



## CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER



**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, FOREBRIDGE, STAFFORD, ST17 4LJ and  
ST. THOMAS & ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, DOXEY, ST16 1EQ  
4TH JULY 2021 - FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

It's less than 3 weeks to the summer holidays. I can't believe we are so close to the end of another school year. I bet you have grown so much since the start of the first lockdown. I know Josh has, it's costing so much for new clothes that as soon as he is in one size he is then ready for the next size up. But he did stay really little for a very long time so his clothes lasted him ages then. Sadly Beth had her growth spurt a few years before Josh and he is now taller than her and nearly taller than me. He's still the baby of the family however tall he grows and no doubt your grown-ups say the same about you.

So, did you watch the England match? I didn't watch but I knew every time they scored as my hubby and Josh were watching it in the living room as my office/ craft room is the other end of the room (it's three rooms made in to one long one but sectioned off). Sadly, hubby won't be able to watch the England v Denmark semi-final on Wednesday night as he is working late so we will have to watch it for him. It would be so good if we got to the finals and even better if we won. Honestly, I'm not a football fan but I will support our national team when we have some good players and a good manager.

Any way, we are coming to the end of *Genesis* with the last 4 chapters involving Joseph seeing his father again for the first time since his brothers sold him as a slave, his family being given the best land in Egypt to live in and then his father dying and ending with him dying. So, yes there is a lot of reading but I have also taken a few large chunks out that repeat the names of who was born when and to which wife and then all of the blessings from Jacob. There are only a few crafts you can do for Joseph so it's colouring and puzzles this week. Next time we start the second book in the Bible which is *Exodus* so I wonder what stories we will come across in that one.

### **Genesis chapters 46 to 50**

So, Jacob, also called Israel, took all he had and started his trip. He went to Beersheba where he offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. During the night God spoke to him in a vision. He said, "Jacob, Jacob." And Jacob answered, "Here I am." Then God said, "I am God, the God of your father. Don't be afraid to go to Egypt. I will make your descendants a great nation there. I will go to Egypt with you then bring you out of Egypt again. Joseph's own hands will close your eyes when you die."

Then Jacob left Beersheba. His sons loaded him, their children and their wives in to the wagons the king of Egypt had sent. They also took their farm animals and everything they had gotten in Canaan. So, Jacob went to Egypt with all his descendants. The total number of Jacob's direct descendants who went to Egypt was 66. This number did not include his daughters-in-law. Joseph had 2 sons born in Egypt. So, the total number in the family of Jacob in Egypt was 70.

Jacob sent Judah ahead of him to meet Joseph in Goshen. Then Jacob and his people followed. As soon as Joseph saw his father, he hugged his neck and cried for a long time.

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

Joseph said to all of his family, "I will go and tell the king you are here saying, 'My brothers and my father's family have left Canaan and have come here to me. They are shepherds and take care of farm animals and have brought their flocks and their herds and everything they own with them.' When the king calls you, he will ask what work you do' and you should tell him: 'We, your servants, have taken care of farm animals all our lives. Our ancestors did the same thing.' Then the king will allow you to settle in the land of Goshen. This is away from the Egyptians. They don't like to be near shepherds." So, Joseph went to the king to tell him that his family had arrived. Joseph chose five of his brothers to introduce to the king who said to the brothers, "What work do you do?"

They said to him, "We, your servants, are shepherds as were our ancestors. We have come to live in this land as there is no grass in the land of Canaan for our animals to eat. Hunger is very terrible there. Please allow us to live in the land of Goshen."

The king said to Joseph, "Your father and your brothers have come to you. You may choose any place in Egypt for them to live. Give them the best land of Goshen. If any of them are skilled shepherds, put them in charge of my sheep and cattle."

Then Joseph introduced his father to the king. And Jacob blessed the king.

Then the king said to Jacob, "How old are you?" And Jacob said, "My life has been spent wandering from place to place. It has been short, filled with trouble. I have lived only 130 years. My ancestors lived much longer." Jacob blessed the king again and left.

