white cardboard box arrived at a Seventh-day Adventist mission school in the Marshall Islands. It was from Grandpa Bob and was for the missionary families that worked at the school.

When Father and Mother saw the box, they couldn't wait to open it! Big brothers Raijan and Jehuraian and little sister Jaira couldn't wait either! The family gathered in the living room around the parcel.

"This box is a blessing from God," Father said. "Let's thank God now." Together the family knelt down, and Father prayed.

"Heavenly Father, we are thankful for this blessing that just arrived. Help us to bless others through the blessing that we have received. Thank You for Grandpa Bob and his kindness. Please bless him. Amen."

With Father's approval, Raijan grabbed a pair of scissors and tore open the box.

Grandpa Bob had been sending their family boxes for three years because he wanted to show God's kindness and love. The boxes would often come just when food was running out, when Father or Mother needed some encouragement, or when a child had a birthday.

"Oh, wow!" Raijan cried as he looked into the box and saw a toy car. "A yellow car!"

Juhuraian reached his hand into the box. "And a blue one!" he shouted.

Jaira couldn't stop smiling. Her eyes were fixed on a doll. "My very own doll!" she said.

Mother and Father looked through the rest of the box and found chocolates, notebooks, pencils, red rice, nuts, and instant mashed potatoes. These would be wonderful to share with the student missionaries teaching at the school.

What a wonderful gift! Every time a box arrived, the children would jump for joy. The family always prayed before opening a box, saying, "Thank You, God, for showing Your love and kindness to us through our Grandpa Bob."

The Bible says, "Blessed be the Lord, for He has shown me His marvelous kindness" (Psalm 31:21).



This story is adapted from "Surprise Box!" by Andrew McChesney, *Children's Mission*, copyright © 2021 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists*. Used and adapted by permission.

The Birthright Blessing

Big Idea: God is with me. He helps me to be honest.

Memory Verse

“Therefore, putting away lying, ‘Let each one of you speak truth’” (Ephesians 4:25).

Word of the Week

“Honest” - Being honest means telling the truth. God is always honest, He never lies. When God lives in your heart, you can speak honest words and not lie or cheat.

This week’s lesson

is based on **Genesis 27**; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 179-188; and *SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 1, pp. 1095, 1096.

Sunday

Time for the Blessing

Isaac sat down with a sigh. He was very old now. In fact Isaac was so old his eyes “could not see clearly” (Genesis 27:1, ICB) and his feet moved slowly. He knew he wouldn’t be alive much longer. But before he died, Isaac had something important to do. He must give one of his sons a special blessing and make them the new family leader. This son would lead everyone to love and follow God. Whom should it be?

Old Isaac smiled. Of course it should be Esau. He was the firstborn after all and birthright blessings were *always* given to the firstborn.

He knew Mother Rebekah did not agree. An angel had told her long ago: “The older will serve the younger” (Genesis 25:23, ICB). She knew the blessing was for younger brother Jacob, not Esau.

But Father Isaac wouldn’t listen. He had made up his mind. He would choose Esau—while no one was looking!

Quickly Father called Esau to his side. Then he whispered, “take your bow and arrows, and go hunting in the field. Kill an animal for me to eat. Prepare the tasty food that I love. Bring it to me, and I will eat. Then I will bless you before I die” (Genesis 27:3, 4, ICB).

Isaac thought no one was looking, but someone nearby was listening! Who was

it? Read **Genesis 27:5**.

So much sneakiness. If only they had been honest with each other and asked God what to do.

I Wonder

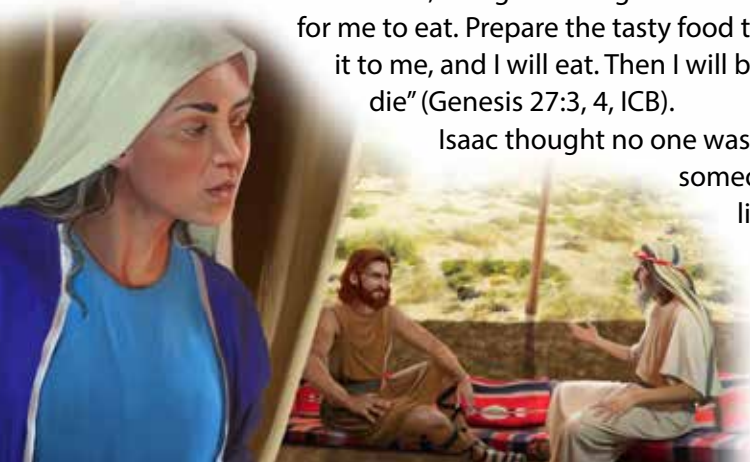
- » Is it good to be sneaky?
- » What do you think God thought of Isaac and Rebekah’s dishonest plans?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to remind you to talk to Him in prayer about everything.

Do

Play a game of “Trust” with a grown-up. Have them guide you blindfolded around your home, telling you where to go. Did you need their help? You can trust God to always help you.



Monday

A Sneaky Plan

Oh no! Rebekah's eyes opened wide. Isaac was going to give the family blessing to Esau—today!

Rebekah's heart began to pound. *The blessing must be given to Jacob, not Esau.* She raced off to find Jacob. She would fix this—her way! "Listen," she whispered to her younger son, "I heard your father talking to your brother Esau" (Genesis 27:6, ICB). She told Jacob about the blessing Esau was about to be given.

"So obey me, my son. Do what I tell you," Rebekah said to Jacob (Genesis 27:8). She asked him to bring her two goats. "I will prepare them just the way your father likes them," she explained. "Then you will take the food to your father. And he will bless you before he dies" (Genesis 27:10, ICB).

Jacob couldn't believe it. His mother was telling him to pretend to be Esau and lie to his father. Jacob wasn't sure it was a good idea. He looked down at his arms, "My brother Esau is a hairy man. I am smooth! If my father touches me, he will know I am not Esau. Then he will not bless me" (Genesis 27:11,12, ICB). But Rebekah had a plan to trick old, blind Isaac.

What does the Bible say about lying? Read **1 Peter 3:10**.

Not once did Rebekah pray and ask God for help. Oh dear, things are only going to go from bad to really bad without God helping and guiding.

I Wonder

» Can you think of a time you were sneaky or lied? What should you have done instead?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you show honesty all the time.

Do

Pour lots of salt on top of a piece of bread. Cover it up with sandwich toppings. Can you really hide it? Can we really hide lies from God?

Mission Challenge

Make your home a welcoming place. What could you make or display to show that you love Jesus?

Memory Verse





Tuesday

Tricked!

With a quick stir, the stew was finished. It smelled delicious. Rebekah poured it into a bowl. She must hurry. Esau could return any minute!

Finding Esau's clothes, Rebekah handed them to Jacob. He slid them over his head. Now Jacob smelled like his big brother, the hunter. But there was still one big problem. Jacob's smooth skin didn't feel like Esau's hairy skin.

What did Rebekah do? Read **Genesis 27:16**.

Problem solved! Now Jacob smelled and felt like Esau.

Jacob held tightly onto the bowl and walked toward his father in the tent. "Father," Jacob said in his best Esau voice. "I am Esau, your first son. I have done what you told me. Now sit up and eat. . . . Then bless me."

Blind Father Isaac frowned. Something sounded very unusual. He asked his son to come closer. Then he reached out to touch his hand. "Your voice sounds like Jacob's voice. But your hands are hairy like the hands of Esau," he said. He still wasn't sure. "Are you really my son Esau?"

"Yes, I am," Jacob answered (Genesis 27:18-24, ICB).

So much lying! Jacob held a lying stew, he wore lying clothes, and had lying goat hair wrapped over his hands and neck. And now his words spoke lies too.

The Bible says, "Therefore, putting away lying, 'Let each one of you speak truth'" (Ephesians 4:25). God wants us to be honest. He knows that lying only causes trouble.

Old Isaac was tricked. He held Jacob close and spoke God's special blessing. Jacob would be the future leader of their family. The birthright was now his forever!

I Wonder

» How do you think Jacob felt, lying to his father? What should he have done?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to forgive you for the times you have selfishly done what you wanted without thinking of others.

Do

Put on dress-ups and pretend to be someone else. For example: a doctor, a builder, an old grandma. Have the family guess who you are trying to be. Who does God want you to be?

Memory Verse

Wednesday

Found Out!

Jacob stepped out of his father's tent. Just a few moments later, Esau stepped in. Esau was holding a bowl of freshly made stew. He couldn't wait to be given the special blessing from his father.

"Father, rise, and eat the food that your son killed for you. Then bless me," Esau said with a smile (Genesis 27:31, ICB).

What? Old Isaac was confused. "Who are you?" he asked.

"I am your son—your firstborn son—Esau," came the reply (Genesis 27:32, ICB).

Old Isaac began to tremble all over. "Then who was it that hunted the animals and brought me food before you came? I ate it, and I blessed him. And it is too late now to take back my blessing" (Genesis 27:33, ICB).

He had been tricked! Esau begged his father to bless him too. What did Isaac say? Read **Genesis 27:35**.

Esau was so upset he wanted to cry. He was so mad he wanted to hurt Jacob. In fact, the Bible says, "Esau hated Jacob" (Genesis 27:41, ICB). He never wanted to see his younger brother again.

Old Father Isaac hung his head and cried too. He knew that God had planned to give Jacob the blessing. But Isaac had wanted to do things his own way. Now, his family had hurt each other with lies and tricks.

I Wonder

» Were there any winners in this story? What does that teach us about lying?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you choose to do things His way.

Do

Make up actions for your memory verse, Ephesians 4:25, as you learn it in song.

Memory Verse



Thursday

The Wisdom of Waiting

Jacob had thought about getting the birthright for a very long time and now it was his! He thought he would feel so happy he'd be jumping up and down. But he didn't. He just felt bad, sad, and sorry all at the same time.

Jacob hid in the shadows. He watched Esau shaking his fist in the air and shouting angry words. He shouldn't have lied. He had hurt Esau. He had hurt his father, Isaac, and most importantly he had hurt God. What a mess!

Rebekah was sad and sorry too. Her lies had caused so much hurt in her family. If only she had trusted God to do things at the right time, in the right way!

What does the Bible say we need to do when we trust God? Read **Psalm 27:14**.

With a sorry heart, Rebekah asked God to forgive her. God always loves to forgive. But angry Esau was not ready to forgive.

Then one day, Rebekah heard some terrible news. Quickly she sent for Jacob. "Listen," she whispered, "your brother Esau is . . . planning to kill you" (Genesis 27:42, ICB).

Oh, no! Mother and son hugged each other tightly as tears spilled down their cheeks. It was no longer safe for Jacob to live at home. He must run far away!

I Wonder

» What do you think Rebekah might have said when she asked God to forgive her?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you be patient and work with God on your problems in His way.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share with your child a time you waited for God's help, and He worked things out His way.





Friday

Consequences

Esau's anger bubbled and hissed like a pot of boiling hot water. Esau did not have God's love and forgiveness in his heart. Instead, his hatred burned hotter and hotter until he wanted to kill his younger brother Jacob.

Rebekah knew it would be too dangerous for Jacob to stay. He must leave now!

"So, son, do what I say," Rebekah cried. "My brother Laban is living in Haran. Go to him at once! Stay with him for a while until your brother is not so angry" (Genesis 27:43, 44, ICB).

Father Isaac also called for Jacob. He had been thinking and praying. He now knew God had planned to give Jacob the special blessing all along. Isaac told Jacob to marry a woman from Rebekah's family who loved and believed in the one true God. Then Father Isaac gave Jacob one last beautiful blessing.

What did Isaac say? Read **Genesis 28:3**.

Jacob hugged his parents and cried. Isaac and Rebekah waved sadly as their son disappeared into the distance with only his staff and bag.

Although Jacob had made many bad choices, God was still with him. God loved him and forgave him for his mistakes. Did you know that God's love for you never changes either, even when you make really big mistakes?

I Wonder

» What words would you say to Jacob to encourage him?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that His love never ends—even when we make mistakes.

Do

Give a hug to someone you know at church this Sabbath. Tell them that God's love for them will never end.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Have everyone in your family draw a picture of what it means to be honest. Talk to each other, explaining what you drew. Glue them into your family journal. Finish by saying a prayer asking God to help you be honest. Then, if needed, spend some time asking God and each other for forgiveness for times when you may have been dishonest.

For You, Parents

"Reveal to [your children] the beauty and preciousness of truth. Lead them to behold Christ and His loveliness; then they will turn aside from everything that will draw their affections away from Him" (Ellen G. White, *Adventist Home*, p. 305).

Just a Little Hairnet



It was a beautiful hairnet. The young woman looked at it longingly. Oh, how she would love to have it! Her hair clips were so plain. In these times, long ago, women loved to cover their hair with a hairnet, and this one was very special.

She looked around the empty room that belonged to her friend, Mrs. White. Then she looked back at the hairnet. She was staying in Mrs. White's home with some friends. But right now she was the only one home.

It's not very big, she thought to herself. *Just a little hairnet. I don't think Mrs. White will miss it at all.* She quickly picked it up and put it in her pocket. Then she hid it in her trunk, a large box where she stored her clothes.

Later Mrs. White needed to go out. She looked for her hairnet, but couldn't find it *anywhere!*

In the evening Mrs. White asked, "Has anyone seen my hairnet? It was on my dresser, but now it's gone." There was silence. How strange!

The next day, when Mrs. White walked through the girl's room, a voice said, "Open that trunk." She recognized the voice as that of an angel. When she lifted the lid, there was her hairnet!

She left it in the trunk but asked everyone about it again that evening. She hoped the girl would be honest. But no one spoke.

More days passed. One morning Mrs. White was given a surprising vision from God, like an awake dream. In her vision she saw the hand of a girl burn her hairnet in a small flame.

Once more, with sadness, Mrs. White asked everyone about the hairnet. Still no one told the truth.

Finally she called the young woman to her room and told her about the angel's voice, what she'd seen, and her vision. The young woman's eyes filled with tears as she admitted she had taken it. "I am so sorry; please forgive me," she cried. Mrs. White gladly forgave her. She asked God to forgive her too.

This woman had thought that taking the hairnet was just a *little* thing, but she learned that little things are important because they grow into big things. Little good choices grow into big good choices. Little bad choices can grow into big bad choices. This was a lesson in honesty she would never forget!

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Jacob Finds His Savior

Big Idea: God is with me. He forgives me when I say I'm sorry.

● **Memory Verse**
*"If we confess our sins,
 He is faithful and just to
 forgive us our sins"*
 (1 John 1:9).

Word of the Week
"Confident" - Being confident means feeling sure that something is true. You can be confident that God loves to forgive you when you make mistakes—it's certain and true.

This week's lesson
 is based on **Genesis 28:10-22**
 and *Patriarchs and Prophets*,
 pp. 183-188.

Sunday

Stumbling in the Dark

Jacob ran faster and faster. His feet pounded the ground, his sides hurt, and he was out of breath. But he couldn't stop. Darkness was coming, he must hurry—hurry away from home!

Spiky bushes and tree branches scratched his legs as he ran on. His body hurt but not as much as his heart. How he would miss his parents! If only he had been honest! He shouldn't have lied to his father and tricked him into giving him the birthright blessing. His lies had caused so much hurt and pain. And now his sin, and the things he'd done, felt horrible.

Jacob thought of angry Esau, shouting and waving his fist at him. His own brother hated him! He quickly looked at the path behind him. Feeling scared, he ran even faster.

As darkness fell Jacob felt afraid and alone. The wrong things he'd done felt like a heavy rock on his back. He wanted to get rid of it, but how?

Read **Psalm 118:4**.

Jacob didn't think God wanted to be his helper or friend anymore because he'd lied, cheated, and stole his brother's blessing. He was sure his mistakes were too big for God to love him. But God saw Jacob's hurt and the horrible feelings in his heart. The Bible says that when we've done something wrong, we can run straight to God. "Come back to God, and He will forgive your sins" (Acts 3:19, ICB).

God's mercy lasts forever. He is such a good, kind, forgiving God. We can be confident of God's love for us. We don't ever need to feel alone.

I Wonder

» What would you have said to Jacob if you had met him while he was running away?

● **Prayer Idea**
 Thank God for His great big love.

● **Do**
 Take a coin and cover it with dirt. Is it still valuable? Yes. Even when you are dirty with sin, God still loves and values you too. Now wash the coin. God's forgiveness can clean our hearts.



Monday

A Long, Lonely Road

Jacob dragged his sore, tired feet down the lonely road. His family was far, far behind him now. But his Uncle Laban's tents, in Haran, were still a long way ahead.

As he walked, he felt worried. His father had given him the blessing from God, but did God still love him after everything he'd done? He'd lied straight to his father's face! God had seen it all. He had heard it all. *Surely, God wouldn't want me as His leader*, he thought.

Even though he was scared to talk to God, Jacob stopped to pray. He cried as he said he was sorry to God for all his lies. He asked God to forgive him for the wrong things he'd done.

The Bible says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9). That means if you are sorry for your mistakes and ask God to forgive you, He will!

As darkness fell, after a long day of walking, what did Jacob do? Read **Genesis 28:11**.

Imagine trying to sleep on *that* pillow! It wouldn't be very comfortable. But Jacob was so tired, he didn't care. Closing his eyes, he fell asleep.

God spoke to Jacob as he went to sleep on the cold, hard "pillow." God had watched over him every step of the way. He accepted Jacob's prayer for forgiveness. God loved him very much, just as God loves and forgives you! And God planned to show Jacob something very special to prove it—that very night!

I Wonder

» What good things about God can you think of when you are sad?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that we can always ask Him to forgive us—and He always will!

Do

Go outside with some chalk. On a rock draw a mark for every bad thing Jacob had done. Wash the rock with water or a damp cloth. Just as the rock is clean, God forgives us.

Memory Verse



Tuesday

A Ladder of Love

The cold stone pillow hurt Jacob's head, but he was so tired, he soon fell fast asleep.

Suddenly a bright shining light burst through the darkness of his sleep. God gave Jacob a special message in a dream!

Jacob saw a shiny ladder that stretched up, up, up, far into the sky. The ladder seemed to reach all the way from earth to heaven.

As Jacob looked at the ladder, he noticed angels everywhere. Some were busily walking up the ladder and others were busily walking down the ladder.

Who was standing above the ladder? Read the first part of **Genesis 28:13**.

God's strong and loving voice spoke. He told Jacob that He would bless him with many children, grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. What a big family! Then God promised, "I am with you, and I will protect you everywhere you go" (Genesis 28:15, ICB). That ladder was a picture of what Jesus does for us—He connects us with heaven because He saves us.

Jacob woke up feeling peaceful and thankful. God had heard his prayers and had forgiven him. God was with him and would bless him with a good future. He didn't need to worry or fear because the broken connection with God was now fixed. He must have smiled as he thought about all those angels flying up and down the ladder from heaven to earth. What a good, kind, forgiving God!

God's love is so wonderful! It's bigger, higher, stronger, and better than anything we can want or imagine!

Challenge

How many steps can you count on the ladder in the picture? How many steps do you think a ladder would need to reach all the way to heaven?

I Wonder

» Why did God give Jacob this special dream?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for forgiving and loving us when we do the wrong thing.

Do

Sing "Jesus loves Me."

Mission Challenge

Ask God to help anyone who comes to your home to know and love Him. Pray about this with your family.

