

A family together, yet apart

Genesis 42-44

This week, you will need...

- sheets of paper
- pencils
- colouring pens /felt tips
- glue stick
- scissors
- silver foil

What's in the Box?

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



What's happening today?

Last week, in Genesis 41, we learned that Joseph was in prison through no fault of his own. While in prison, God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams. The Pharaoh was pleased with Joseph because of this, and promoted him to Prime Minister. God was with Joseph even when he was in prison and eventually God blessed Joseph by freeing him and raising him to be governor of the land. Today's story shows how God wanted to bring Joseph's family together again and how God has the power to change people's hearts.

Let's get started

In today's story, Joseph's brothers go on two journeys in search of grain during a time of famine in their home country, Canaan. Today we're going to play a game like *I Spy* – you need one another person to play with you. Write the word **JOURNEY** on a piece of paper and take it in turns to say, draw or write items in your home that begin with each letter of the word JOURNEY. For example: J for jug, jam jar, O for oven, U for umbrella, etc. Do this until you have thought of as many things as you can for each letter. The winner is the one with the most items!

Bible Time

Today's true story from the Bible is from Genesis 42-44. We learn that Jacob had twelve sons. There was a famine in Canaan so ten of Jacob's sons travel to Egypt in search of grain. There is a lot of detail so you could outline the story focusing on two journeys and use movement or toys to act it out.

Journey 1 The sons take some silver to pay for the grain. Joseph recognises his brothers. To test the truth, Joseph demands that Simeon be detained until they bring their other brother, Benjamin – who stayed at home – to Egypt. They are given grain and the silver to pay for the grain is hidden in their sacks. Judah pledges to take care of Benjamin as they go back to Egypt.

Journey 2 The brothers with Benjamin return to Egypt. Joseph gives them a feast. A silver cup is hidden in Benjamin's sack. On their return to Canaan they are searched by Joseph's steward and the silver cup is found. They have to go back to Egypt and explain to Joseph why they have his silver cup... Benjamin is accused of stealing it! Judah pledges his life as a substitute and prepares to take the penalty instead of Benjamin.

Next week you will find out what happens to Benjamin and Judah and how God will bring the family together.

Explore

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

Climbers

- How did Jacob's sons travel to Egypt?
- What animals did they use?

Explorers & Pathfinders

Joseph does not seek revenge on his brothers – he can see that God is beginning to fulfil his dreams.

- What made Judah change his behaviour?
- Can you see any similarities between Judah's actions and those of Jesus?

Everyone We know that God rules over the world. In this story, how can we see that God changes people's hearts?

Explorers & Pathfinders – there is a worksheet for you with more questions on page 4.

Reflection

You may like to ponder these questions now, and throughout the week too.

- In what ways is Judah a different person?
- In your own life, are you able to see how you are a different person because of God's work in you?
- How has the forgiveness and peace that Jesus has given you affected the way you respond to those who sin against you?

Prayer

On a sheet of paper, draw around your hand.

- On your thumb, write **thank you**
- On your index finger, write **praise**
- On your middle finger, write **sorry**
- On your ring finger, write **family**
- On your little finger, write **myself**

Use this hand picture to say short prayers for each idea on your fingers. Here are some ideas:

Thank you for my friends and for keeping me safe
 • You may want to thank God for some good things that have happened to you recently • Praise God for his wonderful creation like the flowers and animals • Sorry



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

prayers – ask God to forgive you for the words or actions that were wrong • Family – pray for all those that live in your home that God will help them to keep safe and they will grow to know more about Jesus and his love • On the little finger, ask God to help you to say kind words and do kind actions

You may have lots of other ideas for prayers for each finger!

Games

Food Snap

- Cut some paper into lots of small rectangles.
- Draw one food item on each piece of paper, e.g. bread, apple, cake, etc. You need about 10 to 15 food pictures. Place these pictures in a bag.
- Then draw a second set of the same pictures (i.e. another picture of bread, apple, cake, etc.). Place these pictures facing upwards so you can see each food item.
- Go round in a circle so each person selects one food picture from the table.

Then choose another person to take a food picture from the bag (with their eyes closed!). Say they select the apple picture from the bag – whoever has already taken the same picture wins a point.

- Then put all the pictures back where they started and start again! See who is the first to get 10 points.

(More over the page...)

Journey actions

As the story is about journeys...

- Think of some actions you can do on a journey e.g. marching, walking, clapping, waving, skipping, hopping and stomping – you may think of plenty more!
- Write each action on a slip of paper and place in a bag.
- One person takes a slip from the bag and everyone has to do that action.
- Place the paper slip back in the bag, then choose a second one and do those actions. Do this lots of times – can you get faster and faster?

Activity

Make a silver cup

Make and decorate a cup from foil – like the one that was hidden in Benjamin's sack (although I'm pretty sure that wasn't made from kitchen foil!).



Make a teeny goblet by taking a small piece of foil. Stick out your little finger and wrap the foil around it, leaving a 'tail' sticking out. Then twist the 'tail' into a stem and base. **Make a super-size goblet** by wrapping a much larger piece of foil around your whole fist in the same way! **Watch this video on YouTube to see the process.** You can decorate the finished cup with scrunched-up foil pieces, gem stickers or Sharpies.

Build a pyramid

On an A4 piece of paper, draw a large pyramid (just a triangle is fine, or you could go for the full 3D effect!). Then cut rectangles of paper, colour them in yellow and stick them on the pyramid shape as building blocks. How about cutting out some people shapes to be Jacob's sons, travelling from Canaan to Egypt? What do you think they saw along the way? You could draw some palm trees, the river Nile and anything else you think they might have seen on their journey!

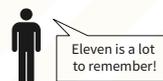
Songs

Have a look at the **Church at Home playlist** on the St. Mary's, Wootton YouTube channel. This week, check out the classic songs **Our God Is A Great Big God** and **Shine Jesus Shine**.

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

Mini Challenge

Joseph is having a funny five minutes. Can you help him match his brothers to their names?



Together but Apart

The true story can be found in Genesis 42-44.



Discover

Journey 1: Genesis 42

How many of Jacob's sons went to Egypt to get food? (42:3) _____

Who stayed behind with Jacob? (42:4) _____

Why did he stay behind? (42:4) _____

Think? Spot

Why do you think Joseph tested his brothers by insisting they bring the favourite son, Benjamin, to Egypt?

How do you think Joseph felt about his brothers? (42:24-25)

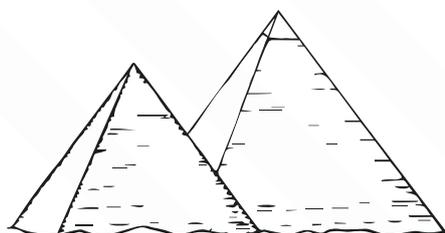
Journey 2: Genesis 43-44

Why does Jacob agree to send Benjamin?

43:2 _____

43:3 _____

43:9 _____



DISCUSS

Why do you think Joseph tested his brothers using the silver cup?

Compare Genesis 37:26-27 and Genesis 44:33-34.

How had Judah changed?



Think? Spot

Judah's behaviour showed that his heart was changed. Has God changed your heart?

Has it affected your attitude towards others, either those who are mean to you or those you don't like?