Joseph obeyed the king giving his father and brothers the best land in Egypt near the city of Rameses. He gave his family and everyone who lived with them all the food they needed.

The hunger became worse, and there was no food anywhere in the land so the land of Egypt and Canaan became very poor because of this. So, people paid Joseph money to buy the grain from him. He brought the money to the king's palace. Soon the people in Egypt and Canaan had no money left. So, they went to Joseph and said, "Please give us food as our money is gone. If we don't eat, we will die here in front of you."

Joseph answered, "Since you have no money, give me your farm animals and I will give you food in return." So, people brought their farm animals to Joseph and he gave them food in exchange for their horses, sheep, cattle and donkeys. So, he kept them alive by trading food for their farm animals that year.

The next year the people came to Joseph and said, "You know we have no money left. And all our animals belong to you. We have nothing left except our bodies and our land. Surely both we and our land will die here in front of you. Buy us and our land in exchange for food and we will be slaves to the king, together with our land. Give us seed to plant. Then we will live and not die and the land will not become a desert."

So, Joseph bought all the land in Egypt for the king. Every Egyptian sold Joseph his field, because the hunger was very great. So, the land became the king's and Joseph made the people slaves from one end of Egypt to the other. The only land he did not buy was the land the priests owned. They did not need to sell their land because the king paid them for their work. So, they had money to buy food.

Joseph said to the people, "Now I have bought you and your land for the king I will give you seed. And you can plant your fields. At harvest time you must give one-fifth to the king. You may keep four-fifths for yourselves. Use it as seed for the field and have food for yourselves, your families and your children."

The people said, "You have saved our lives. If you like, we will become slaves of the king."

So, Joseph made a law in Egypt, which continues today: One-fifth of everything from the land belongs to the king. The only land the king did not get was the priests' land.

The Israelites continued to live in the land of Goshen in Egypt. They had many children and grew in number.

Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years. So, he lived to be 147 years old when he knew he would soon die. So, he called his son Joseph to him. He said to Joseph, "If you love me, put your hand under my leg and promise me you will not bury me in Egypt. When I die, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where my ancestors are buried."

Joseph answered, "I will do as you say." Then Jacob said, "Promise me." And Joseph promised him that he would do this. Then Jacob worshiped as he leaned on the top of his walking stick.

Some time later Joseph learned that his father was very sick so he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim and went to his father. When Joseph arrived, someone told Jacob, "Your son Joseph has come to see you." Jacob was weak so he used all his strength and sat up on his bed.

Then Jacob said to Joseph, "God All-Powerful appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan and blessed me. He said to me, 'I will give you many children and make you the father of many peoples. I will give your descendants this land forever.' Your two sons were born here in Egypt before I came. They will be counted as my own sons. Ephraim and Manasseh will be my sons just as Reuben and Simeon are my sons. But if you have other children, they will be your own. But their land will be part of the land given to Ephraim and Manasseh. When I came from Northwest Mesopotamia, Rachel died in the land of Canaan. We were traveling toward Ephrath. This made me very sad. I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath." (Today Ephrath is Bethlehem.)