Memory Verse



Wednesday

Forget Me Not

As Jacob lay there in the quiet darkness, he smiled and thought about the glowing ladder and the shining angels. What an amazing dream! He didn't feel lonely anymore. God had said, "I am with you . . . I will not leave you . . ." (Genesis 28:15, ICB).

He looked at the dark, distant hills and the starry sky. Yes, this place where God talked to him was very special. He said, "Surely the Lord is in this place" (Genesis 28:16, ICB).

As the early morning sun began to creep across the land, Jacob got up. He couldn't sleep, he was too excited. He had been forgiven! God had promised him a wonderful new life. He had to do something to show God just how thankful he was. What did he do? Read **Genesis 28:18**.

This would be a special reminder rock. Whenever Jacob walked past this place, the rock would remind him of the dazzling dream and God's great love. He would stop in this special place and worship God.

It is so important to remember God and thank Him for the wonderful things He does for you. Remembering and praising God can help you to be confident in His love when you are sad or worried.

I Wonder

» Can you think of something wonderful that God has done for you?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you notice Him beside you every single day.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a story of when you really felt God's presence close or He showed His love to you in a special way.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Showing Thankfulness

As Jacob stood, looking at the reminder rock he had just set up, he felt so free! He didn't need to worry about his mistakes anymore. God had forgiven him! God's love for him was bigger than he could ever imagine!

Jacob looked back at the dusty road. It would soon be time to leave this special place. Surely there was something else he could do to show God how thankful he felt? His big smile grew bigger. He had a great idea—a way to show God his thanks wherever he went! What was it? Read **Genesis 28:22**.

Jacob promised to give God tithe. Every time he counted ten gifts from God, he would give one as an offering back to God.

If Jacob counted out ten shiny coins, he would give one to God. If he counted out ten fluffy sheep in his flock, he would give one to God. And if he would bring in ten baskets of yummy food from the garden, he would give one to God. Jacob wanted to give the best of everything back to God.

What a beautiful thank You! Jacob had found out that "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father" (James 1:17).

I Wonder

» What might you give Jesus to show Him how important He is to you?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for the gifts He has given you, including his love and forgiveness.

Do

Count out 10 different objects then take one away as tithe. Try it with lots of different things: buttons, toys, rice, or pencils. You might like to turn an old jar into your own "tithe" jar for coins, if you have them. Count out 10, then place one in your jar to give to God. Remember that all good gifts come from God.

Memory Verse





Friday

Walking With Hope

Jacob began his big journey again, looking like a different man! His shoulders no longer sagged, they were straight and tall. He smiled instead of looking scared. His feet seemed to almost bounce with joy as he walked happily along.

Jacob felt new on the inside too. God had cleaned away his mistakes. Jacob had learned that, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).

Uncle Laban's tents were still a long way away, but Jacob didn't mind one bit. The long walk would give him time to talk to his friend God. Jacob now felt confident that he wasn't alone. God had promised him, "I am with you . . . I will not leave you . . ." (Genesis 28:15, ICB).

God had also promised to give him a big family and bless him. What a loving, kind God! Jacob just wanted to praise and thank Him. What might he have said as he walked along? Read **Psalms 145:1-3**.

It doesn't matter how big your messy mistakes are, God promises to forgive and bless you too! And that is something worth praising God for.

I Wonder

» Can you tell the story of Jacob's journey in your own words?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that His love and forgiveness changes us inside and out.

Do

Share with a friend how God has changed your life and made it more wonderful.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Can you think of anything you need to ask God to forgive you for? Say a prayer to God, asking Him for forgiveness. Draw a picture for God thanking Him for His love and forgiveness. Glue it into your family journal.

For You, Parents

"In the change that takes place when the soul surrenders to Christ, there is the highest sense of freedom" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 466).

White as Snow

Have you ever seen or touched snow? Close your eyes and imagine your hands are holding a ball of snow right now. What might it feel like?

Snow looks like a fluffy white powder, but if you could look really closely through a microscope, you would see that snow is actually made up of thousands and thousands of little snowflakes. Snowflakes are tiny drops of frozen water. Each snowflake is see-through and looks like a fancy-shaped glittering star.

Did you know that no two snowflakes are the same? God has made each one its own special shape.

You'll only find snow in places that get very cold. Way up high in the clouds, it gets even colder! And when it's freezing cold in the clouds, they make little ice crystals. These crystals get heavy and fall through the sky, down to the ground as snowflakes. Each snowflake takes a different trip from the cloud to the ground, and this gives each one its own amazing shape.

When snow covers the ground, everything looks different! Look how beautiful, white, and clean it looks in this picture, after the snow has fallen.

Fresh snow looks a lot like God's forgiveness. When we sin, it's as though we are messy with mistakes. God wants to make us beautiful and clean again, just like a white blanket of snow. He says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful to forgive us our sins" (1 John 1:9).

If you live in a place where it snows, look at the tiny detail in each different snowflake. Thank God for His blanket of snowy-white forgiveness that covers our sins and makes us beautiful again.



Jacob in Haran

Big Idea: God is with me. He helps me do my best.

Memory Verse

“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Word of the Week

“Best” - Best means excellent. Doing your best work is when you try your hardest to make something as good as it can possibly be.

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 29:1-30; 31:1-18, 38-55;** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 188-194.

Sunday

There at Last!

Jacob suddenly stopped walking and listened carefully. Yes, he heard it again! Chatter, laughter, and the “baa” of sheep! With a big smile, he followed the sounds. He found a group of shepherds gathered around a big well with their thirsty sheep.

Jacob had been walking for a long, long time. A drink of water was just what he needed! He gave a friendly smile and said hello. Then he asked the men, “My brothers, where are you from?”

“We are from Haran,” the shepherds replied. Haran! That was where Jacob’s uncle lived. He had finally made it!

“Do you know Laban . . . ?” he asked them.

“We know him,” they said. “Look, his daughter Rachel is coming now with his sheep” (Genesis 29:4-6, ICB).

Jacob looked up to see a lovely young woman leading her sheep to the well. The well was covered with a big heavy stone. Quickly Jacob jumped up to help. With a push and a pull, a wriggle and a roll, he moved the stone free. Then he began to scoop water out for Rachel’s thirsty sheep.

After such a long trip, Jacob had found his family. He was so happy he cried happy tears! Then he told Rachel that they were family. She couldn’t believe it! She was so excited she raced home to share the news.

What did Jacob’s Uncle Laban do when he heard about their special visitor? Read **Genesis 29:13.**

What a warm and happy welcome. God was leading and blessing Jacob just as He had promised.

I Wonder

» Have you ever helped someone before they even asked for help?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you make new friends you can serve and love.

Do

Do your best to help someone in your family today, before they ask for help. You might bring them a cup of water or help them carry something. Or, if someone comes to your home today, be cheerful and kind to them. Do your best to help someone in your family today, before they ask for help. You might bring them a cup of water or help them carry something. “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might” (Ecclesiastes 9:10).



Monday

Working for a Wedding

Jacob looked around Uncle Laban's tents and sighed happily. He had found a new home. Although his parents were far away, he was now with family.

Every day Jacob worked hard to thank his family. The Bible says, "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10). And that is exactly what Jacob did.

Uncle Laban soon realized Jacob was a very good worker. After a month of seeing Jacob do his best, Uncle Laban came to him with a big question. What was it? Read **Genesis 29:15**.

Jacob smiled. Uncle Laban had two daughters, big sister Leah and younger sister Rachel. From the day he had met beautiful Rachel at the well, Jacob had fallen in love with her. "Let me marry your younger daughter Rachel. If you will, I will work seven years for you," Jacob said (Genesis 29:18, ICB).

Uncle Laban thought this was a great idea! He needed some extra help, and seven years was a long time. He nodded.

Jacob was excited. He happily started working right away. His love for God and for Rachel helped him do his best. He didn't mind waiting for Rachel for seven long years. The Bible tells us "love is patient" (1 Corinthians 13:4, ICB).

I Wonder

» Have you ever had to wait for a long time for something good? What was that like?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for strong muscles and good minds so that we can be hard workers for Him.

Do

Make and decorate a card with your memory verse written on it. Place it where you put on your shoes each day, ready for a day of doing your best.

Memory Verse





Tuesday

Wedding Trickery

As Jacob shut the gate to the sheep pen, his smile stretched wide. His seven years of working for Uncle Laban were finished! Running to see his uncle, he said excitedly, “Give me Rachel so that I may marry her. The time I promised to work for you is over” (Genesis 29:21, ICB).

Uncle Laban agreed. What did he do next? Read **Genesis 29:22**.

Jacob’s bride was brought to him wearing a beautiful long dress and a veil that covered her face completely. Jacob was so happy. Finally Rachel would be his wife!

As the sun rose the next morning, a sleepy Jacob slowly opened his eyes. He looked at his new wife to see her for the first time without her veil. His eyes opened wide in shock!

How could this be? This isn’t Rachel! It’s her older sister Leah!

Uncle Laban had tricked him. He had given Leah as the bride instead of Rachel. Jacob had married the wrong sister!

Jacob jumped out of bed and raced to Uncle Laban’s tent. Angrily he said, “What have you done to me? I worked hard for you so that I could marry Rachel! Why did you trick me?” (Genesis 29:25, ICB).

Poor Jacob! He now knew what it felt like to be lied to and tricked. It wasn’t a good feeling at all!

I Wonder

» Have you ever been tricked? How did you feel?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to treat people how you would like to be treated.

Do

Play dress up with your family or friends. Do your best to look completely different. Then tell everyone who you really are. Think about how important it is to be honest with our words and actions.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

Hard Choices

Jacob was mad! He stared angrily at Uncle Laban, waiting for his answer. Why had his uncle tricked him?

Uncle Laban looked calmly at Jacob. He said that it was right for the older sister, Leah, to get married before the younger sister, Rachel. Jacob blinked with surprise. He knew it wasn't right to lie and trick!

What does the Bible say about lying? Read **Leviticus 19:11**.

Deep down, Laban knew it wasn't right either. But he was greedy. He wanted to trap Jacob into working even longer, for free. He said, "I will give you Rachel to marry also. But you must serve me another seven years" (Genesis 29:27, ICB).

Another seven years? Could Jacob really do his best and work seven more years for a man who had lied and tricked him?

Jacob took a deep breath and nodded. Yes, he would marry Rachel, and then he would work for Uncle Laban for another seven years with no pay. He would do the right thing for Leah and Rachel, even though his uncle had chosen to do the wrong thing. Having two wives was not part of God's plan.

One week later, Jacob was finally married to Rachel, the one he loved. Then back to work he went. Jacob knew God loved to see His children do their best, so he worked hard and with honesty. And God blessed Jacob for his honest work.

I Wonder

- » How should you act when things aren't fair?
- » What can you learn from Jacob?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you do the right thing even when things seem unfair.

Do

Make yourself one "not-fair" challenge to do with a smile. It's not easy, but you can do it! Choose to do a job when it's not your turn or clean something up when you didn't make the mess. Others may not notice, but God does, and He will be smiling with you.

Memory Verse





Thursday

God's Blessing

Jacob wiped the sweat from his head. With a smile, he picked up the smallest lamb and carried her under his arm. It was too hot for the lambs to walk much farther. Jacob was a good shepherd. He had worked hard for Uncle Laban for seven years. Then he'd worked with all his might for *another* seven years.

During those years, God blessed Laban with lots of sheep and goats because of Jacob's hard work. And He blessed Jacob with lots of sons and daughters. But Jacob missed his family far away. He said to Uncle Laban, "Now let me go to my own home and country" (Genesis 30:25, ICB).

What was Uncle Laban's answer? Read **Genesis 30:27**.

Uncle Laban didn't want Jacob to go anywhere! Jacob had made his uncle very rich! So he said to Jacob, "Tell me what I should pay you, and I will give it to you" (Genesis 30:28, ICB).

Jacob had a big family, but no sheep or goats of his own. He asked Uncle Laban to give him all the black and spotty sheep and goats.

"Agreed!" answered Laban. Then he whispered to his sons to quickly go hide all these animals.

God saw everything. He was with Jacob. As Jacob looked after Uncle Laban's pure white sheep and goats, something amazing happened. Those white sheep and goats began to have lots of speckled and spotted babies. Jacob could keep them all. "Jacob became very rich. He had large flocks, many . . . servants, camels and donkeys" (Genesis 30:43, ICB).

I Wonder

- » Why didn't Jacob just get up and leave?
- » Who else do you know who is faithful, no matter what happens?

Prayer Idea

Turn your memory verse into a prayer—"Dear Jesus, whatever my hands find to do, please help me to do it with all my might. Amen."

Do

Pass a fluffy sheep or toy around the family circle naming a blessing God has given you. Keep going until you run out of ideas.

Memory Verse



Friday

Going Home!

Angry grumbles rumbled through the camp. Laban's sons were not happy! "Jacob has taken everything our father owned," they complained to each other. "Jacob has become rich in this way" (Genesis 31:1, ICB).

Jacob did have lots and lots of strong, healthy, spotty animals. But he hadn't taken them! God had done an amazing miracle and blessed him.

Jacob heard their jealous whispers. He noticed Laban and his sons becoming less friendly. God saw this too and spoke to Jacob. What did God say? Read **Genesis 31:3**.

Jacob secretly called Leah and Rachel out into the far field. He told them about a dream God had given him. "The angel of God spoke to me in that dream. He said, 'Jacob. . . I have seen the wrong things Laban does to you. . . Now I want you to leave here. Go back to the land where you were born'" (Genesis 31:11-13, ICB).

Rachel and Leah had also seen their father's greediness and lying. They agreed to go with Jacob back to his home in Canaan.

But they would need to escape when Laban wasn't watching. One day, when Laban was in a faraway field, they saw their chance. Quickly they packed their bags and rounded up their animals. Then Jacob, his wives, and children climbed onto their camels and raced off in a cloud of dust. God would lead them home!

I Wonder

» Why did God speak to Jacob?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He helps us to do our best.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time that God guided you or protected you in a dangerous situation.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

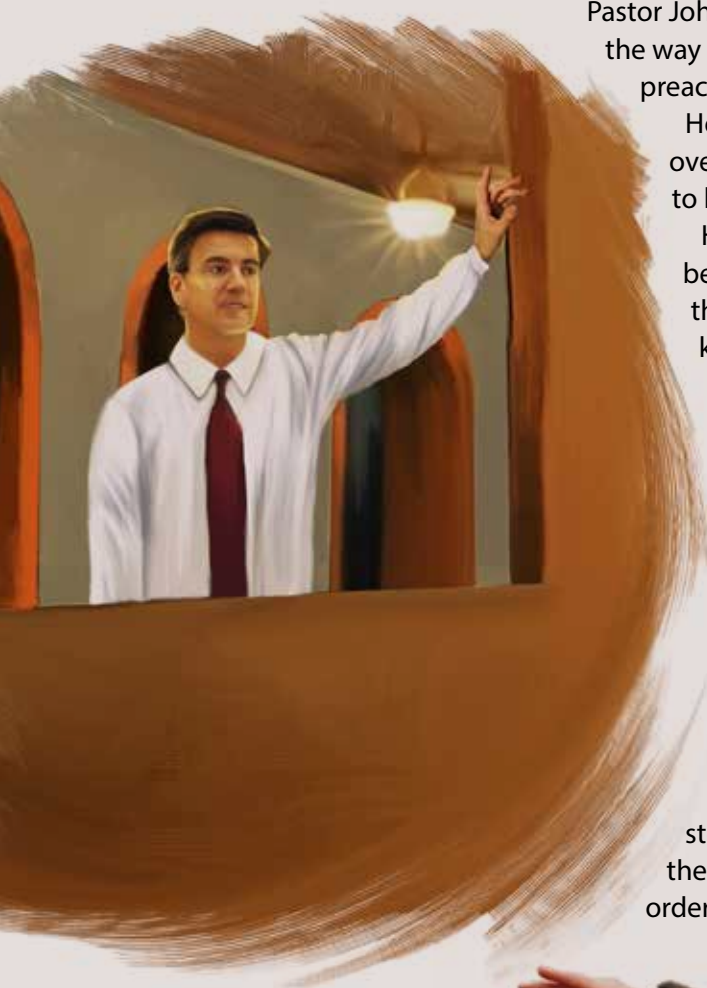
Draw a picture of a time this week when you did your best. Glue it into your family journal and finish by asking God to help you always do your best and never give up.

For You, Parents

"Help your children to do the will of God by being faithful in the performance of the duties which really belong to them as members of the family. . . Patiently educate [your children] to act their part in the family circle"

(Ellen G. White, *Child Guidance*, p. 36).

The Tall Stranger



Pastor John Matteson wanted to do his best. He had traveled all the way from his home in America to a country named Norway to preach that Jesus was coming soon.

He looked around with surprise. The room was full and overflowing with people who were squeezed in tight to listen to him.

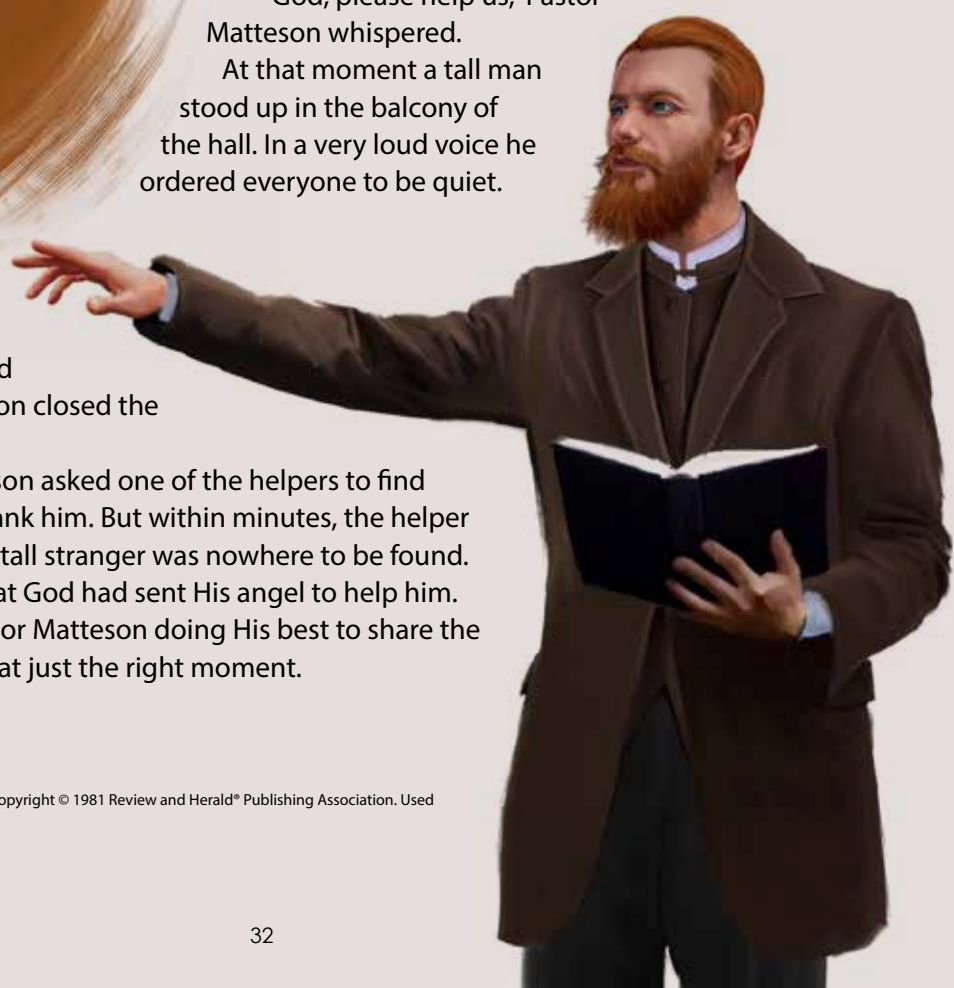
He stood up and began to talk. Suddenly some people began to shout and interrupt him. Pastor Matteson realized that not all the people were there to listen. He did his best to keep preaching with all the noise and calling out.

