

I'M JOSEPH !
Genesis 45:1-28

Joseph couldn't control his emotions any longer. He had had his brothers brought back, and accused Benjamin of stealing his silver cup. Joseph had tested his brothers to see if they were still jealous, angry, and revengeful, as they had been when they sold him into slavery. But with Judah's plea to spare Benjamin and take Judah instead for a slave, Joseph was convinced that the Lord had worked a mighty change in his brothers. He commanded that everyone except his brothers leave the house, and then he told the brothers who he was. He cried so loudly that the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard about it.

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still living?" The brothers could not answer for they were terrified at what they heard.

Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me, please." So they gathered around him. Again he said, "I am Joseph your brother, that you sold into slavery. Now don't be sad or angry with yourselves that you sold me here. For God sent me ahead of you to save lives. For two years there has been famine in the land, and there are five more years of famine to follow, when there will be no harvest. God sent me ahead to provide for our family. So it wasn't really you that sent me here, but it was God. He has made me an advisor to Pharaoh, and the lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."

"Hurry now, and go to my father, and tell him, 'This is what your son Joseph says, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come to me, please hurry. You will live in the land of Goshen. You will be close to me, and to your grandchildren and to your flocks and herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you, for there are five more years of famine yet to come. I want don't want you to end up in poverty.' "

"You all can see me with your eyes, and you know that it is I Joseph who speaks with you. Tell my father of all my greatness in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father to me."

Then Joseph fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and cried, and Benjamin cried with him. Joseph kissed all his brothers and cried with them for joy, because they were a whole family again. Then all twelve brothers talked together.

The fame of all that happened spread quickly to Pharaoh's house. And Pharaoh was pleased that Joseph had been reunited with his family. He sent for Joseph and said to him, "Say to your brothers that they should load their animals and go back to Canaan. Tell them to bring your father and all of their households and I will give them good land in Egypt. I command you to take wagons from Egypt so that they can bring all their families and things back with them. I will give them the good of the land of Egypt."

So Jacob's sons did as they were told. Joseph gave them wagons from Egypt, and supplies for the journey. To each man he gave clothes, but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver, and five changes of clothes. To his father Joseph sent ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, ten she donkeys loaded with corn and

bread and meat for his father as they traveled. Joseph sent his brothers on their way with these words, "See that you don't fight along the way."

The brothers left Egypt and returned to their father. They told him, "Joseph is alive and he is the governor of Egypt." The news was so surprising that Jacob fainted, for his heart couldn't believe that such happy news could be true after so many years believing that Joseph was dead.

When he was revived, the brothers told their father all that Joseph had said, and showed him what he had sent. When Jacob saw the wagons that Joseph had sent for him, his spirit was encouraged. Israel said, "It is enough for me. My son Joseph is alive, and I will go and see him before I die."

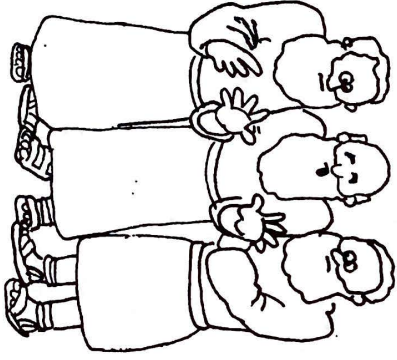
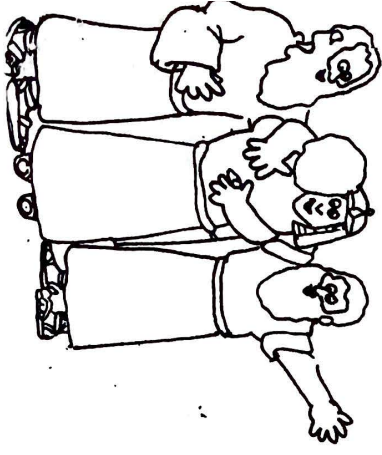
What a wonderful ending to Israel's sorrow. God cares for us in ways that we can not even imagine. His mercy and love toward us are very great. The story of Joseph is a wonderful lesson to all of us of God's goodness and love, his protection and care.

LEARN: O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him all ye people.

For his merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord

Psalm 117.

1. Color each character and cut them out.
2. Fold a piece of construction paper into 4 sections
3. Paste pictures in order of story on construction paper.
4. Write a caption under each picture.





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Joseph kissed all his brothers and cried with them for joy, because they were a whole family again.



The brothers told their father that Joseph was alive. The news was so surprising that Jacob fainted when he heard it.



After Jacob revived, he rejoiced to know that Joseph was alive and that he would see his son again.