Then Jacob saw Joseph's sons. He said, "Who are these boys?" Joseph said to his father, "They are my sons. God has given them to me here in Egypt." Jacob said, "Bring your sons to me so I may bless them." At this time Jacob's eyesight was bad because he was old. So, Joseph brought the boys close to him. Jacob kissed the boys and put his arms around them. He said to Joseph, "I thought I would never see you alive again. And now God has let me see you and also your children." Then Joseph moved his sons off Jacob's lap. Joseph bowed facedown to the ground. He put Ephraim on his right side and Manasseh on his left. (So, Ephraim was near Jacob's left hand, and Manasseh was near Jacob's right hand.) Joseph brought the boys close to Jacob. But Jacob crossed his arms. He put his right hand on the head of Ephraim, who was younger. He put his left hand on the head of Manasseh. But he was the firstborn son. And Jacob blessed Joseph and said, "My ancestors Abraham and Isaac served our God. And like a shepherd God has led me all my life. He was the Angel who saved me from all my troubles. Now I pray that he will bless these boys. May my name be known through these boys. And may the names of my ancestors Abraham and Isaac be known through them. May they have many descendants on the earth." Joseph saw that his father put his right hand on Ephraim's head. Joseph didn't like it. So, he took hold of his father's hand. He wanted to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. Joseph said to his father, "You are doing it wrong, Father. Manasseh is the firstborn son. Put your right hand on his head." But his father refused and said, "I know, my son, I know. Manasseh will be great and have many descendants. But his younger brother will be greater. And his descendants will be enough to make a nation." So, Jacob blessed them that day. He said, "When a blessing is given in Israel, they will say: 'May God make you like Ephraim and Manasseh.'" In this way he made Ephraim greater than Manasseh. Then Jacob said to Joseph, "Look at me. I am about to die. But God will be with you. He will take you back to the land of your fathers. I have given you something that I did not give your brothers. I have given you the land of Shechem that I took from the Amorite people. I took it with my sword and my bow." Then Jacob called his sons to him. He said, "Come here to me. I will tell you what will happen to you in the future.

"Come together and listen, sons of Jacob. Listen to Israel, your father." Then he blessed each son a blessing that was right for him. These are the 12 tribes of Israel. Then Jacob gave them a command. He said, "I am about to die. Bury me with my ancestors in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite. That cave is in the field of Machpelah east of Mamre. It is in the land of Canaan. Abraham bought that field from Ephron the Hittite for a burying place. Abraham and Sarah, his wife, are buried there as are Isaac and his wife Rebekah. I buried my wife Leah there. The field and the cave in it were bought from the Hittite people." After Jacob finished talking to his sons, he lay down. He put his feet back on the bed, took his last breath and died. Then Joseph hugged his father, cried over him and kissed him. He commanded the doctors who served him to prepare his father's body. It took the doctors 40 days to prepare Jacob's body to be buried. And the Egyptians had a time of sorrow for Jacob that lasted 70 days. When this time of sorrow had ended, Joseph spoke to the king's officers. He said, "If you think well of me, please tell this to the king: 'When my father was near death, I made a promise to him that I would bury him in a cave in the land of Canaan. This is a burial place that he cut out for himself. So please let me go and bury my father. Then I will return.'"

The king answered, "Keep your promise. Go and bury your father."

