

Rejected but reconciled

Genesis 45 – 47:12

This week, you will need...

- a book (or magazine) featuring a picture of a person
- the board game *Guess Who* (if you have it)
- some pieces of card
- sticky notes
- colouring pens
- scissors
- tape (or a stapler)

What's in the Box?

See if you can guess what we are doing today from these pictures...



Photos: Eric O'Neil (freemages.com); Liany/jrmbil, Chris Yazab (flickr.com); Cytom Photography, Dimitri Houtteman (unsplash.com)

What's happening today?

Last week, we saw how ten of Joseph's brothers came to Egypt in search of food. We learnt about how Joseph tested them to see if they had changed – this week, we will see what happens next...

Let's get started

Find a picture of something (or someone) that everyone will recognise (either print one off a picture or use a picture in a book or magazine). Place small pieces of paper on top of the picture so that it's completely covered. Then take it in turns to remove one piece of paper at a time. Can you guess what (or who) it is before the entire picture is revealed?

Sometimes, it's hard to see who someone is because there are things in the way. Joseph would have looked very different after the twenty-three years that had passed and would have dressed in the Egyptian style. It would have been very hard for his brothers to recognise him!

Bible Time

This is our last week in Joseph's story. In today's true story from the Bible, we'll see the conclusion and completion of God's plan to use Joseph – both to save many lives and fix the broken relationships in his family.

Today's story is a long passage, so you may wish to summarise [this version from the International Children's Bible \(on Bible Gateway\)](#). Why not get everyone to show you the emotion of the story on their faces at various points?

Remind everyone where we left off last week: Judah was pleading for his Benjamin's life and offering his own life in exchange for that of his youngest brother. Can you remember why Benjamin was in trouble?

There is a lot of tension in this story. Will this important Egyptian ruler have mercy? What would happen to Jacob if he also lost Benjamin? There is even more tension for the brothers when Joseph makes himself known to them. Would Joseph take revenge on them? How would you feel?

Joseph's response is both a shock and a great relief to his brothers. Try to imagine yourself first as Joseph and then as one of his brothers. How would you feel?

Go back to the passage and read out loud 45: 5-9. These verses show how God is at the centre of all that has happened to Joseph. God's plans always happen and are always good!

Explore

The questions are split by age groups – although you might want to answer them all!

Climbers How did Joseph's brothers feel when they found out it was him?

Explorers Who did Joseph say was in charge of everything that happened to him?

Pathfinders What did God say to Jacob? (see verses 46: 1-4)

Everyone How many people are in Joseph's family? Can you count them all?

Explorers & Pathfinders – there is a worksheet for you with more questions on page 3.

Reflection

You may like to think about these questions now and throughout the week

- We know that nothing takes God by surprise or can stop God's plans – even when people try to do the wrong things or hurt others. Can you think of anyone who tried to harm Joseph or stop God's plans?
- God used the terrible things that happened to Joseph to get him to where God wanted him to be in Egypt.
- What about Jesus? Can you think of the terrible things that happened to him? Did that stop God's plan to make Jesus King of the world?

Sometimes things happen that makes us sad but (and we can see from the Bible) we can trust God to always do good in our lives – even if we can't understand it at the time.

Today's passage has helped me see some:

- Sin** I need to turn from
- Promises** I can trust in
- Examples** I can follow
- Commands** I need to obey
- Surprises** – things that surprised me or things I didn't understand

Prayer

As this is the last part of the Joseph series, take it in turns to share your favourite part of the whole Joseph story and what you have learnt about God. If you like, draw them on a piece of paper and make a prayer map. Ask one person to sum up all your thoughts.

Games

Guess Who

If you have the original board game, give it a go – or try out [this digital version on CrazyGames.com!](#)

How about a homemade version? Take a sticky note each and write on the name of a famous person. Then stick your sticky note on someone else's forehead! Ask each other "yes or no" questions to work out who you are!

It is hard to work out who someone is, even if you have many clues. In today's story, Joseph tells his brothers who he really is.

Activity

Dress like an Egyptian

Make and decorate an Egyptian headdress using the template on page 4. Or you could research ancient Egyptian clothes and then design your own! Don't forget to measure up and fit it to your head.

Songs

Have a look at the [Church at Home playlist](#) on the St. Mary's, Wootton YouTube channel. How about listening to [Rend Collective's Rescuer](#) today?

See if you can make up some actions, or learn some Makaton or British Sign Language words to worship along with your family!

You can also catch up with our [Virtual Holiday Club!](#)

Rejected but Reconciled

The true story can be found in Genesis 45:1-47:12

Discover

How do Joseph's brothers react when he tells them who he is? (45:3) _____



What is Joseph most concerned to find out? (45:3) _____

Why do you think his brothers reacted this way?

What shows that Joseph had forgiven them? (45:3, 5)

Think?
Spot

What are all the things that Joseph says God has done? (45:8)

Why did God do all these things? (45:7) _____

What else happens that shows God is at work? 45:16-20, 46:1-4

Read Genesis 50:20. What does Joseph mean by 'good'?

- Was what his brothers did good?
- Did Joseph enjoy all that happened to him?

What does 'good' then?



DISCUSS?

Think?
Spot

Has anything ever happened to you that was not good, but which God used for good?

What have you learned about God that might help you when something happens to you that is not good?

You tried to harm me, but God

made it turn out for the best.

Genesis 50:20