But then in the middle of the sermon, someone the crowd knew well stood up and started shouting horrible things at Pastor Matteson. Some of the crowd cheered him on, and others started to hiss. Excitement swept through the crowd like a wave through a stormy sea.

Pastor Matteson realized that if the people didn't calm down, someone would soon get hurt. Some men were even walking toward the window with chairs, because they wanted to smash their way out of the crowded room.

"God, please help us," Pastor Matteson whispered.

At that moment a tall man stood up in the balcony of the hall. In a very loud voice he ordered everyone to be quiet.



The strangest thing happened. Everyone sat down and became very quiet. Pastor Matteson closed the meeting with prayer.

After the meeting Pastor Matteson asked one of the helpers to find the tall stranger. He wanted to thank him. But within minutes, the helper came back, shaking his head. The tall stranger was nowhere to be found.

Pastor Matteson understood that God had sent His angel to help him. God had been pleased to see Pastor Matteson doing His best to share the Bible and had stepped in to help, at just the right moment.



WEEK 5

Brothers Meet Again

Big Idea: God is with me. He gives me peace.

● **Memory Verse**
*"Peace I leave with you,
My peace I give to you"*
(John 14:27).

Word of the Week
"Peace" - Peace is quiet and calm. God's peace in our hearts gives us a safe and content feeling deep inside. Our peaceful words are soft, gentle, and forgiving. Peace means no fighting or war.

This week's lesson
is based on **Genesis 32, 33**
and *Patriarchs and Prophets*,
pp. 195-198.

Sunday

Going Home!

With a wave of his stick, Jacob chased the spotted goats up the rocky path. His sheep, camels, donkeys, servants, and family all followed behind. What a great big line of people and animals on their way to Canaan. Together, they were going home!

Back in Haran, Uncle Laban didn't know that Jacob had left. How long did it take Laban to find out they were gone? Read **Genesis 31:22**.

Laban was very angry! He jumped on his camel and chased after them. But God spoke to Laban and said, "Be careful! Do not say anything to Jacob, good or bad" (Genesis 31:24, ICB). God was asking Uncle Laban to have peace. He needed to be quiet and listen.

Finally Laban caught up with his big family. With God's words of peace in his mind, he went to talk with Jacob. "Why did you run away without telling me?" he asked (Genesis 31:27, ICB).

"I left without telling you, because I was afraid!" Jacob answered. "I thought you would take your daughters away from me" (Genesis 31:31, ICB). After they talked together, they agreed to make peace—no more tricks, lying, or fighting. To show that they really meant it, they made a pillar out of a big pile of rocks.

They called it Mizpah, meaning "A Pile to Remind Us." Then Laban headed back to Haran and Jacob traveled on. As Jacob came closer to Canaan, he began to think about his angry brother Esau. Had God given him peace and forgiveness too?

I Wonder

- » Do you think it was hard or easy for Jacob and Uncle Laban to chat peacefully? Why?
- » How could you learn from them?

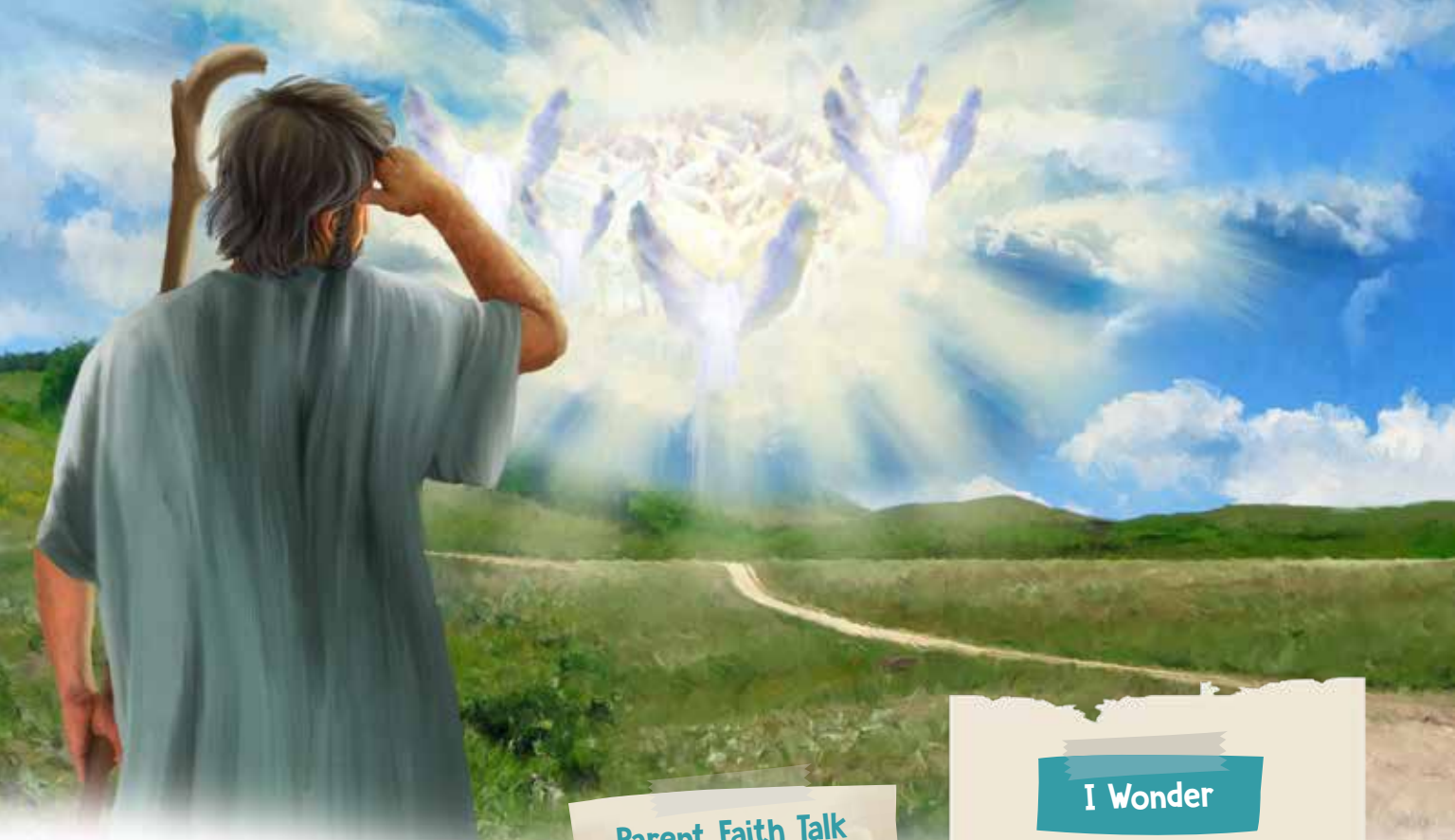
● Prayer Idea

Thank God that we can trust Him even when we don't know what is going to happen tomorrow.

● Do

James 1:19 says, "Always be willing to listen and slow to speak" (ICB). Play a listening game with your family. Take turns giving instructions and listening. For example, jump on one leg three times, then blink, and sit down. Were you quick to listen?





Monday

Angel Protection

Parent Faith Talk

Thank God for the angels He sends to watch over us.

As Jacob came closer and closer to his home in Canaan, he felt a warm coziness inside. He noticed the familiar green hills in front of him and smiled. He was almost home!

But his smile soon disappeared. He began thinking about his brother Esau. He remembered his angry words and waving fist. What would Esau think when he found out Jacob was on his way home? What would he do?

God could see that Jacob was worried. He wanted to give Jacob peace instead of worry. Who did God send to meet him? Read **Genesis 32:1**.

Suddenly Jacob blinked. Wow! He rubbed his eyes and looked again. Up ahead and behind him were big, bright angels. It was like God had put special glasses on Jacob to let him see the invisible angels. A whole army of guardian angels were traveling with his family, keeping them safe!

Jacob's heart instantly filled with peace. He had nothing to fear because God and His angels were near! God was stronger and bigger than any problem he could ever face.

The Bible says, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you" (John 14:27). The next time you feel scared or worried, remember you can have God's peace because His angels are busy protecting you just like they were protecting Jacob. God "has put his angels in charge of you. They will watch over you wherever you go" (Psalm 91:11, ICB).

I Wonder

» If God let you see your guardian angels, just like Jacob, how would you feel?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for the angels He sends to watch over us.

Do

Imagine and draw what you might see if God showed you your guardian angel right now.

Mission Challenge

Set up a Sabbath School at home for your toys. What would you sing, say, and share if you were the teacher? Invite a young family member or friend to join you. Invite them to your Sabbath School on Sabbath.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Messages of Peace

As Jacob sat staring at the crackling fire, he thought hard. How could he meet Esau in a *peaceful* way? He had an idea.

He called over one of his servants and asked them to send a peaceful message. What was it? Read **Genesis 32:4, 5**.

Jacob had used his words carefully. He had said, "My *Master*, Esau," and told him the message was from "Jacob, your *servant*." He didn't want Esau to think he wanted to be a boss over him. God helped Jacob to be wise, polite, and peaceful.

The messengers came racing back, puffing and panting. They told him, "He is coming to meet you. And he has 400 men with him" (Genesis 32:6, ICB).

Poor Jacob began to tremble with fear. Esau was coming with an army of men, ready to fight him! He looked at his wives and children. They weren't soldiers! They couldn't possibly fight against an army.

Then Jacob stopped. How could he forget so quickly? He *did* have an army with him. It was an invisible angel army! He knelt down and asked God for help.

"Lord, you told me to return to my country and my family. You said that you would do good to me" Jacob prayed. "Please save me from my brother Esau. I am afraid" (Genesis 32:9,11, ICB).

God says in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you" (John 14:27). Whenever you are afraid, you can trust God to give you His peace.

I Wonder

» Jacob's words to Esau were peaceful words. What are some peaceful words you might use if someone tries to pick a fight with you?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to fill your heart with peace when you are scared.

Do

Write your memory verse on a piece of paper. Keep it somewhere safe. The next time you see someone looking worried or scared, give them the Bible verse.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

A Long Line of Gifts

Jacob's head bent low as he prayed to His peace-giving God. The sun set, but Jacob kept on praying. As he spoke to God, a great idea came into his mind. He had sent a peaceful message to Esau, now he would send a peaceful gift. And not just one gift—lots and lots of gifts! He would send them one after another, like the longest line of birthday presents ever. Esau would get a present, then another present . . . and another present.

Esau stared in surprise as a gift of goats trotted toward his camp with a servant. Then came a herd of goats . . . then rams . . . then plodding camels . . . bulls . . . donkeys . . . and finally, foals! Esau must have laughed with delight!

Each time a servant brought a new animal gift to Esau they said, "These animals belong to your servant Jacob. He sent them as a gift to you my master, Esau. And Jacob also is coming behind us" (Genesis 32:18, ICB).

What did Jacob hope would happen? Read **Genesis 32:20**.

While his servants were giving the gifts, Jacob stayed in camp praying that God would fill Esau's heart with peace and forgiveness. Praying for Esau was even more generous than giving him animals! The Bible says, "Give, and you will receive . . . The way you give to others is the way God will give to you" (Luke 6:38, ICB).

I Wonder

» When did you last give someone a gift? What did they say and do?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to be giving, kind, and peaceful to others.

Do

Choose a person in your family and plan to give them something special tomorrow: a craft or card, something you've collected or built.

Memory Verse

Thursday

A Night to Remember

All was dark as Jacob finally lay down after his busy day of giving gifts. He had moved his family to a new camp across the river. Then he'd crossed back to their old camp by himself. Closing his eyes, he began to pray.

Suddenly strong arms grabbed Jacob. Jacob grabbed them back. He twisted and turned, pushed and pulled. *Who was this enemy?* he wondered. It was so dark that he couldn't see His face.

As Jacob fought, he remembered all of his mistakes. Then he remembered God's promises. With new strength Jacob kept fighting. The unknown stranger would not give up, but neither would Jacob. On and on they wrestled.

How long did they wrestle? Read **Genesis 32:24**.

Jacob was exhausted, he had been wrestling for so long! But he held on tight. Then suddenly, the One Jacob had been wrestling with reached out and touched Jacob's hip. Instantly Jacob fell down to the ground in a heap—his hip was badly hurt. That was no ordinary touch! Jacob instantly realized he had been wrestling with God.

Jacob held onto God even tighter and cried, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!" (Genesis 32:26). He knew he needed God's forgiveness, strength, and peace.

God heard him and "He blessed him there" (Genesis 32:29). God also gave him a brand-new name. Jacob's name had meant *tricker*. But God changed his name to *Israel* which means *blessed prince*. He would be a special leader, just as God had promised.

I Wonder

» What do you think Jacob's face might have looked like when he realized he was wrestling with God?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for always having His loving arms around us when we need Him.

Do

Go for a walk outside, if possible. Find a spot to sit quietly and close your eyes. What things can you hear and feel that remind you God is close? Say a prayer like Jacob, asking God to bless you.

Memory Verse





Friday

Brothers Meet

Jacob limped back to his family camp, tired but filled with God's peace. God had promised to be with him. God had blessed him.

As Jacob looked out into the distance, he saw Esau and his 400 men coming toward him. Had God been able to change Esau's angry heart?

Jacob hobbled slowly toward his brother, his face bright with joy. Then he stopped. What did he do? Read **Genesis 33:3**.

Esau began running straight toward his brother smiling. "Esau put his arms around him and hugged him. Then Esau kissed him, and they both cried" (Genesis 33:4, ICB).

God had heard Jacob's prayer. He had changed Esau's anger and hatred into love and forgiveness. Esau was actually happy to see his younger brother! What a wonderful miracle God had done.

Sometimes it is hard to forgive people when they hurt or upset you. But God promises in John 14:27, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you." God can change your heart too, so that you can love like Him.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think Jacob bowed down low before his brother, Esau?
- » What might the brothers have talked about that night?
- » What might they have said in prayer to God?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for being a God of peace. Ask Him to help us fix hurting friendships.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

- » What did you learn this week about peace? Think about your memory verse.
- » What did you learn about listening?
- » What did you learn about peaceful words?
- » How can giving to others help make peace?

For You, Parents

"The question of forgiveness needs no interpretation. There is never a time or place where it is right for you or for me to say, 'I will not forgive my brother; I will not walk in fellowship with him.' He who does this places himself in opposition to the teachings of Christ" (Ellen G. White, in *Southern Watchman*, Jan. 1, 1903).

The Gentle Giant

In the warm waters between America and Africa lives an animal called a manatee. This large roly-poly creature looks a bit like a swimming elephant except it doesn't have a trunk or legs. Instead this ocean giant has flippers and a flat tail, like a paddle.

A manatee spends most of its days swimming slowly through the water eating seagrass and other floating plants. When their front teeth fall out from all the munching, new teeth grow and move to the front of their mouth.

Manatees are usually quiet animals but sometimes they talk to each other with squeaks and squeals. Although they may have just a small brain, manatees have shown that they are very smart.

But there is one thing that really makes this creature extra special. Most wild animals can become dangerous or angry at times but not the manatee. It is known for always being gentle and peaceful.

They are happy to share their patch of water with any other manatee and will nuzzle and kiss each other. They even use their flippers to give hugs.

Manatees have been seen playing games like tag and bodysurfing together. How beautiful! There's a lot to learn from the manatee.

God made a promise in John 14:27 when He said, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you."

God's Holy Spirit wants to give us the heart of a manatee; to be filled with His peace, kindness, and gentleness in every situation.



The Dreamer

Big Idea: God is with me. He cares for me.

● Memory Verse
"... casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you"
 (1 Peter 5:7).

Word of the Week

"Care" - Care means to be really interested in something or someone. Care also means to look after. God cares about you. He thinks you're very important, and He's interested in everything you say, think, and do. He also cares for you—He looks after you with great love. He protects, comforts, and helps you every day.

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 35:7-21; 37:1-11**; and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 204, 209, 210.

Sunday

A Promise Filled

Jacob grinned as he sat under the shade of the big old tree in his new home in Shechem. He loved watching his grandchildren play. Their giggles and chatter made him so happy. Some sat in the grass playing games with sticks and stones. Others whispered as they hid behind tents waiting for their cousins to find them. His family had grown over the years. God had definitely kept His promise to give him a big, big family!

What else had God promised him long ago, when Jacob had run away from his family home? Read **Genesis 28:15**.

God had done what He promised! Jacob was back in beautiful Canaan. God had cared for him all along the way. When he was scared of Esau, God was with him. When he was angry at unfair Uncle Laban, God helped him do his best. And when he was worried about meeting Esau again, God gave him peace.

God promises to look after you too. If you're ever worried or afraid, you can tell Jesus. He will take those worries, or cares, from you. The Bible says, "... casting all your care [or worries] upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

Jacob was so thankful, he built an altar next to his tent, just like Abraham did. Here at the altar, in both the morning and the evening, Jacob called his family together to worship God. He had been so faithful. Jacob knew he—and his big, big family—could always trust Him.

I Wonder

- » What stories might Jacob have told his grandchildren about God's care for him?
- » What story would you have liked to hear the most?

● Prayer Idea

Thank God for keeping His promises and caring for us.

● Mission Challenge

With help, write a letter to someone who comes to your home or area (a helper, worker, or visitor). Let them know that they are special and how much Jesus cares for them.



Monday

Another Son

The camel knelt down on the dirt as Jacob packed the last of their treasures. Done! With a snort and a wobble, the camel stood up. It was time to go. The family was on the move again!

God asked Jacob to go to Bethel—the place where God had given him his loving ladder dream. God wanted to remind Jacob of the special thing that had happened there.

Jacob set off with Rachel, Leah, and his sons, Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, and Joseph and his daughter, Dinah. All their families, servants, and animals came too.

In Bethel they built an altar and gave an offering to God. Then God spoke to Jacob again. What did He say? Read **Genesis 35:11**.

What a beautiful promise! God loved him. He would always care for him.

Later, as they left Bethel, Rachel gave birth to a baby boy. A new little brother had joined their family! He was named Benjamin. Baby Benjamin was the sweetest little thing. Now Jacob had 12 sons!

Sadly, after Benjamin was born, Rachel died. Jacob's heart hurt. He would miss her a lot. But Jacob knew God cared and would comfort him. In the Bible, God tells us, "Even when you are old, I will take care of you. Even when your hair has turned gray, I will take care of you. I made you and will take care of you" (Isaiah 46:4, ICB).

Parent Faith Talk

Tell a story about a time you were puzzled about something, but after a while, it all made sense and God showed you why it happened.

I Wonder

» When you are sad, what helps to make you feel happy again?

Prayer Idea

Pray for someone you know who is feeling sad.