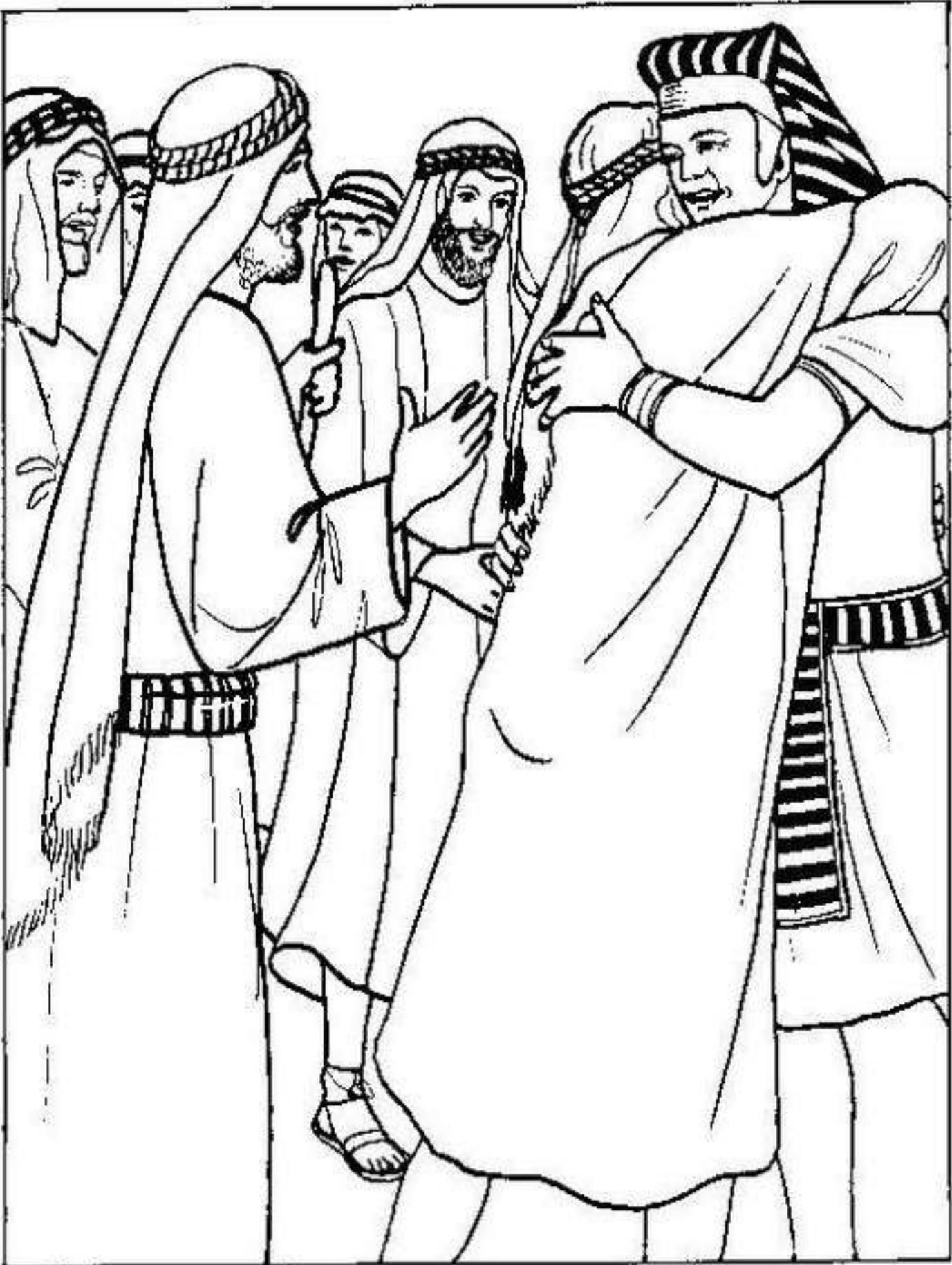
So, Joseph went to bury Jacob. All the king's officers, the elders of his court and all the elders of Egypt went with Joseph. Everyone who lived with Joseph and his brothers went with him as well as everyone who lived with his father. They left only their children, their flocks and their herds in the land of Goshen. Men in chariots and on horses also went with Joseph making it a very large group.

They went to the threshing floor of Atad, east of the Jordan River and did what their father commanded. They carried his body to the land of Canaan. They buried it in the cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre. After Joseph buried his father, he returned to Egypt together with his brothers and everyone who had gone with him to bury his father.

After Jacob died, Joseph's brothers thought that he was going to be angry with them and make them pay for what they had done. So, they sent a message to Joseph as if it had been from their father that said, "Your father gave this command before he died. He said to us, 'You have done wrong. You have sinned and done evil to Joseph. Tell him to forgive you, his brothers.' So now, Joseph, we beg you to forgive our wrong. We are the servants of the God of your father." When Joseph received the message, he cried. His brothers went to him and bowed low before him. They said, "We are your slaves." But Joseph said, "Don't be afraid. You meant to hurt me but God turned your evil into good. It was to save the lives of many people and it is being done. So don't be afraid. I will take care of you and your children." So, Joseph comforted his brothers and spoke kind words to them.