Do

Draw a picture of the things you are sad or worried about. Tape it onto a ball and take it outside. Say a prayer, giving those things to Jesus. Then "cast" or throw that ball as far and hard as you can. Have an adult pull off and destroy the "paper worries" and then throw the ball back empty.

Memory Verse



Tuesday

Joseph's Amazing Colorful Coat

Baby Benjamin soon grew into big boy Benjamin. Father Jacob loved story time with Benjamin and bigger brother Joseph. The boys would lean in as Father Jacob told them stories about Adam and Eve, Noah's big floating boat, and great-grandfather Abraham.

As Jacob spoke he noticed Joseph listening extra closely. Joseph's heart was so pure, gentle, and caring. He really wanted to follow God's ways.

As Joseph grew bigger he was given a job with his brothers. What was it? Read the first part of **Genesis 37:2**.

Joseph worked with honesty. But he noticed his big brothers often doing and saying bad things. He tried to tell them to do the right thing but they wouldn't listen.

Father Jacob was thankful Joseph was a kind and honest son he could trust. One day Jacob decided to give Joseph a gift to show his love. Heading out into the field, Jacob brought in some sheep, clipped off their fluffy wool, and began twirling and whirling it into long threads. Then Jacob dipped the threads in little clay pots of colorful dye.

When the wool dried then the fun really began! Over and under, up and down, Jacob wove the wool. Slowly and carefully he wove a bright, beautiful coat for Joseph.

Finished! Proudly Jacob gave Joseph the special gift. Joseph's mouth opened wide in surprise! It was so beautiful. He couldn't believe it was his! He gave his father a big thank-you hug.

I Wonder

- » What gift has someone given you to show they care for you?
- » What gifts does God give you to show how much He loves you?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you remember that He cares for you.

Do

Cut strips of colorful paper. Make a paper weaving craft together to remind you of God's bright, beautiful love. (See template on the website.)

Memory Verse





Wednesday

A Strange Dream

Joseph wandered the fields wearing his new special coat. It was his favorite thing to wear. It had long sleeves and so many beautiful colors.

But his big brothers didn't like the coat at all. They whispered jealous words to each other. Their father hadn't made them a coat of beautiful colors! It made them angry. "So they hated their brother and could not speak to him politely" (Genesis 37:4, ICB). Poor Joseph!

One night tired Joseph took off his favorite coat, folded it carefully, and put it in a safe spot. Then lying down, he quickly fell fast asleep. As Joseph slept, God gave him a dream. It was a very strange dream. When he woke up, he kept thinking about it. It was so real! He wondered what it might mean. He wanted to talk to someone about it.

"Listen to the dream I had," he began to tell his big brothers (Genesis 37:6, ICB). What did he say next? Read **Genesis 37:7**.

The brothers were mad! Their wheat bundles bowed down to Joseph's wheat bundle? Never! "Do you really think you will be king over us?" they said to their little brother. How dare he try to be the boss! "His brothers hated him even more now" (Genesis 37:8, ICB).

It must have been hard and confusing for Joseph. But even though his brothers were mean and angry, he had a big Friend to care for him. The Bible says, ". . . casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

I Wonder

- » Why were Joseph's brothers angry?
- » Who can you talk to when others are angry or unkind?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He cares about everything we say.

Do

Go outside and collect some things from nature. Use these to make a thank-you card for someone who is always there to listen and care for you. With help you might like to write in it: "Thank you for always caring for me!"

Memory Verse

Thursday

Another Dream!

Joseph thought about his dream as he rolled up his bedroll. He worried about it as he fed the lambs and when he mended the fence. His dream was on his mind all the time!

Then, under the light of another silvery moon, Joseph had another dream. In the morning he got up even more confused. He decided to tell his brothers about it again.

"Listen," he told them, "I had another dream. I saw the sun, moon and 11 stars bowing down to me" (Genesis 37:9, ICB).

Joseph's brothers glared at him. Did he say 11 stars? Joseph had 11 brothers! Their faces turned so red they looked like a volcano ready to explode!

Joseph's brothers already thought that their father treated Joseph like he was the best. Now it sounded like Joseph thought he was the best too!

Feeling even more confused, Joseph also told his father about his dream. What did Jacob say to Joseph? Read **Genesis 37:10**.

But old Jacob couldn't help but wonder about this dream. He scratched his head and thought long and hard. God had given him a very special dream once, long ago. Maybe God was trying to tell Joseph something too.

When you are puzzled about something, don't let it upset you. Remember to give it to Jesus, "... casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

I Wonder

- » Have you ever had an interesting or unusual dream?
- » Did you tell someone about it? How did they respond?
- » Why do you think God gave these dreams to Joseph?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you trust Him even when you don't understand what is happening.

Do

Put a puzzle together. Notice how one piece on its own doesn't often make sense, but once together, all the pieces make a big, beautiful picture. God cares for you and sees the big picture all the time!

Memory Verse





Friday

He Cares for Me!

Five-year-old Oliver had worries. Sometimes the worries started because of a bad dream or a windy thunderstorm. Other times, Oliver worried that he might get lost in the store or that his friends wouldn't choose him to be on their football team.

Can you think of some things that Jacob or Joseph may have worried about in this week's story?

Can you think about something that you sometimes worry about?

Our memory verse tells us to "cast" all our worries on God. It's an old word that tells us what fishermen do with their nets. They don't just drop them into the water or weakly let them go, they give a *really* big, strong throw, so the net spreads out and catches lots of fish.

Practice throwing a blanket over your bed. You'll have to give it a big throw to make sure it lands really flat and not crumpled. That's what God wants you to do with your worries—throw them to Him!

How many of your worries does God ask you to throw his way?

Read **1 Peter 5:7**.

So the next time you are scared or worried, remember that your big, strong God loves and cares for you. Pray to Him and tell Him all about it. "Give your worries to the Lord. He will take care of you" (Psalm 55:22, ICB).

I Wonder

» What could you say to a friend next time they are worried about something?

Prayer Idea

Whisper a worry to Jesus. In a loud voice, thank Him for caring for you.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw a picture of something that reminds you that God cares for you. Maybe it is something He has done or something He has given you. Glue your picture in the family journal.

For You, Parents

"In the humble round of toil, the very weakest, the most obscure, may be workers together with God and may have the comfort of His presence and sustaining grace. They are not to weary themselves with busy anxieties and needless cares. Let them work from day to day, accomplishing faithfully the task that God's providence assigns, and He will care for them" (Ellen G. White, *God's Amazing Grace*, p. 116).

Sabbath

Joseph's Beautiful Coat

Joseph was different from his brothers. He had a special friendship with God that made him kind, happy, and caring of others. He loved to choose God's way of doing things. He was respectful and thoughtful with his words.

To do this, you'll need,

- a brown paper grocery bag
- scissors
- glue
- colored paper strips

Make a coat of many colors, then put it on, and act as Joseph would.

1. Cut out the bottom of the bag. On one of the wider sides, cut from the top to bottom to make the front opening. Cut a circle on each of the shorter sides for armholes.
2. Provide glue and colored strips of paper and invite your child to cover the surface with the colors.
3. Leave it to dry while you read the story of Joseph from your favorite lesson, the Bible, or a Bible story book.
4. Then invite your child to put on the coat and respond to questions or situations politely and with kindness, just as Joseph would have done.



You may like to use such questions/situation prompts as:

- What do you think of your coat, Joseph?
- Mother Leah is carrying a big pot of water. What will you do, Joseph?
- Supper is now finished. What will you do, Joseph?
- There are three little lambs without a mommy. They are thirsty and bleating. What can you do, Joseph?
- Benjamin has tripped on a stone and fallen down. How will you help, Joseph?



Sold!

Big Idea: God is with me. I can be brave.

● Memory Verse

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10).

Word of the Week

"Courage" - Courage is being able to do something even when it seems scary or hard. To have courage is to be brave. When we have our big, strong God by our side, we can be filled with courage knowing He will help us.

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 37:12-35** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 210-214.

Sunday

Happy to Help

Joseph swung the hammer at the tent peg. *Ting. Ting. Ting.* He paused and listened. *Someone was calling for him. It sounded like Father Jacob.* Carefully Joseph returned the hammer and raced toward his father's tent.

Jacob laughed as Joseph burst through the doors of the tent with a big grin. Joseph was always so quick to obey. It made him happy to see his son being so honest and eager to help. Then Jacob's smile faded. He remembered why he had called Joseph. He was worried.

It wasn't another wobbly tent peg that worried Jacob. He was worried about his older sons. They had been looking after the sheep in far-away fields for a long time. *Were they safe? Were they well and happy?*

"Go and see if your brothers and the sheep are all right. Then come back and tell me," Jacob said to Joseph (Genesis 37:14 ICB).

The last time Joseph had seen his 10 older brothers they had been very unkind to him. Would Joseph want to go find them? Read **Genesis 37:13**.

Joseph packed his bag with food, put on his colorful coat, and waved to his father. Then he started his long, lonely trip. But Joseph knew he wasn't really alone because God was always with him. God would give him courage.

God can help you be brave too. He says, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10).

I Wonder

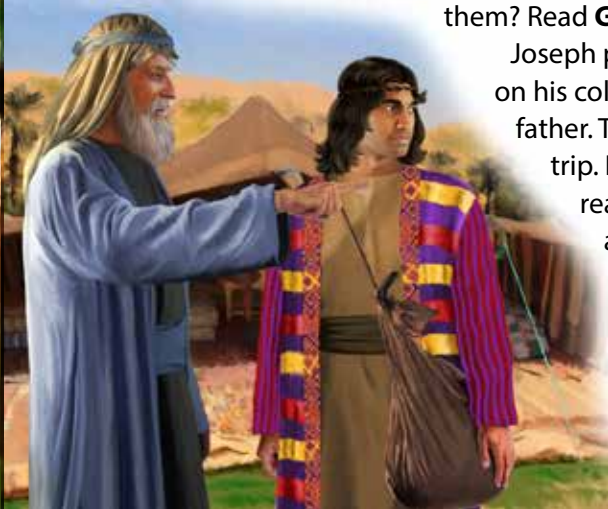
- » If you were Joseph, would you have wanted to help your dad with his work?
- » What do you like to do to help your family?

● Prayer Idea

Thank God that no matter where you are, He is with you.

● Do

Surprise someone in your family by helping them with a job that's useful but not very much fun. Do it with a smile!





Monday

Where are they?

Down the road, over hills, and through big open fields, Joseph walked and walked. The sun was hot, but Joseph didn't slow down. He was happy to help his worried father. He would find his older brothers and their sheep. He would bring back good news to his father, as soon as possible.

Finally after a long, long journey, Joseph arrived in Shechem. But where were his brothers? Where were the sheep? No, not on that hill. No, not in that valley. Walking in a big field, Joseph looked left and he looked right. But nothing. He was so confused. *Where were they?*

Just then a man walked over. He had noticed that Joseph looked lost. He asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?" (Genesis 37:15, ICB).

What did Joseph say to the man? Read **Genesis 37:16**.

Oh, yes! The man had seen the brothers and their flock of sheep. He had even overheard them talking. "I heard them say they were going to Dothan," he answered (Genesis 37:17, ICB).

Dothan would be at least another five or six hours of walking. Joseph could have whined about being tired. He could have stomped his feet and refused to go any further. But Joseph thought about his father's worried frown. He wanted to bring back good news, so his father could smile again. He wanted to make sure his brothers were safe.

Joseph thanked the stranger. Then with courage, he slung his bag over his shoulder and continued down the long path to Dothan.

I Wonder

» What do you think Joseph might have done to help him not give up?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to give you courage and strength to do the right thing, even when it is hard.

Do

Even though Joseph's brothers treated him very unkindly, he still loved and cared for them. Can you think of someone who isn't always friendly or kind to you. Pray for courage and do something nice for them today to show God's love.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

A Scary Surprise

Joseph's brothers sat and watched the sheep munching grass nearby. Suddenly one of the brothers pointed. *What was that moving up ahead?*

It looked like a man coming their way. *Who could it be?* He seemed to walk like Joseph. He even waved like their brother Joseph. Then they saw the colorful coat. It was Joseph!

"Here comes that dreamer," they said to each other (Genesis 37:19, ICB). All their hate and jealousy bubbled up and overflowed like an angry volcano. Right then and there, the brothers decided to get rid of dreamer Joseph and his fancy coat.

Oldest brother Reuben heard their plans. He didn't want Joseph to be hurt. He said to his brothers, "Throw him into this well here in the desert. But don't hurt him!" (Genesis 37:22, ICB). Secretly Reuben planned to rescue him later and take him safely home to Father Jacob.

Joseph ran to greet them with a cheerful grin. But his brothers didn't smile back. They grabbed him and pushed him down. Snatching and tugging they tore something off his back. *Rip!* What was it? Read **Genesis 37:23**.

Then picking Joseph up, "they threw him into the well" (Genesis 37:24, ICB). *Thud.* The well was dry! Joseph landed on the hard ground of the dark, deep empty pit.

God was with Joseph as he sat in the dark, scared and confused. He promises us in the Bible, "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10).

I Wonder

- » Can you think of a time when your anger bubbled over into bad actions?
- » What can help to calm an angry mind?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to give you courage to do the right thing when others around you aren't.

Do

Tonight turn off all the lights. Turn a flashlight or lamp on and off and think of Joseph. Even though he couldn't see in the pit, God could still see and was still with him.

Mission Challenge

Sing a song you have learned at Sabbath School to someone who visits your home, or someone who lives nearby.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

A Terrible Choice

Joseph sat at the bottom of the dark pit, bruised and sore. He cried. His sad feelings hurt even more than the scrapes on his body. How could his brothers be so unkind?

He could hear his brothers talking and laughing as they sat down to eat the food that he had brought for them. Joseph called out for help, but they just ignored him.

As they ate, the brothers noticed a long line of camels coming closer and closer. The smell of spices drifted on the breeze. The camels carried Ishmaelite traders traveling to Egypt to sell spices and other sweet-smelling things.

As they watched, brother Judah came up with an idea. Without hurting Joseph, they could still get rid of him for good. How? Read **Genesis 37:27**.

Big brother Reuben wasn't with them. But the other brothers nodded. Yes! What a great idea. As the traders came closer the brothers waved them down and made a deal to sell their brother. In those days, there was always a wealthy family in Egypt who wanted a slave to work for them. A young, healthy slave would make the traders lots of money.

The brothers reached into the dark pit and pulled poor Joseph out. Then they sold him for 20 pieces of silver.

Joseph couldn't believe it! He knew his life had just changed forever.

I Wonder

- » If you could have told Joseph one thing as he was being led away to Egypt, what would you have said?
- » Maybe you could have shared your memory verse—do you remember it?

Prayer Idea

Pray to God about something that scares you, and ask Him for courage.

Do

Hide some favorite objects behind a bedsheet. Give clues to a family member as to what's there. Can they guess? The objects are there even though we can't see them. God was there for Joseph, even though he couldn't see Him.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Another Choice

Big brother Reuben looked down into the dark hole. He squinted and tried his hardest to see. He had left his brothers just after they had thrown Joseph into the deep pit. Now he'd come back to secretly free his little brother. But where was he? He was gone!

Reuben was so upset! What had his brothers done to poor Joseph?

With tears in his eyes, he raced to find them. The brothers held up their bag of money. Joseph wasn't hurt. They had sold him as a slave!

The brothers had told Reuben the truth. But now they had another choice to make. What would they tell their father? Would they have the courage to tell the truth or not?

All 10 brothers chose to tell a very terrible lie. Picking up Joseph's colorful coat, they dipped it in goat's blood and carried it home. Finding their father, "They said, 'We found this robe. Look it over carefully. See if it's your son's robe'" (Genesis 37:32, ICB).

The brothers let their father believe Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. Poor Father Jacob. What did he do? Read **Genesis 37:34**.

The brothers watched their father cry. He was so sad, no one could comfort him. They realized they had made a big, horrible mistake. But none of them, not even Reuben, had the courage to tell the truth.

I Wonder

- » What should the brothers have done?
- » Can you think of a time when you had the courage to tell the truth about something you did that was wrong?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you always choose to be honest about your mistakes.

Do

Families are for loving. Cut a heart out of paper. Take turns holding the heart as you talk about what you love about each person in your family.

Memory Verse





Friday

Traveling to Egypt

The camels swayed from side to side as they plodded slowly toward Egypt. High up on their backs they carried a load of precious spices and perfumes. Beside them walked the Ishmaelite traders, chatting happily as they walked.

But behind one camel walked a very sad, scared-looking Joseph. He tried to hold in his tears but he couldn't. They blurred his eyes and spilled down his cheeks. He couldn't believe what had happened. His own brothers had sold him as a slave!

The camels plodded on, and so did he. Each slow step took him further away from home. He thought about his loving father and brother Benjamin. Would he ever see them again? Oh how he would miss them! He had never felt so alone.

Then Joseph's heart filled with fear. *How would he be treated as a slave? Would life be hard and miserable?*

In this scary moment, God was very close to Joseph. He reminded him of the stories father Jacob had told him about God, and how He always loves and protects His children. What had God promised Father Jacob?

Read **Genesis 28:15**.

Courage filled Joseph's heart. He wasn't alone after all. God was with him, wherever he went—even faraway Egypt.

The Bible says, "When I am afraid, I will trust you. I praise God for his word. I trust God. So I am not afraid" (Psalm 56:3, 4, ICB). And that is exactly what Joseph decided to do!

Parent Faith Talk

Tell about a time when you were in a new or uncomfortable situation and you decided to trust God.

I Wonder

- » Can you think of a time when you felt scared?
- » What can you do the next time you are worried about something?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that you can be brave knowing God is always with you.

Memory Verse



Family Journal

Draw a picture of an animal that reminds you of courage. Glue it into your family journal. Pray for God to fill you with the courage and bravery of Joseph.






For You, Parents


"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God"
(Corrie Ten Boom).




Brave Bella and the Beehive




One hot afternoon Natasha, who was  years old, headed off down the dusty  with her best friend Bella.


Bella was a , and they  each other very much.



The tall  along the  was growing , and there were wild  growing amongst the . Natasha and Bella


stopped along the way to pick and eat the . They hadn't walked



far when Natasha's  accidentally stepped on a  that was hidden in the .


Suddenly an  swarm of  zoomed out of the . The buzzing grew

louder and louder, and Natasha was stung several times before Bella the 


pushed her aside and lay down on top of the . This kept most of the 

trapped inside, but the  that had already escaped began stinging Bella the

. Natasha screamed for help, and her mother came racing out with a  and

an insect fogger. Poor Bella the  spent a few days at the animal hospital, but

eventually came home a hero.

Poor Joseph must have felt as if he'd been thrown to the  when he was sold as a slave.

But he chose to be brave like Bella the , because He knew God was with Him. We

must remember that no matter what problems we face, we can have courage, knowing God is

always with us too.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will

strengthen you, yes, I will help you" (Isaiah 41:10).

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eight



road



dog



loved



grass



brown



strawberries



foot



beehive



angry



bees



blanket

A New Life in Egypt

Big Idea: God is with me. He helps me to make good choices.

● Memory Verse

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men” (Colossians 3:23).

Word of the Week

“Choose” - To choose is to decide to do something. God loves you so much, he lets you make choices. He wants you to choose to love and follow Him, because His ways are best!

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 39:1-20** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 214-218.

Sunday

Sold Again!