Joseph continued to live in Egypt with all his father's family and died when he was 110 years old. During Joseph's life Ephraim had children and grandchildren. And Joseph's son Manasseh had a son named Makir. Joseph accepted Makir's children as his own. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die. But God will take care of you. He will lead you out of this land to the land he promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob." Then Joseph had the sons of Jacob make a promise. He said, "Promise me that you will carry my bones with you out of Egypt." Joseph died when he was 110 years old. Doctors prepared his body for burial then they put him in a coffin in Egypt.

Joseph meets his father - colour me in





# Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

## JACOB'S FAMILY

A Y J D J P O S F L E V I X D K I X R P  
G A D A Z N O J R O K B X E O F B J V P  
R S Z B C X O Z T Q I L L I H L I D B D  
M A O P P O P E S N A K P D Z E L I I G  
L N C U Z P B B N V K F M Y F A H N B I  
V H M H L L L U A G V D S M O H A A O X  
K C L N E Z Q L P S N J G T V J H H E Z  
B U K D N L P U H N C J S K K P H M S L  
G J O S E P H N T Q R U L E A H A A A D  
C Q T H H R Q S A Y K D V E K F T F U X  
R X J B N N U M L E L A U L W H B K G F  
X D A I E N Y K I I R H O F Q W E C T O  
U U J Z I L P A H N P M A R E U B E N K  
P U Y F H Q B C A S H E R X U Y J I L O  
N L A B A N L Q Q J I S S A C H A R P D  
A Q I H C F S G G X N H W R K E O F D W  
B W W S I M E O N C S W U T L A P R A L  
X H T J S Y N W H I L R S G D Q P V N Q  
X U J J X X F H Y Z A N O X M R O X I D  
P B E N J A M I N S W Q E E P Q S U C M

BENJAMIN  
ZILPAH  
JACOB  
LEAH  
JUDAH  
BILHAH  
ZEBULUN

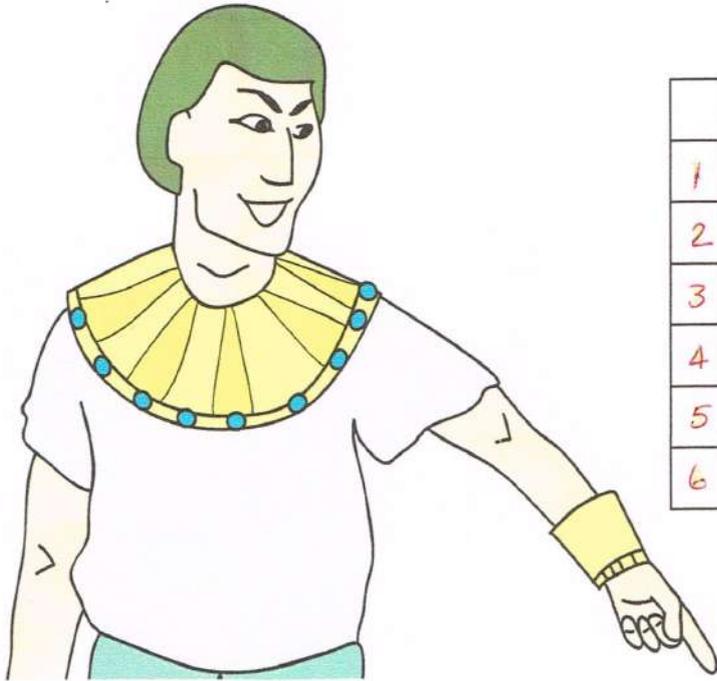
JOSEPH  
NAPHTALI  
LEVI  
REUBEN  
SIMEON  
ISSACHAR

RACHEL  
ASHER  
DAN  
ESAU  
LABAN  
GAD  
DINAH

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# Joseph

Use the key to complete the phrase below.