When Joseph closed his eyes, he could still imagine the green hills of his home. But those hills were now far, far away. The brothers who had sold him as a slave, and his father and Benjamin, were far away too.

Joseph tried not to cry. Instead, he opened his eyes wide. There was so much to see! After walking down dusty roads and through sandy deserts, he had come to the big city. He was finally in Egypt.

The traders led the camels through noisy, busy streets. Joseph walked behind, with his hands tied together. He watched everything closely. The people were so different. They spoke words he didn't understand, and they wore clothes he had never seen before. Joseph looked up at the tall palaces and great statues. It looked like a very rich city.

Finally the camels stopped. The traders untied Joseph and led him through the busy marketplace. He stood still as the traders began talking to the people nearby.

Joseph couldn't believe it—he was being sold again! His heart beat

fast. He was nervous but he knew God would be with him. The Bible tells us, “The Lord will give strength to his people; the Lord will bless His people with peace” (Psalm 29:11). That's just what Joseph needed!

Money jingled, heads nodded, and Joseph was sold. Who had bought him? Read **Genesis 39:1**.

I Wonder

» What do you think life will be like for Joseph in Egypt?

● Prayer Idea

Thank God that even when we are in new places, He is with us.

● Do

With the help from a grown up, look up images of ancient Egypt on the internet or in a library book.



Monday

A New Home

Potiphar was very rich. As captain in the king's army, he had lots of money, servants, idols, animals, and land. And now he had bought a new slave named Joseph.

No one in Potiphar's home believed in the one true God except for Joseph. Every day Joseph would have to choose. Would he choose to worship God or idols? Would he choose to be honest or steal? Would he work hard or would he be lazy?

Joseph decided to always follow God's ways and worship Him. He would be honest and work hard to please His loving God. The Bible says, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:23).

Joseph began to work hard for Potiphar. With a sweep and a swish of a broom, Joseph cleaned the dusty corners that no one noticed. With a wash and a wipe, he cleaned away the dust hiding under the furniture. With a big groan, Joseph lifted heavy sacks of grain onto his aching back. He faithfully did his best in everything.

The people in the palace liked having Joseph around. He was always kind and helpful. It wasn't long before someone else noticed Joseph's hard work too. Who was it? Read the first part of **Genesis 39:4**.

In fact, he liked and trusted Joseph so much that he treated him like his own son. From a slave to a son! God was definitely blessing and helping Joseph.

I Wonder

- » What good choices did Joseph make each day?
- » What is a good choice you have made today?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for giving us the strength to make good choices.

Mission Challenge

Invite a friend to Sabbath School in two weeks' time—week 9!

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time God helped you to make a good choice, even when it was hard.



Tuesday

Everyday Choices

Joseph woke up early with a stretch, a smile, and a prayer. Back in Canaan, he had worshipped God each day with his family. Though now far from home, he still worshipped God.

As a slave, Joseph didn't get to choose what to do each day. He had to work very hard and he didn't get paid. But Joseph chose to do his best and be kind to others.

Potiphar woke up early too. Every morning he would kneel down to pray to his idols made of stone, wood, or gold. These idols couldn't hear, see, help, or love him.

As time went by Potiphar noticed that Joseph was different. He saw that he was kind, honest, and hardworking. He didn't talk to idols. Instead Joseph always prayed to an invisible God.

Potiphar soon realized something amazing about this invisible God. What was it? Read **Genesis 39:3**.

Joseph was different because of God's love! Potiphar knew he could trust a good worker who was being helped by a powerful, living God. So Potiphar "put Joseph in charge of the house. Joseph was trusted with everything Potiphar owned" (Genesis 39:4,5, ICB).

Joseph had become very important. He learned to be organized and to lead the other workers kindly. He also got to meet clever men from Pharaoh's palace who taught him many things. God was helping Joseph become a great leader.

I Wonder

- » How did Joseph show he loved and obeyed God?
- » How did God show that He loved and helped Joseph?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you choose to be kind and thoughtful today.

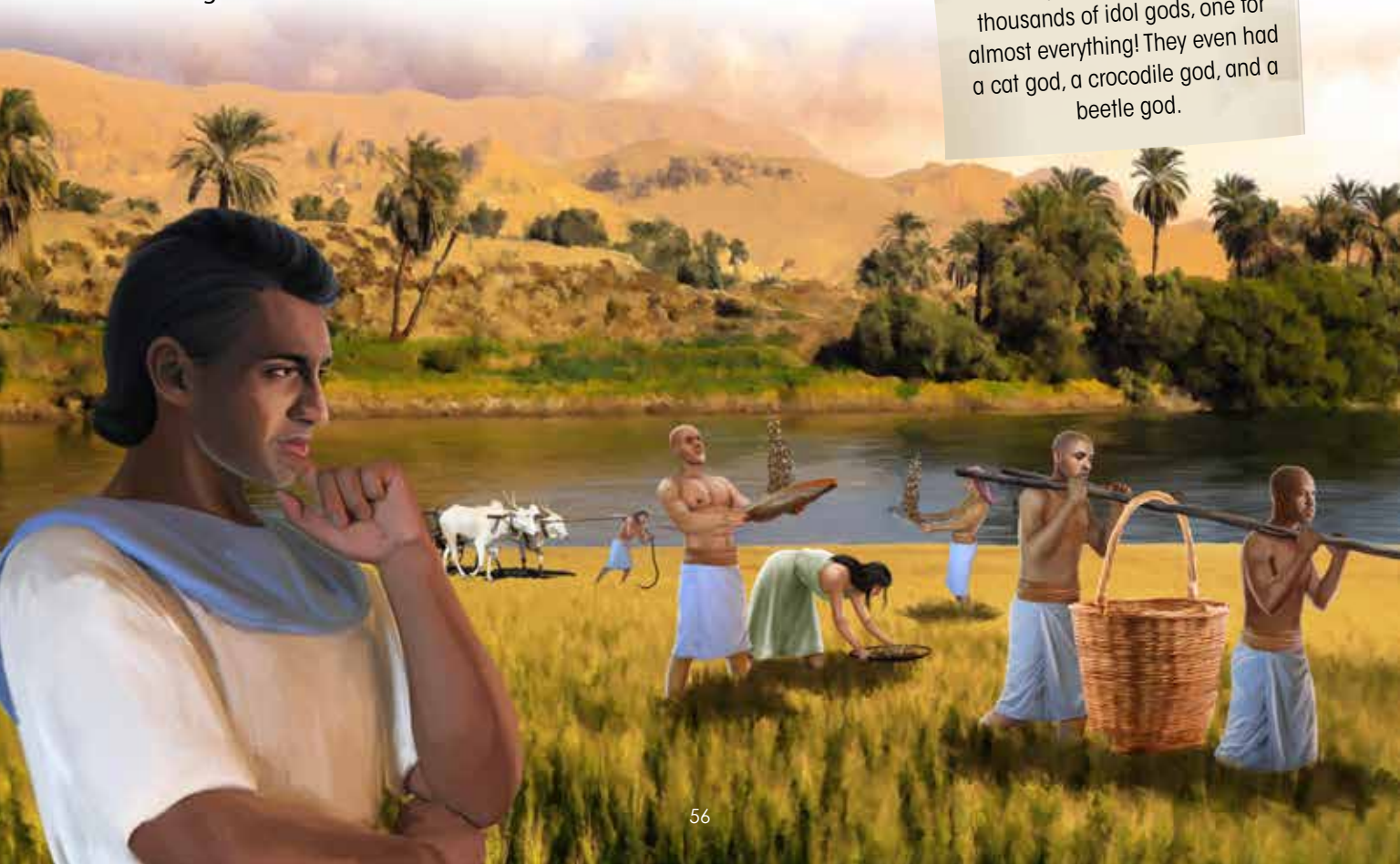
Do

Sing "This Little Light of Mine."

Memory Verse

Fast Fact

The people in Egypt had thousands of idol gods, one for almost everything! They even had a cat god, a crocodile god, and a beetle god.





Wednesday

A Big Lie

Help! A loud scream came from inside Potiphar's home. The servants and soldiers came running. They found Potiphar's wife looking very upset. With pretend tears, she told them a story. It was a big made-up story. She said that Joseph had tried to hurt her.

Kind, hardworking Joseph? Joseph shook his head. He hadn't hurt anyone!

But Potiphar's wife kept lying. She was not a nice lady. She had asked Joseph to do something very bad, and he had said no. She didn't like that one bit! So she pretended that Joseph had hurt her so he would get into big trouble. What a horrible thing to do!

She told the lie to her husband. Potiphar had always trusted Joseph's honest words and good choices. But this story sounded bad! Potiphar "became very angry" (Genesis 39:19, ICB). What did Potiphar do next? Read **Genesis 39:20**.

Oh, no! Joseph hadn't done anything wrong. He didn't deserve to go to prison.

Thankfully God knew the truth. He knew Joseph had made the right choice. He knew that Potiphar's wife was lying. As Joseph was dragged away God was close to him. He would give Joseph the strength to continue to do what was right, even in prison.

I Wonder

- » Has anyone ever told a lie about you?
- » What did you choose to do?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help us trust Him, even when things seem unfair.

Do

Retell the story of Joseph in Egypt so far. Try to use the word "choose" as much as you can.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Shining in the Darkness

The soldier held Joseph's arm tightly and shoved him roughly into the prison room. What did the soldier do next? Read **Psalm 105:18**.

Then the guard walked out and slammed the door with a bang. Joseph listened quietly as the jangling keys locked the door.

How quickly his life had changed! He had been in charge of Potiphar's big, rich home and now this. Joseph looked around the dark and dusty jail. God had helped him make good choices. He had lived "the kind of life that honors and pleases the Lord in every way" (Colossians 1:10, ICB). But somehow he had ended up in prison.

Joseph had a choice to make as he sat quietly thinking. He could choose to be cross and complain. He could choose to yell, "That's not fair!" and stomp his feet. But Joseph chose to live for God and please Him.

Joseph knew that God was with him. He decided to show others God's love. When the soldiers were mean, Joseph chose to be kind. When the prisoners complained, Joseph chose to smile and say encouraging, happy words. He was like a light shining in that dark prison.

I Wonder

» Can you think of the different people in Egypt who Joseph has shined God's beautiful light to so far?

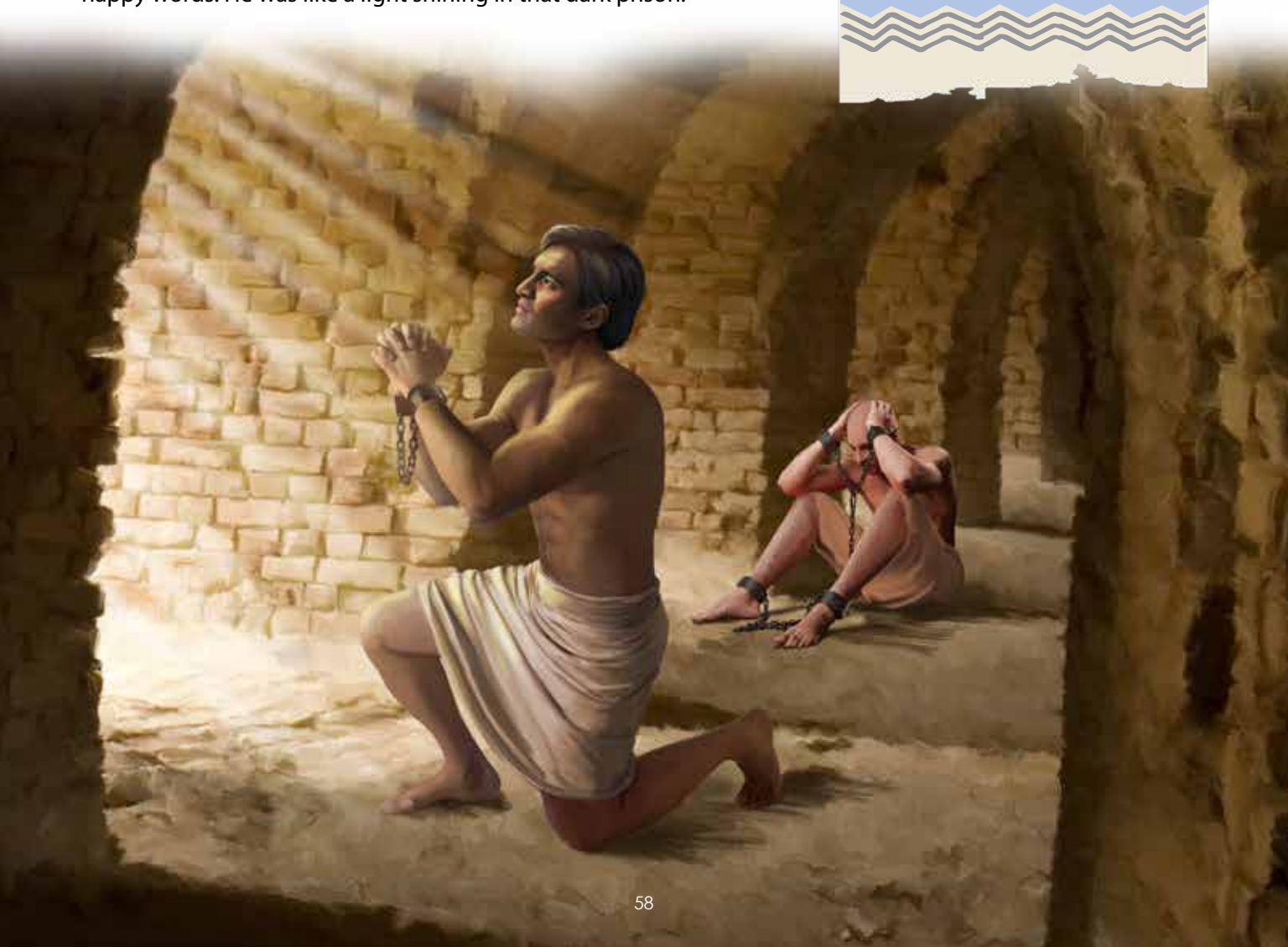
Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to choose thankfulness today.

Do

Shine God's light this week by calling someone up on the phone and encouraging them with kind words.

Memory Verse





Friday

Choosing to Trust

Joseph wrapped a prisoner's hurt arm and gave him a smile. It was good to be useful. If a prisoner complained about being hungry, Joseph shared his food. If a prisoner felt lonely or sad, Joseph spoke kind and encouraging words. If the floor was dirty, Joseph asked for a broom and swept it clean.

Joseph had made a choice to live for God, even in prison. The Bible tells us, "And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men" (Colossians 3:23).

It wasn't long before the soldier in charge of the prison noticed Joseph's honesty and helpfulness. "The Lord caused the prison warden to like Joseph" (Genesis 39:21, ICB). What did the prison warden do? Read **Genesis 39:22**.

The warden could see Joseph's kindness shining like a light! He could see his kindness was "because the Lord was with him" (Genesis 39:23).

Because of this, the prison warden totally trusted Joseph. He didn't even check if Joseph's jobs were done properly, he just knew they would be! "The Lord made Joseph successful in everything he did" (Genesis 39:23, ICB). What a faithful God!

I Wonder

» What jobs might you choose to do today to be helpful and kind?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit, who gives us the strength to make good choices every day.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Have everyone in the family draw a line down the middle of a piece of paper. On one half draw a time Joseph chose to do something God's way. On the other half draw a picture of a time, this week, when you chose to do something God's way too. Glue them into your family journal. Finish by reciting your memory verse.

For You, Parents

"It's not what happens to you, but how you react to it that matters" (Epictetus). How wonderful that God has given us the power of choice.

Bouncing Back

How high can you bounce or jump? A red kangaroo can jump nearly 10 feet high! That means with one leap he could land on the roof of a minibus without any problem. That's a pretty impressive bounce, isn't it?

Find a ball and four other objects that won't break when you drop them, and go outside (e.g., rice in a sock tied off).

Now guess whether the objects you have will bounce back at you or just drop to the ground, go "splat," and stay there. Test each one. Were your guesses correct?

Sometimes people are like the objects that bounce. They might feel sad for a while when a sad thing happens and drop down low just as your ball did. But then they bounce back and feel good again. These "bounce" people are strong [resilient], just as Joseph was.

We all have times we go "splat" and hit a sad or tough time, but this is not where God wants us to stay. He is strong, and when we choose to have Him by our side, we can bounce again.



Miracles in Prison

Big Idea: God is with me. He can do amazing things.

● **Memory Verse**
*"For You are great,
 and do wondrous
 things; You alone are
 God" (Psalm 86:10).*

Word of the Week

"Amazing" - When something is amazing it is very surprising, and makes you feel full of wonder. Think about a rainbow in the sky—that's so amazing it makes you say, "Wow!" The things God has made for us, like our eyes to see and minds to learn new things, are also amazing. But best of all is God's big, big love—it's amazing!

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 40, 41**; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 218-223; and *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, pp. 133-138.

Sunday

Puzzled Prisoners

The guard's keys jingled and jangled as he walked past the prison doors. Joseph opened his eyes and smiled. It was a new day in prison. He bowed his head and thanked God for giving him peace and love in his heart.

Joseph had been chosen to "take care of all the prisoners" (Genesis 39:22, ICB). It kept him very busy and made him happy too.

But this morning Joseph noticed two other prisoners were not happy at all! One was a butler, whose job was to serve Pharaoh drinks. The other was a baker, who had cooked fresh bread for the Pharaoh. Pharaoh had become angry with the men and put them in prison.

Kindly, Joseph asked the two men, "Why do you look so unhappy today?" (Genesis 40:7, ICB). The men said, "We both had dreams last night. But no one can explain the meaning of them to us" (Genesis 40:8, ICB).

Strange dreams? Joseph knew what it was like to wake up feeling puzzled by an unusual dream!

Could Joseph help explain the butler and the baker's dreams? He would need to know their thoughts and the future to be able to do that! Who is the only One who could do something so amazing? Read **Psalm 86:10**.

"Joseph said to them, 'God is the only One who can explain the meaning of dreams. So tell me your dreams'" (Genesis 40:8, ICB).

He wanted them to know that his God could do amazing and impossible things. His God could help them!

I Wonder

- » Can you remember Joseph's two dreams? What were they?
- » Can you think of two amazing things that God can do that we can't?

● Prayer Idea

Thank God for the amazing things that only He can do.

● Do

Look very closely and carefully at a flower. Try to draw every little thing you see. Isn't it amazing!





Monday

Dreams Revealed!

The butler and the baker were amazed by Joseph's words. His God could tell them the meaning of their strange dreams!

Quickly the butler began. "I dreamed I saw a vine. On the vine there were three branches" (Genesis 40:9-10, ICB). Sweet, juicy grapes had grown on the branches. He had then picked the grapes and squeezed them into a cup for Pharaoh to drink.

As Joseph listened, God did something amazing! He showed Joseph what the strange dream meant. What did Joseph say? Read **Genesis 40:13**.

The butler's eyes opened wide and his grin grew big. He would be free! What wonderful news.

Seeing the smiling butler, the baker was excited to tell his dream to Joseph too. "I dreamed there were three bread baskets on my head" (Genesis 40:16, ICB). The baskets were piled high with delicious baked food for the king. But birds swooped down and began eating the food instead.

When the baker finished telling Joseph the dream, God did something amazing again. He showed Joseph what this dream meant too. This time Joseph's eyes misted with sadness as he told the baker that he would not serve the Pharaoh again. Sadly, in three days he would die.