## KEY

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	K	L	M	N	O
4	P	Q	R	S	T
5	U	V	W	X	Y
6	Z	.	,	'	

## EXAMPLE:

H A V E  
     
 23 11 52 15  
  
F U N  
    
 21 51 34

Joseph's        and

23 35 34 15 44 45 55

32 35 52 15 35 21 22 35 14

never failed to keep him

44 11 21 15

and

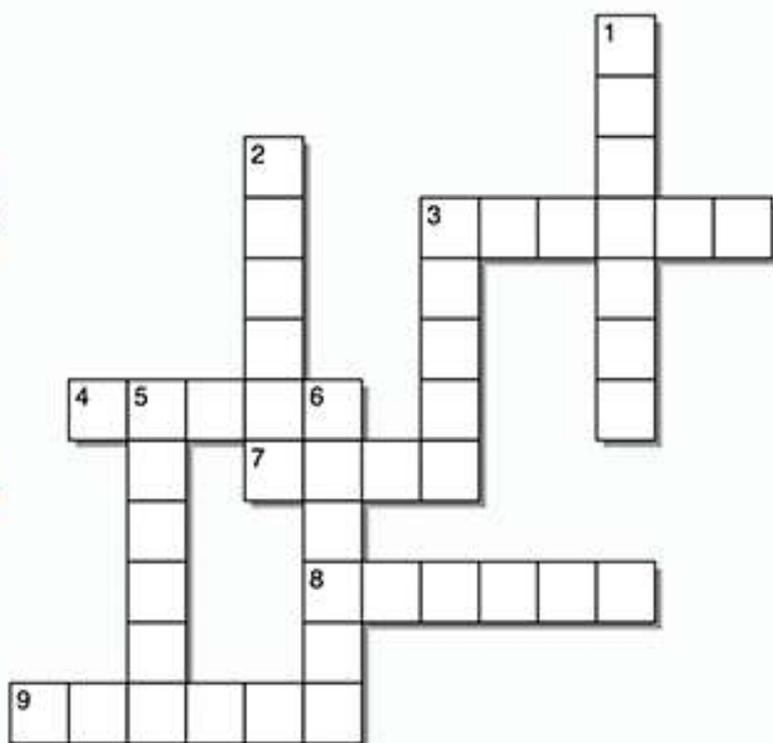
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41 43 35 44 41 15 43 35 51 44

# Bible Pathway Adventures

CROSSWORD

## JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS



### ACROSS

- 3) Jacob's favorite son. (Genesis 37:3 ESV)
- 4) The name of Joseph's brother starting with the letter A. (Genesis 46:17 ESV)
- 7) Who was the mother of Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun? (Genesis 46:15 ESV)
- 8) Who was the mother of Dan and Naphtali? (Genesis 46:23-25 ESV)
- 9) Joseph and his family lived in this land. (Genesis 37:1 ESV)