Three days later the baker died, and the butler went back to his job in the palace. God knows exactly what will happen tomorrow, next year, and ten years from now! Psalm 139:6 (ICB) says, "Your knowledge is amazing to me."

I Wonder

- » Do you know exactly what you are going to be doing in three days' time?
- » Why does God know everything? Say your memory verse.

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He can see everything, even if it hasn't happened yet.

Mission Challenge

Pray with your family for the friend you have invited to Sabbath School this week.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Waiting, Waiting . . .

The butler stood perfectly still and waited. Finally Pharaoh cleared his throat. Then looking at the butler, he gave a tiny nod. Quickly and carefully the butler carried the king's cup and jug to his side. Then he poured the drink without spilling a drop. He was so happy to be back in the palace, serving the king!

Joseph's God had told him the meaning of his dream. And it had come true! The butler had bowed and thanked Joseph, over and over.

Before he left the prison, Joseph had said to him, "When you are free, remember me. Be kind to me. Tell the king about me so that I can get out of this prison. . . . I have done nothing here to deserve being put in prison" (Genesis 40:14,15, ICB).

Joseph waited for good news from the butler—surely he would be free soon too! He waited . . . and waited . . . and waited. For two whole years Joseph waited. What a long time to be waiting!

What had happened to the butler? Read **Genesis 40:23**.

Back in the beautiful palace, the butler had forgotten him. He had forgotten that Joseph had helped him and was still stuck in prison.

But God hadn't forgotten Joseph!

I Wonder

- » Joseph had to learn patience in prison. How patient are you?
- » Who can help you become more patient?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He never forgets anything except forgiven sins!

Do

Sometimes when things are happy for us, it's easy to forget others who are hurting. Make a gift for a hurting friend—a drawing, song, or treat to eat—to remind them that you care.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share an experience/miracle where God used His all-knowing power to help you or a friend.





Wednesday

The Pharaoh's Dream

Pharaoh sat up in bed and rubbed his head. *What a strange dream*, he thought. He had just dreamt that seven fat cows had walked up out of the Nile River to munch on green grass. They were followed by seven hungry, thin cows. The thin cows ate the fat cows but stayed skinny. How very strange!

With a big sigh, he lay back down. The night was still very dark. He closed his eyes and fell asleep.

Again Pharaoh woke suddenly. His heart beat fast, as he looked around the darkness. He'd just had *another* strange dream! This time seven hungry, thin stalks of wheat had eaten seven healthy, fat stalks of wheat.

A dream about hungry cows eating cows and now hungry wheat eating wheat. *What could it possibly mean?*

He would find out! With a shout, he called for all the magicians and wise men of Egypt to come to him at once. He told them his dreams—what did they mean?

The palace fell silent. The wise men didn't know! "... no one could explain their meaning to him" (Genesis 41:8, ICB).

Who is the only One amazing enough to explain dreams? Read **Genesis 40:8**.

Suddenly the king's butler remembered Joseph's words! He remembered Joseph's amazing God. And he remembered Joseph was still in prison.

The butler quickly told the king all about Joseph and his dreams. The butler had forgotten to help Joseph, but God had not forgotten Joseph. He never forgets.

I Wonder

- » Who do you think sent Pharaoh his dreams?
- » Who might help Pharaoh find out what they mean?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He can do amazing things to help us when we can't help ourselves.

Do

The number seven was very important in these dreams. Say your memory verse seven times to help you remember it.

Memory Verse

Thursday

God's Amazing Answer

Joseph could hardly believe his ears. Pharaoh, King of Egypt, wanted to see him!

His mind swirled with questions as the soldiers rushed him from the prison toward the king's palace. What a surprising day! A servant gave him a haircut and some new clean clothes. Then as quick as a wink, Joseph, the slave and prisoner, was standing before the most important man in Egypt.

The king looked worried. He'd had two very strange dreams and no one could tell him what they meant. Could his butler's friend from prison help? What did Pharaoh say to Joseph? Read **Genesis 41:15**.

Joseph quickly shook his head. He said to the king, "I am not able to explain the meaning of dreams. God will do this for the king" (Genesis 41:16, ICB).

Joseph wanted everyone, even Pharaoh, to know his amazing God. He believed what it says in Psalm 86:10, "For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God."

Joseph listened quietly as Pharaoh told him his dreams. Then God gave him the meaning. Joseph said, "Both of these dreams mean the same thing. . . . God is showing the king what He is about to do. You will have seven years of good crops and plenty to eat in all the land of Egypt. But after those seven years, there will come seven years of hunger" (Genesis 41:25, 28-30, ICB).

God had helped Joseph explain the dream. What an amazing God He is!

I Wonder

- » How did God help Joseph when he was in prison?
- » How did God help Joseph in front of the king?
- » Do you think God will help Joseph in the future too? Why?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He loves and cares for you now and always.

Do

With a parent, visit ADRA international online (adra.org) to discover which countries have very hungry people that need help now. Choose one, find it on a map, and work out a plan for a way to give.

Memory Verse





Friday

A Plan to Save Egypt!

The king listened carefully as Joseph told him the good news and very bad news. There would be seven years of good times with lots of food. Then seven years of no rain and no food. Oh, no! The people of Egypt would be terribly hungry!

Pharaoh took a deep breath and frowned. But he didn't need to worry. God had a plan to save this king, this mighty country, and His friend Joseph.

Joseph told Pharaoh God's plan. It started with a man. "So let the king choose a man who is very wise and understanding. Let the king set him over the land of Egypt" (Genesis 41:33, ICB).

What would this wise man be in charge of organizing? Read **Genesis 41:34-36**.

The king smiled. What a good idea! He said, "Can we find a better man than Joseph to take this job? God's spirit is truly in him!" (Genesis 41:38, ICB). All the king's wise men and helpers agreed.

In a loud voice, the king said, "I will put you in charge of my palace. All the people will obey your orders. Only I will be greater than you" (Genesis 41:40, ICB).

Joseph was no longer a prisoner or slave—he was the Governor of Egypt! Only our loving God could do such an amazing thing. The Bible says, "For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God" (Psalm 86:10).

I Wonder

- » Why did Pharaoh give Joseph such an important job?
- » What do you think Pharaoh might have learned about God?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that there is nothing He cannot do. Sing "My God Is So Big" or another praise song together.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw a picture of something that reminds you of how amazing God is. Maybe it is something in nature, a Bible story, or something God has done for you this week. Share together and glue in your family journal.

For You, Parents

"The trial will not exceed the strength that shall be given us to bear it. Then let us take up our work just where we find it, believing that whatever may come, strength proportionate to the trial will be given" (Ellen G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 125).

Doctor Livingstone, Faithful Until the Job Is Done

Dr. Livingstone loved God. He loved people too. And when God showed him that he could be a doctor and a missionary, he was so excited! He could help people learn about Jesus and feel better.

He left his home in England and went to live in Africa. This was around 200 years ago. It took a very long time for him to get to Africa. And he couldn't take many things with him. But he was so happy to be helping people.

Dr. Livingstone worked for many, many years. Sometimes he didn't have enough medicine to help people get better when they were sick, but he kept doing his best—day after day.

For a time Dr. Livingstone lived in a little hut in Ujiji in the middle of the African jungle. One day he was feeling very low. He was very sick. He had no food, no more medicine, nor any money to get any.

Suddenly his servant Susi ran into his tent crying, "An Englishman is here, Master! An Englishman has come!"

God had sent a man to help him. His name was Mr. Stanley. He brought food and medicine to Dr. Livingstone and looked after him until he was better again.

Mr. Stanley said to Dr. Livingstone, "Dr. Livingstone, you are tired. Come with me back to England so you can have a good vacation. You have worked too hard for too long."

"No," Dr. Livingstone said, and shook his head. "My work here is not finished. I need to work here until the job is done."

Dr. Livingstone didn't give up. He was faithful. He wouldn't give up until his work was finished.

Joseph really wanted to get out of prison, but like Dr. Livingstone, he did his best every day in the place where he was until his work was done.

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The New Governor

Big Idea: God is with me. He gives me everything I need.

● Memory Verse
"And my God shall supply all your need"
 (Philippians 4:19).

Word of the Week
"Supply" - Supply means to provide, or to give what is needed. When someone gives you lunch, they supply food. God gives us what we need because He loves us. God supplies us with many things, like rain, sunshine, fresh air, and the food we need to live.

This week's lesson
 is based on **Genesis 41:53-42:38**; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 218, 219; and *The Spirit of Prophecy*, vol. 1, pp. 138-144.

Sunday

A New Job

His frown was gone. His worries were gone too. Pharaoh stood tall and smiled at his new governor, Joseph. Joseph's God had told him the meaning of his strange dreams. And now this wise man and his wise God would help save his kingdom.

"Look! I have put you in charge of all the land of Egypt" the king said to Joseph (Genesis 41:41, ICB).

Pharaoh took off his royal ring and slid it onto Joseph's finger. This ring was like Pharaoh's signature. With this ring, Joseph could do anything the king would do!

With a clap of his hands, Pharaoh called for his servants. Quickly they ran to get everything he asked for. Then they dressed Joseph in fancy robes and put a shiny golden chain around his neck.

Joseph didn't look like a slave or a prisoner anymore. He had been given the power of a king, and now he looked like one too. What else did the king do so that all the people would know Joseph was an important leader? Read **Genesis 41:43**.

Pharaoh gave Joseph all the things he would need to be a leader. God would supply all the wisdom he would need to be a good leader. God had helped him when he'd been thrown in a pit, sold as a slave, and put in prison. He would help him now too.

Joseph looked at his chariots and horses, his army of helpers, and his smiling king. He knew the truth of our memory verse: "And my God shall supply all your need" (Philippians 4:19).

I Wonder

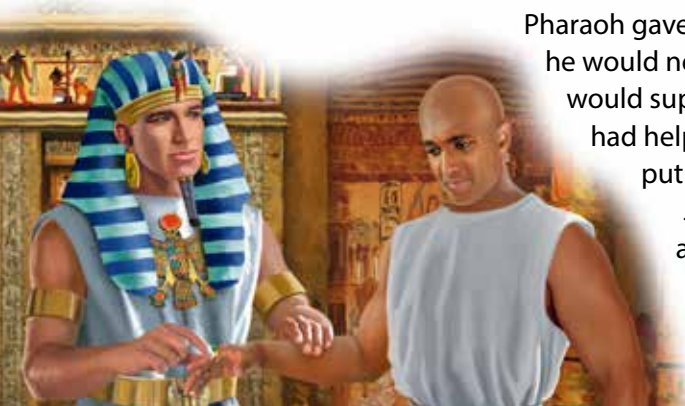
» Do you think Joseph would be a good leader? Why/why not?

● Prayer Idea

Thank God for two things that He gives you each day.

● Do

Pretend to be Governor Joseph and dress up. What things might you need to be a good leader? Find/make them. Thank God that He supplies all we really need.





Monday

More Than Enough

His list was long—he had a lot to do! He must prepare Egypt for a time when they couldn't grow any food.

With a quick bow to the king, Joseph left the palace right away. Then he “traveled through all the land of Egypt” (Genesis 41:46, ICB). He counted the fields of wheat and barley. He chose good leaders and strong helpers. Then he had bricks made and giant storehouses built in all the cities. What was Joseph doing? Read **Genesis 41:48**.

God had told Joseph that there would be seven good years with plenty of food. During this time, he would need to store lots and lots of food away. Then there would be enough food in the storehouses to feed everyone during the next seven bad years.

Like busy little ants, Joseph's helpers did whatever he asked. The builders built, the farmers planted and harvested, and the helpers carried the extra grain straight to the storehouses in each city.

One, two, three, four years passed. The storehouses were now half full. Then five, six, seven years went by. Joseph smiled as he saw the storehouses filled to the very top. God had supplied so much more than they needed! Joseph stored away as much grain “as the sand of the seashore. He stored so much grain that he could not measure it” (Genesis 41:49, ICB).

Joseph's heart filled with thanks to God. The Egyptians were now ready for the seven years of no rain or food that were about to come.

I Wonder

» What might the people of Egypt think of Joseph's God now?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you look after—and never waste—the good things He gives you.

Do

Go for a nature walk. Look for ways that God provides for plants and animals each day. If indoors look through some nature books for clues.

Mission Challenge

Give your Sabbath School craft to a friend and tell them what you learned in Sabbath School last week.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Seven Years of Hunger

With a windy whoosh, the dust blew across Egypt's dry fields. Not a single green leaf could be seen. Not a tiny flower or fruit grew anywhere. The cows and sheep grew thin. The time of no rain and no food had begun—just as God had said it would!

Soon everyone was hungry! Their tummies grumbled. This was terrible! They came to Pharaoh and begged him for food. "Go to Joseph," he told them (Genesis 41:55, ICB).

As people lined up, Joseph swung open the doors to the storehouses. He began selling bags of grain to the hungry families. There was more than enough! God had supplied for all their need (Philippians 4:19).

In far-off Canaan people were hungry too. Joseph's family was very hungry! His brothers all still lived with Father Jacob, looking after their sheep. Their flocks were thin, and grass was hard to find, just as it was in Egypt. Everyone in the family was worried. They were so hungry they thought they might soon die.

But one day Jacob heard some exciting news. What did he tell his sons? Read **Genesis 42:1, 2**.

Maybe they would eat again! Packing some empty sacks for grain, the 10 brothers saddled their donkeys and waved goodbye to Father Jacob, Benjamin, and their families. Then they began the long, dusty ride to Egypt.

I Wonder

» Could God supply the food Joseph's brothers needed? Say your memory verse.

Prayer Idea

Thank God for giving us food.

Do

With a parent, look online for a kids' song version of Psalm 23 and sing along. Or make up your own song to this Psalm. Imagine singing the first part to Joseph's brothers.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Tell of how God has helped you to plan ahead and be a good caretaker (steward), like Joseph. You might talk about food, clothing, saving, gardening, recycling, or reusing.





Wednesday

Dreams Come True!

Governor Joseph looked up from his work to see 10 shepherds walking toward him to buy grain. He bent his head and looked a little closer. Could it be . . . ?

Yes! It was his brothers! There was Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, and Zebulun.

Joseph quickly hid his surprise. His brothers didn't know it was him! Quietly he watched as "they bowed facedown on the ground before him" (Genesis 42:6, ICB).

Suddenly Joseph remembered the dreams he'd had as a boy! In his first dream his brothers' wheat had all bowed down to his. In the next dream the sun, moon, and 11 stars had bowed down to him. He remembered his brothers' angry words: "Do you truly think you will rule over us?" (Genesis 37:8, ICB).

Governor Joseph looked at his brothers carefully. *Were they still angry, jealous men?* He would test them and see.

Joseph frowned. Then he pretended to get very, very upset. He told his brothers he thought they were enemy spies. Had they come to cause trouble for Egypt?

What did the brothers say? Read **Genesis 42:13**.

Were they telling the truth? Yes! Maybe they had changed. Joseph still wasn't sure. He decided to give them another test to find out. He had them put in prison for three days. The brothers were so confused! But God was with them in prison, just like He had been with Joseph.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think the brothers didn't recognize Joseph?
- » Will it be a good or bad thing for Joseph to be a ruler over his brothers, just as in his dreams? Why?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that even when we are confused, we can trust that He loves us and cares for us.

Do

Can you find 12 things that are all alike? Perhaps 12 rocks, flowers, blocks, or . . . socks? God loved all the 12 sons of Jacob. He knew them by name. Do you? They could trust Him with all their needs.

Memory Verse

Thursday

A Surprise Gift

The soldier swung the prison door open with a creak and a clang. Then the 10 brothers were led outside. Quickly, they were marched back to see the Governor. Their hearts pounded. *What would happen to them now?*

Dressed in royal Egyptian clothes, Governor Joseph said to them, "Do this thing, and I will let you live: If you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison. The rest of you go and carry grain back to feed your hungry families" (Genesis 42:18,19, ICB).

But Joseph wasn't finished. He really wanted to see his younger brother Benjamin. Joseph told the brothers they could go home if they promised to bring back Benjamin.

The brothers didn't like this idea one bit! They cared a lot for Benjamin and wanted to keep him safely at home with their father. But they had to agree. Brother Simeon would wait in prison until the other brothers returned with Benjamin.

Then their bags were filled with grain. But that's not all! With whispering words, Joseph told his servants to hide money in the bags of grain. What a kind and generous surprise.

What did the brothers do next? Read **Genesis 42:26**.

As they travelled home the brothers had no idea of the treasure Joseph had hidden inside their bags of grain. God was looking after Joseph's family, just as He looks after you. The Bible says, "And my God shall supply all your need" (Philippians 4:19).

I Wonder

» Why do you think Joseph put money in their bags with the grain?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for always giving us what we need.

Do

Do a secret act of kindness for someone to show God's love. Maybe you could put some money in a mailbox or leave a food hamper at someone's door.

Memory Verse





Friday

Home Again

A shout echoed through the camp. The brothers had returned! With happy hearts and hungry tummies, all the families rushed to greet them. But wait—someone was missing! Where was Simeon?

Quickly, the brothers told their strange story. They had met the great Governor of Egypt and been given lots of grain. But he thought they were spies. They'd been thrown in prison! Simeon was still there, waiting for them to come back with Benjamin.

What a story! What trouble they were in!

Poor Father Jacob watched as the brothers then emptied the grain from their sacks. As it slid out so did their money! "When they and their father saw it, they were afraid" (Genesis 42:35, ICB). *Would the Governor think they'd stolen it? What would happen to them now?*

Big brother Reuben looked at his father bravely. He would take Benjamin back to Egypt and sort out all this confusion. "Trust him to my care. I will bring him back to you," he said (Genesis 42:37, ICB).

The other brothers nodded in agreement. They weren't mean brothers anymore. God had changed them into caring, loving brothers.

What did Father Jacob say? Read **Genesis 42:38**.

The brothers looked at each other sadly. What would they do now? They didn't know. But God did. They could trust Him to supply all their needs.

I Wonder

» Read your memory verse. How had God given Jacob's family what they needed?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He gives us what we need to live, and live happily.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Have each family member draw a picture of something God has given to them. Don't show the others in your family. Ask each other questions to try and guess what each person has drawn. Then glue them to your family journal.

For You, Parents

"He tells us that we must abide with Him and He with us. . . . Trust in Him continually, and doubt not His love. He knows all our weakness and that which we need. He will give us grace sufficient for our day" (Ellen G. White, *Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 191).

A Gift to Share

As Ellen unwrapped the gift, she gasped. It was a beautiful silk dress.

A very expensive dress! Ellen White was a messenger for God. She didn't have much money, but all she had, she used to tell others about Jesus.

Ellen looked at the pretty gift that had come in the mail. It was lovely! She may have noticed pretty lace or ruffles. She may have smiled at a neat line of little buttons or a bow that sat perfectly in place. But Ellen didn't try it on. She knew that this gift was exactly what she needed to help someone else.

Only days before, she had received an urgent message from Brother John Andrews. He and his family were busily sharing the Bible in another country far away. Brother Andrews had told Ellen that they were running out of money. If they were to keep sharing the wonderful message of Jesus, they would need money sent to them as soon as possible. Ellen didn't have much money. She wondered how God would supply the missionaries with what they needed.

As Ellen looked at the silk dress, she knew what to do. Taking it up in her arms, she carried it to a local shopkeeper. She asked him to sell the dress for her, and he agreed. Someone came into the shop, saw the dress, and paid a lot of money for it. The shopkeeper returned the money to Ellen, who then mailed the money to Brother Andrews and his family far away.

Soon others heard about the silk dress and how Ellen had sold it to help the missionary family. They wanted to help missionaries too, so they gave Ellen even more money to share.

Who would have thought that God could use a dress to spread His love around the world?

Ellen trusted God with everything, and you can too. God promises to supply you with what you need, when you need it, because He loves you.



A Family Reunion!

Big Idea: God is with me. He will make everything good in the end.

● Memory Verse

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28).

Word of the Week

“Guide” - Guide means to gently lead. To guide also means to give good advice. God wants to guide us and bless our lives with good things.

This week's lesson

is based on **Genesis 43-46** and *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 227-233.

Sunday

Back to Egypt

Ah, full tummies! What a wonderful feeling. Jacob's family sighed with thankfulness as they munched on their bread, made with the grain from Egypt.

But as time passed the grain began to run out. There was only one thing to do—go back to Egypt and buy some more! But this time, the brothers would need to take Benjamin with them so they could free Simeon and buy grain. Father Jacob shook his head, no. He still missed Joseph so much. He did not want to lose Benjamin too!

Brother Judah stood before their worried father. What did he promise to do? Read **Genesis 43:8, 9**.

What a good big brother! Father Jacob nodded his head slowly. With a prayer he sent all 10 sons back to Egypt. This time their empty sacks were filled with gifts for the governor. They also took money for new grain *and* the money Joseph had hidden in their sacks of grain before.

After a long trip to Egypt the ten brothers came before the Egyptian ruler again. Governor Joseph hid a smile as he noticed his little brother Benjamin was with them. He looked so grown up! With a serious face Joseph asked his servant to take them all to his home for lunch.

The brothers were nervous. Why were they being invited to eat with the Governor? But they had nothing to worry about because God was guiding them. He would make everything good in the end.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think Governor Joseph invited his brothers home for lunch?
- » Which gifts do you think Joseph may have liked the best? Read Genesis 43:11.

● Prayer Idea

Say your memory verse with a “thank You” to God.

● Do

Joseph's brothers still had no idea the governor was their brother. Play a disguising game and see if you can wear other clothes/costumes to hide who you are. Can your family guess who you are?





Monday

A Special Lunch

With a shout of joy Simeon ran to greet the brothers. He was free!

The brothers hugged, and smiled, and hugged some more. They were so grateful the governor had set Simeon free. God was truly looking after them. Together they followed the servant to Joseph's home for lunch.

When the governor arrived home, the brothers gave him their gifts and bowed low on the ground. They still had no idea the governor was their brother, Joseph!

With a kind smile Joseph asked them about their father. They replied, "Your servant our father is in good health; he is still alive" (Genesis 43:28).

What good news—Joseph's father was alive! Then Joseph's eyes met Benjamin's. Here was the little brother he had missed so much. All Joseph's feelings bubbled over. Quickly he rushed out of the room so his brothers couldn't see him cry.

Joseph's servants seated the brothers at a big fancy table. It was a long time since they'd seen so much food in one place. What a treat! The brothers then noticed something even more amazing than the beautiful food. What was it? Read **Genesis 43:33**.

When all the yummy food was served up for the brothers, Joseph did something extra special for his youngest brother. For every one plate of food the big brothers were given, Joseph gave Benjamin five plates of food! Were the brothers jealous or angry? No! They smiled at Benjamin and just kept eating and chatting. Joseph could see that God had changed their hearts. This made Joseph very happy!

I Wonder

- » How did Joseph treat his brothers on this visit?
- » How did the brothers act?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for helping people change their ways.

Do

Invite someone to your house for a meal to show God's kindness.

Mission Challenge

Make something with your family that you can give to a person who visits your home. You could give herbs or flowers you've grown, or a card you've made.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

A Cup of Trouble

Joseph watched his brothers closely as they ate, laughed, and talked together. It really looked like they had changed. He would find out for sure.

Joseph whispered to his most trusted servant, "Fill the men's sacks with as much grain as they can carry. And put each man's money into his sack with the grain" (Genesis 44:1, ICB). Then he told the servant to put one more thing in Benjamin's sack. What was it? Read **Genesis 44:2**.

As soon as the sun rose, the brothers set off for home with heavy sacks and happy hearts. *But wait, what's that noise?* The brothers spun around to see the governor's servant galloping fast towards them. *Oh, no! What was wrong?*

The servant frowned as he pulled his horse to a sudden stop. He accused them of stealing the governor's silver cup.

The brothers shook their heads. They didn't steal his cup! Quickly they let down their sacks to prove it. Starting with Reuben, the servant searched each sack until he came to Benjamin's. There was the silver cup!

Shocked and scared, the brothers were led back to Joseph's house. Bravely Judah stepped forward. He told Joseph all about his father's love for Benjamin. This was a big mix-up! But he would take the blame. He would become a slave, so Benjamin could go free. What a loving thing to do!

I Wonder

» Do you think Joseph's brothers had really changed? Why/why not?

Do

Have a friend or family member hide a plastic or paper cup then give you clues to find it. What a big surprise it was for the brothers to see the "found" cup!

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you be quick to show love and kindness to your family.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time you were in a difficult situation and God turned it into something good.





Wednesday

Punished or Forgiven?

Joseph held his breath in surprise. Brother Judah had just offered his whole life as a slave to free Benjamin. He truly had changed. Joseph couldn't hide any longer. He called for everyone to leave the room except his brothers. Then he burst into tears.

"I am Joseph," he said (Genesis 45:3).

The brothers stared in amazement. *Joseph, whom they had sold as a slave, was now the second most powerful man in Egypt? He must be so angry about what they had done to him! How would he punish them?*

Joseph could see that they were scared. "Come close to me . . . Now don't be worried. Don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you to save people's lives. . . . It was to keep you alive in an amazing way. So it was not you who sent me here, but God" (Genesis 45:4, 5, 7, 8, ICB).

God had guided their lives. He had worked everything out for good: for Joseph, for the people of Egypt, and for Joseph's family. The Bible says, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

What did Joseph ask his brothers to do next? Read **Genesis 45:9-11**.

They would all be together! "Then Joseph kissed all his brothers. He cried as he hugged them" (Genesis 45:15, ICB). What a happy day!

I Wonder

- » Had Joseph forgiven his brothers? Why?
- » Is there someone you need to forgive? Ask God to help you forgive them now.

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He will make everything good in the end for you too.

Do

Make homemade lemonade with water, lemons, and a sprinkle of sugar/honey. God can turn sour, bad situations into sweet goodness.

Memory Verse

Thursday

All Is Forgiven!

The palace echoed with whispers. It was such exciting news. Governor Joseph's brothers were here in Egypt! The whispers spread from the servants to the soldiers. Soon the news was whispered to the king.

A big grin grew on Pharaoh's face. He really wanted to do something kind for his friend and helper Joseph. This was his chance!

He told his servants to pack gifts for Joseph's brothers. The servants brought out a long line of wagons and packed them full of food, silver, and clothes.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Tell them to bring their father and their families back here to me. I will give them the best land in Egypt" (Genesis 45:18, ICB).

What else would Pharaoh give them? Read **Genesis 45:20**. Such kindness and generosity!

Finally the brothers arrived home with their wagons of gifts. They raced to Father Jacob's tent. Excitedly they told him, "Joseph is still alive. He is the ruler over all the land of Egypt" (Genesis 45:26, ICB).

Jacob was so surprised he felt like his heart stopped beating! He thought Joseph was dead. But no, he was alive, and a ruler in Egypt!

With a big, deep breath the brothers told their father the truth. They had sold Joseph as a slave and told him a big lie. They were very sorry. They asked Father Jacob to forgive their lies and trickery. Jacob listened to their words, and he looked at their sad faces. He saw the wagons filled with gifts. God had been with Joseph this whole time and had blessed his life. God had made "all things work together for good" (Romans 8:28).

In that moment Father Jacob forgave his sons for what they had done.

I Wonder

» How do you think the brothers felt when their father forgave them?

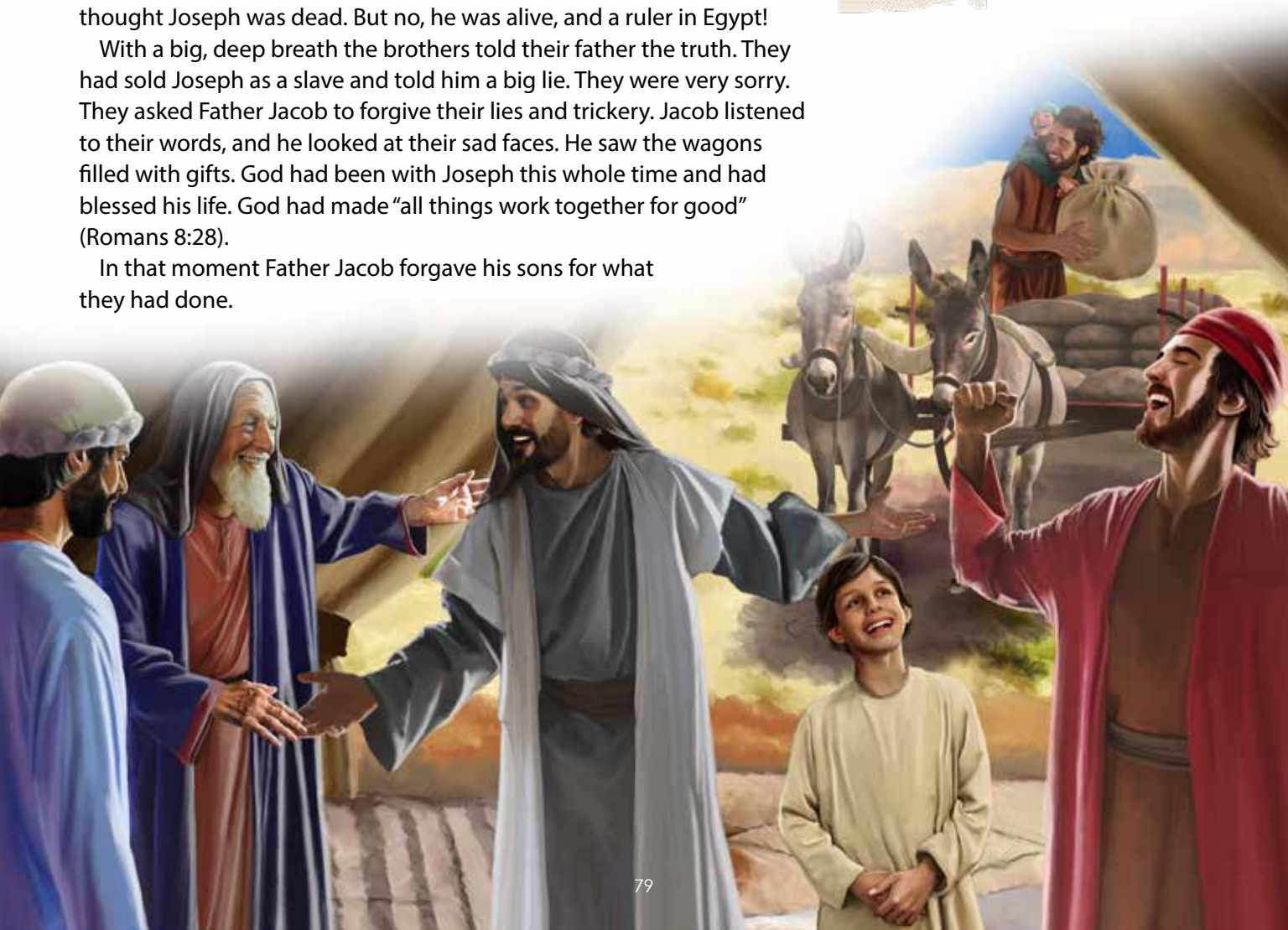
Prayer Idea

Thank God that He can help families love and forgive each other, even after problems.

Do

Sing "God Is So Good" or another favorite praise song about God's goodness and love.

Memory Verse





Friday

Together Again!

Jacob's big family rushed to gather all their things and leave for Egypt. Pots were packed, clothes and bedding were rolled up, and sheep and goats were rounded up. Soon they would see Joseph!

Along the way, Jacob stopped in a place where his father had worshipped God. Together they offered a thank-You sacrifice to God. In the night God sent *him* a special message. "So He said, 'I am God, the God of your father; do not fear to go down to Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there'" (Genesis 46:3).

What a loving God to remind Jacob that He was always with him. With joy the family journeyed on to their new home. How many were in the family? Read **Genesis 46:26**.

Finally, with Egypt in the distance, Jacob sent Judah ahead of them to meet Joseph.

Puffing and panting, he arrived in Egypt and excitedly told Joseph that Father Jacob and the rest of his family were only just down the road. *Just down the road? Hooray!* Joseph jumped on his chariot and raced toward them in a cloud of dust.

As soon as he saw Father Jacob, he jumped off the chariot and threw his arms around him. They hugged each other tightly and cried happy tears.

God had guided them back together. What a faithful Friend. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

I Wonder

- » God was with Jacob, Joseph, and his brothers all through their story, in good and bad times. Do you think He is with you too? Why do you say that?
- » Was God's plan for the family—the children of Israel—good? What was it?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for always working to love and help.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Draw a picture of what you think forgiveness looks like. Share and explain your picture and glue it into your family journal.

For You, Parents

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history" (Ellen G. White, *Life Sketches*, p. 196).

Sabbath

Make a Playscape

Kids, it's your turn to be the storyteller! Create a play scene of Canaan and Egypt and use it to retell the story of Joseph using your own voice.

To do this:

Collect natural materials like stones, sticks, leaves, etc., to create the landscape.

You may like to drape colored fabric for land/water surfaces.

Make some small people from a material of your choice (e.g., play-dough or clay).

Places to create:

Home in Canaan

Potiphar's house

Prison

The palace

Across the land of Egypt



Parents, your willingness to interact with your child to guide and encourage the sharing of Joseph's story and God's leading in it will be key to this Sabbath experience. Your child will delight in your presence. At the end of their story sharing, say the memory verse together: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28).

Shining in Faraway Places

Big Idea: God is with me. I will let His love show.

● Memory Verse
"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Word of the Week
"Shine" - The moon shines in the night sky. When something shines, it helps us to see the things around us. When we have God's love in our hearts, we will want to show it—we'll shine like bright lights. We can show God's love to others by being kind, happy, and caring.

This week's lesson is based on **Ruth 1** and *Review and Herald*, May 29, 1900.

Sunday

A Big Move

In a little town called Bethlehem, in Canaan, a hungry family busily packed their bags. They rolled up their clothes in blankets. They packed their sacks with their best tools, pots, bowls, and spoons. Then they packed the very last little bit of food they had.

It was many, many years after Joseph's family had moved from Canaan to Egypt. And now there was another time of hunger for God's people in Canaan. The farms were dry. The food was gone. Everyone was hungry!

Just like Jacob's family, this little family decided to move away to find food. What were their names? Read **Ruth 1:2**.

With a big wave goodbye to all their neighbors, the family set off. They had heard that there were fields full of food in a faraway country called Moab. It was a long, long walk to get there. But God had promised Jacob, "I am with you, and I will protect you everywhere you go" (Genesis 28:15, ICB). This promise was for them too.

As they walked they thought about the people of Moab. They didn't believe in God, they worshipped idols. Elimelech and Naomi would show their new neighbors God's love—and maybe they would learn to love God too! The Bible says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

I Wonder

- » How do you think Mahlon and Chilion felt as they packed their bags and began the long trip to another country?
- » Have you ever moved? What was it like?

● Prayer Idea
 Pray for someone who is moving away or has recently moved to your town.

● Do
 Plan something kind for someone who is new to the area where you live. Invite them to your house, make them a welcome card, or take them some food.



Monday

A Shining Light

(Sing)

*This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine!*

Challenge

Can you find two things that are "shining" in the darkness, just as God's love shines brightly in our dark, sad times? (Fire, stars.)

I Wonder

» Read your memory verse. How can you bring God's light and joy to someone who is sad or lonely this week?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for always being there for us.

Do

Do you know anyone who is a missionary for Jesus in a faraway place? Write them a letter or send a care package to remind them that God is with them, even when things are hard.

Memory Verse

Elimelech, Naomi, and their sons had God's love deep in their hearts. It was like a bright light that they carried all the way to Moab. Here they decided to let it shine brightly to everyone.

Each morning they bowed down and prayed together as a family. They may have sung songs too. Then, cheerfully, they began their daily jobs. They worked hard and helped their neighbors. Their loving words and kind actions shone God's goodness.

But one day something happened, what was it? Read **Ruth 1:3**.

Oh, no! How sad! What would they do? Ruth, Mahlon, and Chilion cried and hugged each other tightly. They were thankful they still had each other. They were really, really thankful God was with them too. He had promised, "I am with you . . . I will not leave you" (Genesis 28:15).

God is with you whenever you're sad too. His love is like a warm shining light that can help you feel stronger and better. God says in the Bible, "I am the one who comforts you" (Isaiah 51:12, ICB).

Thank You, God!



Tuesday

Show and Tell

Naomi smiled and hummed as she kneaded bread by the fire. She still missed her husband, but she knew God was with her. He had filled her home with laughter again. There were now five happy people sharing her home. Naomi's two sons had married lovely young women. One son married Ruth and the other Orpah.

Ruth pushed the hair from her eyes as she crushed barley on the grinding stone. Orpah was not far away sweeping and shaking the dusty mats. The women smiled as they listened to Naomi singing Scripture songs as she made the bread. Their home was always full of peace and love.

Every day Naomi showed her family God's goodness. Her friendly smiles, her gentle words, and her thoughtful actions showed them that "God is love" (1 John 4:16, ICB).

Naomi told wonderful stories too. True stories! She told stories about Creation, Noah and the Flood, Abraham, Joseph, and Moses. The Bible says we should also tell each other stories of God's love. When should we tell each other? Read **Deuteronomy 11:19**.

Naomi also loved to pray. The women had never heard such peaceful, thankful prayers. This wasn't how the Moabite people prayed to idols. No! Naomi talked to her God as though He was her Best Friend. In this home they found they belonged. How nice it was to be part of this happy family who loved God.

Ruth and Orpah just loved being part of this happy family who let their love shine for God.

I Wonder

- » What do you like the most about family worship time?
- » Which stories from the Bible are your favorite ones?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for all the good things He does for us.

Do

Give your family a "Show and Tell" about God's love. Look for something from nature that He has made or that shows how He loves and looks after you. Tell a story to go with it.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

A Very Sad Day

For 10 years Naomi, Mahlon, Chilion, Ruth, and Orpah lived as a happy family. They worked, ate, laughed, and worshipped God together.

Back in Canaan, life was still very hard. For the whole 10 years that Naomi and her family had been gone, there had been no rain and no food. Can you imagine being hungry for 10 whole years?

But thankfully the land of Moab was very different. Naomi's family had plenty to eat. There was always bread to bake and a big pot of yummy stew to eat.

But one day another very sad thing happened. What was it? Read **Ruth 1:5**.

Naomi had lost her two dear sons. Ruth and Orpah had lost their husbands. They hugged each other and cried. Although they couldn't see Him, God was right there comforting them. He is always "close to the brokenhearted" (Psalm 34:18, ICB).