### DOWN

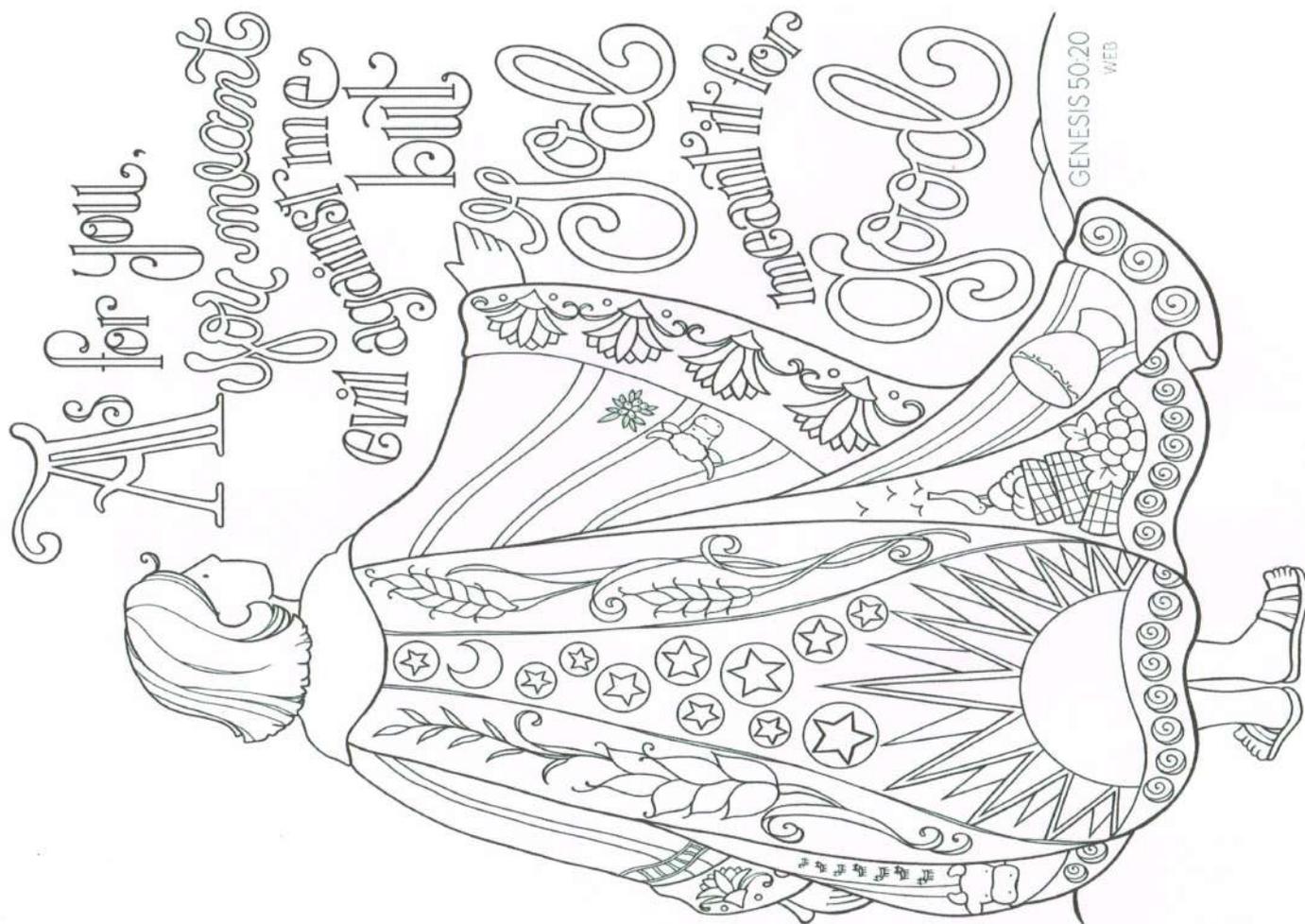
- 1) "All the persons of the house of Jacob who came into Egypt were \_\_\_\_." (Genesis 46:27 ESV)
- 2) Who was Joseph and Benjamin's mother? (Genesis 46:19 ESV)
- 3) Which brother wanted to sell Joseph to the traders? (Genesis 37:26 ESV)
- 5) "He took \_\_\_\_ from them and bound him..." (Genesis 42:24 ESV)
- 6) Which brother wanted to save Joseph? (Genesis 37:21 ESV)

# Connect Joseph to His Brothers

Find the path from Joseph in the center to each brother in the corner.



## Memory Verse for you to colour



### Prayer

Thank you, God,  
for eye and seeing;  
for ears and hearing;  
for a nose and smelling;  
for a tongue and tasting;  
for skin and feeling;  
thank you for my body:  
my passport to the world.  
Amen.

### Family Time

You will need: Paper and pens

Joseph was given a dream by God of what his future would look like. When he heard Pharaoh's dream, he understood that it was a picture of what was going to happen in Egypt in the years to come – seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

Our prayer for the world is that God's kingdom would come... we can imagine what that would look like as we pray.

Draw your own pictures of what you think the world would look like if everybody in it accepted God as their King and allowed God's power to rule in their lives.

I hope you have enjoyed reading Genesis and discovering who the first people were and where the 12 tribes of Israel came from. Let's see where Exodus leads us next.

Until next time take care and have fun.

God bless, Jackie

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