Good news soon came to sad Naomi. "She heard that the Lord had taken care of his people. He had given food to them in Judah" (Ruth 1:6, ICB). Bethlehem had a good harvest of food coming! In this very sad time God was helping Naomi. He promises, "I am the Lord your God . . . Who leads you by the way you should go" (Isaiah 48:17). It was time to go home.

Fast Fact

People can only last for about three days without water. The Tarigrade—a bit like a mini caterpillar—can live for nearly 30 years without food or water.

I Wonder

» How does God show you His love and care when you are upset?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He can help us in happy and sad times, when our tummies are full or when we are hungry.

Mission Challenge

What's your favorite lesson story so far? Use your lesson pictures to tell it to a neighbor or friend.

Parent Faith Talk

Tell about a time you were sad and God comforted and helped you.

Memory Verse

Thursday

You First!

Naomi woke to a new morning and a new plan. Quickly she set to work cleaning, gathering, and packing. It was time to go home!

Ruth and Orpah loved Naomi too much to let her go alone. They knew she needed them. They decided to leave Moab with her. They bundled up all the things they could carry and set off on the long journey to Bethlehem.

As they walked slowly down the dusty road, Naomi looked at brave Ruth and Orpah. They were so kind to come with her. But it was such a big move for them to leave their home and their country.

Suddenly Naomi turned to Ruth and Orpah and said, "Go back home. Each of you, go to your own mother's house. You have been very kind to me and to my sons who are now dead. I hope the Lord will also be kind to you in the same way. I hope the Lord will give you another home and a new husband" (Ruth 1:8, 9, ICB).

What did Ruth and Orpah say? Read **Ruth 1:10**.

But Naomi had made up her mind. She wanted the best for them.

Putting others first is God's way. The Bible says, "Do not be interested only in your own life, but be interested in the lives of others" (Philippians 2:4, ICB). All three women were shining God's love. With God's help, this is something you can do too.

I Wonder

» Can you think of a time someone missed out on something just so you could be happy? Thank them for shining God's love.

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you notice the needs of others today.

Do

With help from a grown-up, gather together three different kinds of lights. Perhaps a flashlight, candle, and lamp. Say your memory verse before turning on/lighting each one.

Memory Verse





Friday

A Wonderful Promise

What would Ruth and Orpah do? They looked at the road in front of them and then behind them. Would they turn around and go back to their families in Moab? Or would they go with Naomi to a new faraway land?

“The women cried together again. Then Orpah kissed Naomi goodbye” (Ruth 1:14, ICB). What did Ruth do? Read the rest of **Ruth 1:14**.

Orpah turned to leave but Ruth still held onto Naomi. “Go back with her,” Naomi kindly said to Ruth (Ruth 1:15, ICB). She still wanted the very best for her.

Ruth looked into Naomi’s eyes and said, “Every place you go, I will go. Every place you live, I will live. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God” (Ruth 1:16, ICB).

Wow! Ruth had seen God’s goodness shining so brightly through Naomi’s life that now her heart also glowed with God’s love. She wanted to stay close to Naomi and close to God *forever*.

Our memory verse says, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). Ask Him to help you shine brightly today.

I Wonder

- » Have you ever told a friend about Jesus? What did you say?
- » What else might you do to shine God’s love?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to put His love in your heart so it shines brightly and helps others learn about Him.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Talk together about how God’s love was shown in this week’s story. Draw a picture of a way that you can show God’s love to others this coming week and glue it into your family journal.

For You, Parents

“The divine love glowing in the heart, the Christlike harmony manifested in the life, are as a glimpse of heaven granted to men of the world, that they may appreciate its excellence”
(Ellen G. White, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, pp. 41, 42).

A Dangerous Snake

Jume and his mother were new believers in the Adventist church. They had learned all about Jesus and the Sabbath. Jume worked hard growing and selling food from his family's garden.

One day Jume decided to ask for extra work on a tea farm. But the farmer, Mr. McDonald, said that he must work on Saturday. Jume shook his head and said he couldn't. Saturday was the Sabbath, God's day of rest. As Jume quietly walked away, Mr. McDonald yelled out mean words and called him horrible names.

A few days later Jume stopped at the farm to sell Mrs. McDonald some vegetables on his way to market. She bought everything he had! As he happily left the farm he walked past Mr. McDonald's office. Suddenly he stood still. His eyes opened wide in horror. A deadly snake slithered through the open door into the room!

Jume saw Mr. McDonald outside and ran over to him. As soon as Mr. McDonald saw Jume he began shouting at him again. "I remember you! You are the one who will not work on Saturday. I do not want you on my farm!"

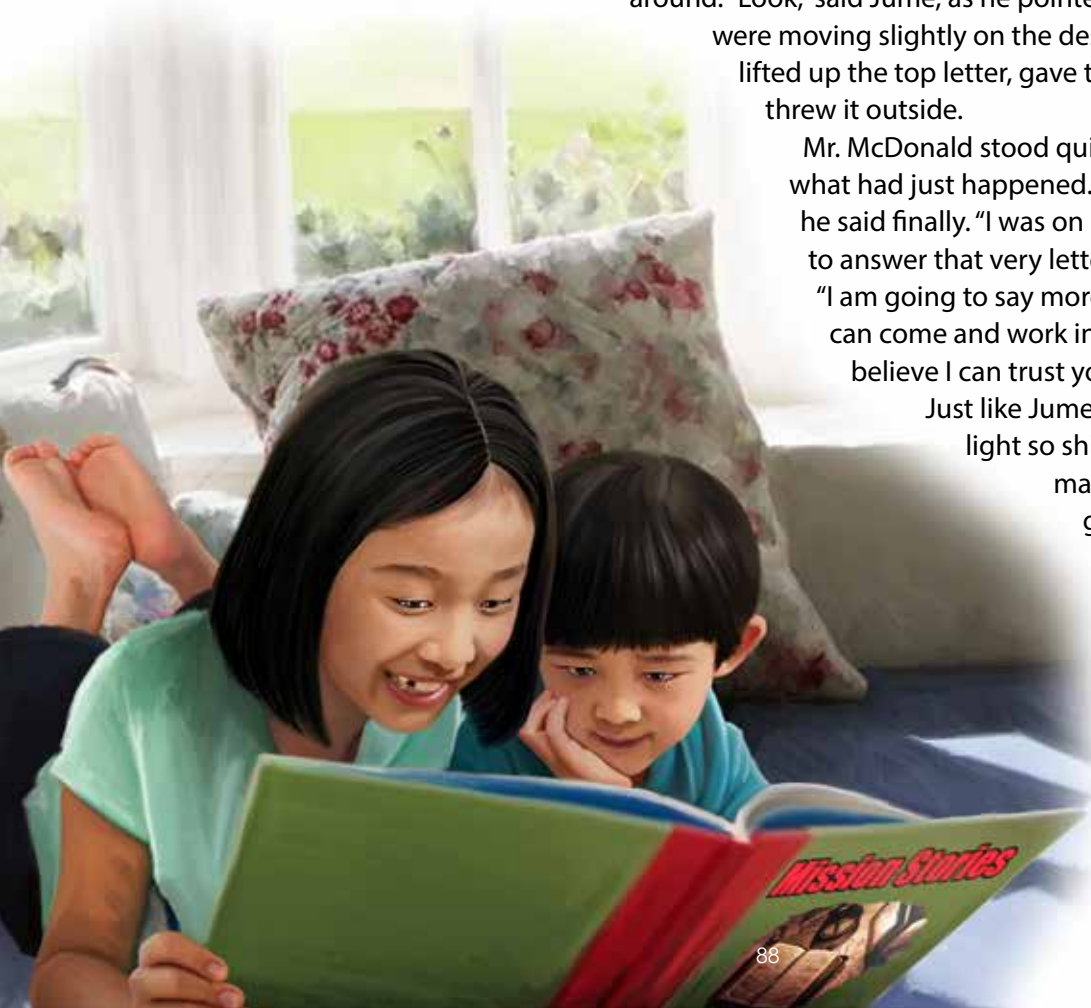
Calmly and kindly Jume replied, "I came to tell you that a dangerous snake just crawled into your office. I was afraid you might get bitten."

Together the two walked carefully into the office and began looking around. "Look," said Jume, as he pointed to a basket of letters that were moving slightly on the desk. Jume took a stick, slowly lifted up the top letter, gave the snake a whack, and threw it outside.

Mr. McDonald stood quietly. He was shocked at what had just happened. "I might have been killed," he said finally. "I was on my way back to this office to answer that very letter." After a pause he added, "I am going to say more than thank you. You can come and work in my office tomorrow. . . . I believe I can trust you."

Just like Jume, God wants you to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

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Welcome to the Family

Big Idea: God is with me. He welcomes everyone into His family.

● Memory Verse

“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1).

Word of the Week

“Welcome” - To welcome is to warmly greet someone. It also means to make someone feel like they belong. You can welcome someone by smiling and saying a big hello or inviting them to play or sit with you. When you are friendly and kind to someone, they will feel welcome.

This week’s lesson is based on **Ruth 2-4** and *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 290.

Sunday

The Journey Home

The donkey gave a snort and a snuffle and swished his tail as he plodded down the dusty road. Naomi patted his head softly as she walked beside him. She was going home—home to Bethlehem.

Naomi looked over at Ruth, who was leading the donkey. She thought about Ruth’s words. “Every place you go, I will go,” Ruth had promised (Ruth 1:16, ICB).

Each day as they traveled under the warm sun, Ruth was there. Every night as they camped under the stars, Ruth was beside her. Naomi’s eyes sparkled with tears. She had lost her husband and her two sons, but Ruth had promised to stick with her like superglue!

Naomi smiled as Ruth also gave their tired donkey a little pat. She knew Ruth wasn’t just following her. Ruth had chosen to follow God too. She had promised: “Your God will be my God” (Ruth 1:16, ICB).

When we choose to love God, just like Ruth, He does something amazing—He welcomes us into His very own family. The Bible says, “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1).

God is the very best Father. He looked after His two daughters, Ruth and Naomi, as they walked with little donkey. He was with them when they were hot and tired during the day. He was with them when it was dark and lonely at night. Would He ever leave them? Read **Deuteronomy 31:8**. Isn’t it wonderful to be part of God’s forever family?

I Wonder

» Ruth made a choice to stick close to God and follow Him forever. Would you like to make that choice too?

● Prayer Idea

Thank God that we can be part of His forever family.

● Do

Ask someone if you can try to stick to them like superglue for a little while. Everywhere they go, you go; everything they do, you do. Was it hard or easy? Thank God that He is always with you.



Monday

Welcome Home!

Everyone in Bethlehem was excited! They whispered to each other by the well and in the busy marketplace. What surprising news! Two women had just walked into town on their own. They had come all the way from Moab! The women of the town all rushed to welcome them.

“Is this Naomi?” the women asked each other (Ruth 1:19, ICB).

Could it really be their old friend? They hadn’t seen her since she had left for Moab with her husband and two sons. They looked a little closer. It was Naomi! She had been away so long, but finally Naomi was home.

The women gathered closely around Naomi and Ruth. With tears in her eyes, Naomi told them how her family had died. What sad, sad news. Then Naomi introduced them to kind and caring Ruth. She told them how Ruth had chosen to leave her home to follow Naomi and to follow God.

Would the people of Bethlehem be kind and welcoming to this woman from a different land? Yes, they would!

In God’s family it doesn’t matter where you’re from or what you look like. The Bible says, “Christ is all that is important. . . . He loves you. So always do these things: show mercy to others; be kind, humble, gentle and patient” (Colossians 3:11, 12, ICB).

That would make anyone feel welcome! And what should you especially remember to do? Read **Colossians 3:14**.

I Wonder

» If you had been in Bethlehem when Ruth arrived, how would you have made her feel welcome?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you be kind, loving, and welcoming, just like Him.

Do

Ask your parents to find out if they can join the greeting team on Sabbath sometime this month and if you can join them. Plan and practice what you will say to visitors and members as you welcome them to church.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Harvesttime in Bethlehem

Tall wheat and barley stalks swayed in the breeze in the fields around Bethlehem. Ruth watched as the men moved through the golden fields and cut the ripe stalks. It was harvesttime in Bethlehem.

As she watched, Ruth thought about her problem. She really needed to find food for Naomi and herself. She had a great idea! What would she do? Read **Ruth 2:2**.

The next day, Ruth got up early and went to the fields. She asked if she could gather the grain that fell to the ground behind the workers. She worked very hard! The workers noticed. The owner of the field noticed too. His name was Boaz. He was part of Naomi's husband's family.

Boaz called Ruth to him. He would make her feel welcome in this new place. He said, "Listen, my daughter. Stay here in my field to gather grain for yourself. Do not go to any other person's field" (Ruth 2:8 ICB). Then he invited her to drink the servant's water whenever she was thirsty. He even gave her grain to eat.

"Why have you been so kind?" Ruth asked him (Ruth 2:10, ICB). Boaz smiled. He knew that Ruth had helped Naomi. He knew she had chosen to follow Naomi and to follow God.

"The Lord will reward you for all you have done," he said (Ruth 2:12, ICB). God would keep looking after Ruth, and so would he.

I Wonder

- » How did Boaz make Ruth feel cared for and welcomed?
- » Why do you think he did this?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He is kind and that He helps us to be kind too.

Do

Ruth worked hard picking up grain to help bring food to her home. What can you pick up that would help your family at home? Toys? Clothes? Something in the garden or yard?

Memory Verse





Wednesday

A Secret Kindness

Naomi's eyes grew big when she saw the large bundle of barley that Ruth carried home. Wow! Boaz had been so kind to her!

Every working day, Ruth went back to Boaz' field. He would welcome his workers with kind words like, "The Lord be with you!" (Ruth 2:4, ICB). He made sure Ruth had water to drink and food to eat, just like his happy servants.

Ruth worked very hard, all day long. Then with a big sigh she would pack all the grain she'd found into a sack. One handful, two handfuls . . . on and on she'd go. Finally her bag was so full she could hardly carry it! How did she find so much grain on the ground? Read **Ruth 2:15, 16**.

What a nice, secret kindness!

When their pile of grain grew big enough, Ruth or Naomi could take it to the market and swap it for things like oil, fruit, or wool. They had all they needed.

Have you ever done something kind for someone without them knowing it? It can make them feel really special. It may even get them thinking about the goodness of God.

Jesus said, "So when you give to the poor, give very secretly. . . . Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you" (Matthew 6:3, 4, ICB). Jesus, Himself, will thank you when you secretly give to those in need.

I Wonder

- » What would it be like to be thanked for a secret kindness by Jesus?
- » Do you think Jesus will thank Boaz for helping Ruth?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you to always be willing to give to others.

Do

Plan a secret act of kindness like Boaz. Maybe give someone a flower or treat. Shh! Make sure they don't find out who it is from!

Mission Challenge

Thank Jesus for all the people He brings to your home. Pray that they will keep learning about Him and how much He loves them.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Welcome to the Family

One day Naomi called Ruth to her side. She smiled as she told Ruth it was time for her to get married again. She knew the perfect man for her—kind Boaz! Boaz had shown them that He loved God.

They must find out if he would take care of Ruth. Naomi knew just what to do. Ruth listened carefully to her plan. Yes, she would do everything Naomi said.

That evening Ruth made her way to the place where Boaz worked. He lay under a blanket on the work floor, fast asleep. Ruth tip-toed over to where he slept. She lay down on the ground near his feet. Then she gently pulled a little bit of his blanket off his feet and placed it over her. Boaz kept sleeping.

What happened next? Read **Ruth 3:8**.

What a surprise! “Who are you?” he asked.

“I am Ruth . . .” she said. “Spread your cover over me because you are the one who is to take care of me” (Ruth 3:9, ICB).

By lying at his feet, Ruth was asking Boaz, “Will you marry me?”

Boaz was amazed and happy. Yes, he would marry her! “The Lord bless you . . . I will do everything you ask,” he said (Ruth 3:10, 11, ICB).

Early the next morning, Boaz filled Ruth’s coat full of barley to take home to Naomi. Ruth raced home, smiling. She couldn’t wait to give Naomi the kind gift and tell her the exciting news. She would marry Boaz! She would be part of his family.

I Wonder

» Why do you think Boaz promised to marry Ruth?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for your family. Ask Him to fill your home with His love.

Do

Make a WELCOME sign to hang on your door. Ask for help with the letters then color, decorate, or cover with small pieces of colored paper. Loop and tape a piece of yarn to the back so you can hang it up.

Memory Verse





Friday

God's Forever Family

Naomi couldn't stop smiling. God had been good to her. She now had a daughter and a son. Ruth had married kind Boaz.

But soon Naomi had an even better reason to smile. She became a grandmother! Ruth and Boaz had a beautiful baby boy.

Everyone was so happy for the family. The women said to Naomi, "Praise the Lord who gave you this grandson. . . . This happened because of your daughter-in-law. She loves you" (Ruth 4:14, 15, ICB).

Naomi carefully took the teeny baby boy in her arms and cradled him close. Happy tears filled her eyes as she stroked his little cheeks. God had been so good. She couldn't wait for this little boy to grow bigger, so she could tell him all about her faithful Father God.

Who named the baby? And what did they name him? Read the first part of **Ruth 4:17**.

This little baby boy grew up and became the grandfather of King David. And a long time later, Jesus, the Promised One, was born into this family too.

God showed Ruth His love and kindness. He welcomed her to His family. By sending His own Son, Jesus, to her big family, we can be sure that He welcomes *everyone* with love. Yes, **everyone!** The Bible says, "Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called the children of God!" (1 John 3:1).

Parent Faith Talk

Share a family story about a happy marriage proposal, if appropriate. Thank God for this happy marriage.

I Wonder

» What can you do this Sabbath to make someone feel welcomed into God's big forever family?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for welcoming us into His family.

Memory Verse

Family Journal

Sing a praise song together and draw a picture of your family. Make sure you include Jesus and some friends from church. Glue it into your family journal.

For You, Parents

"Those who accept Christ as their personal Saviour are not left as orphans, to bear the trials of life alone. He receives them as members of the heavenly family; He bids them call His Father their Father" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 327).

Leading a Family to Jesus

Christiane loved being in Pathfinders! She always told her little brother, Eduardo, about all the great things they did, like camping, learning about nature, crafts, and other fun activities.

Finally Eduardo was old enough to join Pathfinders too. Even though their family didn't go to the Adventist church, both Eduardo and Christiane were welcomed and loved by their local Pathfinder club. Eduardo had so much fun, just like his sister!

Sometimes the Pathfinders were asked to lead the main service at the Adventist church. Eduardo loved being a part of the church service. He joined in with the singing and praying and collecting the offering.

When Eduardo's sister finished Pathfinders, she kept going to the Adventist church, because everyone at the church made them feel so welcomed and cared for. One Sabbath morning she asked her brother, "Do you want to come too?" Eduardo nodded.

The more time that Eduardo spent at church, the more he learned about God. Eventually he gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized. He invited his mother and father to join him at church, and they began to come along too. Before long Eduardo's mother and father gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized as well!

Someone from church welcomed Christiane to Pathfinders and church. Christiane invited her little brother, Eduardo, and Eduardo welcomed his parents to church! Their whole family now knew Jesus because someone had welcomed them.

Eduardo's mother said, "Because my children kept inviting us to worship with them, we are all in God's family today."

