



CHILDREN'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER



**ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, FOREBRIDGE, STAFFORD, ST17 4LJ and
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27TH JUNE 2021 - FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

Hello again.

I hope you have had a good week especially if you watched England get through to the next round of Euros 2020. They will be playing Germany on Tuesday at Wembley. Don't forget to pray for the team as they haven't won against them since we won the World Cup in 1966.

Well I don't have much to say this week (yes, I know that makes a change, ahah!!) as there is a lot of reading this week. It's because this part of Joseph's story spreads over 4 chapters all involving his brothers again. It's the first time they have seen each other in a very long time and a lot has happened to Joseph over these years. In these chapters you also see where the dream Joseph had about his brothers bowing down to him actually come true after they got really annoyed with him..

The Dreams Come True, Joseph sets a trap for his brothers - Genesis chapters 42 to 45

Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt. So, he said to his sons, "Why are you just sitting here looking at one another? I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy grain for us to eat. Then we will live and not die."

So, ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt. But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with them. Jacob was afraid that something terrible might happen to Benjamin. Along with many other people, the sons of Jacob, also called Israel, went to Egypt to buy grain. This was because the people in the land of Canaan were also hungry.

Joseph was governor over Egypt, the one who sold the grain to people who came to buy it. When Joseph's brothers came to him, they bowed before him as they didn't know who he was. But, when he saw them he knew who they were but he acted as if he didn't. He asked unkindly, "Where do you come from?"

They said, "We have come from the land of Canaan to buy food."

Joseph remembered his dreams about his brothers bowing to him. He said to them, "You are spies! You came to learn where the nation is weak!"

But they said, "No, master. We come as your servants just to buy food. We are all sons of the same father. We are honest men, not spies."

Joseph repeated that they were spies come to learn where this nation is weak!

They said, "We are 10 of 12 brothers. We have the same father and live in the land of Canaan. Our youngest brother is with our father right now. And our other brother is gone."

But Joseph said to them, "I can see I was right! You are spies! But I will give you a way to prove you are telling the truth. You will not leave this place until your youngest brother comes here. One of you must go and get your brother. The rest of you will stay here in prison. We will see if you are telling the truth. If not, as surely as the king lives, you are spies." Then Joseph put them all in prison for three days.

On the third day Joseph said to them, "I am a God-fearing man. 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. Then bring your youngest brother back here to me. If you do this, I will know you are telling the truth. Then you will not die."

The brothers agreed to this. They said to each other, "We are being punished for what we did to our brother. We saw his trouble. He begged us to save him, but we refused to listen. That is why we are in this trouble now."

When Joseph talked to his brothers, he used an interpreter. So, they did not know that he understood what they were saying. Then Joseph left them and cried. After a short time, he went back and spoke to them. He took Simeon and tied him up while the other brothers watched. Joseph told his servants to fill his brothers' bags with grain and put the money the brothers had paid for the grain back in their bags. They were to give them things they would need for their trip back home, which the servants did.

So, the brothers put the grain on their donkeys and left. When they stopped for the night, one of the brothers opened his sack. He was going to get food for his donkey. Then he saw his money in the top of the sack. He said to the other brothers, "The money I paid for the grain has been put back. Here it is in my sack!"

The brothers were very frightened. They said to each other, "What has God done to us?"

The brothers went to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. They told him everything that had happened. Then the brothers emptied their sacks and they all found their silver in the sacks. When they and their father saw it, they were afraid.

Jacob said, "I will not allow Benjamin to go with you. His brother is dead. He is the only son left from my wife Rachel. I am afraid something terrible might happen to him during the trip to Egypt. Then I would be sad until the day I die."

Still no food grew in the land of Canaan. Jacob's family had eaten all the grain they had brought from Egypt. So, Jacob said to them, "Go to Egypt again and buy more grain for us to eat."

But Judah said to Jacob, "The governor of that country strongly warned us. He said, 'Bring your brother back with you. If you don't, you will not be allowed to see me.' If you will send Benjamin with us, we will go down and buy food for you. But if you refuse to send Benjamin, we will not go. The governor of that country warned us. He said we would not see him if we didn't bring Benjamin with us."

Jacob (also called Israel) said, "Why did you tell the man you had another brother? You have caused me a lot of trouble."

The brothers answered, "He questioned us carefully about ourselves and our family. He asked us, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' We just answered his questions. How could we know he would ask us to bring our other brother to him?"

Then Judah said to his father Jacob, "Send Benjamin with me. Then we will go at once. Do this so that we, you and our children may live and not die. I will guarantee you that he will be safe. I will be personally responsible for him. If I don't bring him back to you, you can blame me all my life. If we had not wasted all this time, we could have already made two trips."

Then their father Jacob said to them, "If it has to be that way, then do this: Take some of the best foods in our land in your packs. Give them to the man as a gift: some balm, some honey, spices, myrrh, pistachio nuts and almonds. Take twice as much money with you this time. Take back the money that was returned to you in your sacks last time. Maybe it was a mistake. And take Benjamin with you. Now leave and go to the governor. I pray that God All-Powerful will cause this man to be merciful to you. I pray that he will allow Simeon and Benjamin to come back with you. If I am robbed of my children, then I am robbed of them!"

So, the brothers took the gifts. They also took twice as much money as they had taken the first time. And they took Benjamin. They hurried down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

In Egypt Joseph saw Benjamin with them. He said to the servant in charge of his house, "Bring those men into my house. Kill an animal and prepare a meal. Those men will eat with me today at noon." The servant did as Joseph told him and brought the men to his house.

They were afraid when they were taken to the house. They thought, "We were brought here because of the money that was put in our sacks on the first trip. He wants to attack us, make us slaves and take our donkeys." So, the brothers went to the servant in charge of Joseph's house and spoke to him at the door. They said, "Sir, we came here once before to buy food. While we were going home, we stopped for the night and opened our sacks. Each of us found all his money in his sack. We brought that money with us to give it back to you. And we have brought more money. It is to pay for the food we want to buy this time. We don't know who put that money in our sacks."

But the servant answered, "It's all right. Don't be afraid. Your God, the God of your father, must have put the money in your sacks. I received the money you paid for the grain last time." Then the servant brought Simeon out to them.

The servant led the men into Joseph's house. He gave them water, and they washed their feet. Then he gave their donkeys food to eat. The men prepared their gift to give to Joseph when he arrived at noon. They had heard they were going to eat with him.

When Joseph came home, the brothers gave him the gift they had brought into the house. Then they bowed down to the ground to him. He asked them "How is your aged father you told me about? Is he still alive?" They answered, "Your servant, our father, is well." They bowed low before Joseph to show him respect.

Then Joseph saw his brother Benjamin, who had the same mother as him and he asked, "Is this your youngest brother you told me about?" Then Joseph said to Benjamin, "God be good to you, my son!" Joseph hurried off so that they wouldn't see his tears from seeing Benjamin. He went into his room, cried and then washed his face before joining them again. He said to his servants, "Serve the meal."

The brothers looked at each other because they were so amazed. Food from Joseph's table was taken to them. But Benjamin was given five times more food than the others. Joseph's brothers drank with him until they were very drunk.

Then Joseph told his servant in charge of his house and said, "Fill their sacks with as much grain as they can carry and put each man's money into his sack with the grain. Also, put my silver cup in the sack of the youngest brother with his money for the grain." The servant did what Joseph told him.

At dawn the brothers were sent away with their donkeys. They were not far from the city when Joseph said to the servant in charge of his house, "Go after the men. When you catch up with them, say, 'Why have you paid back evil for good? The cup you have stolen is the one my master uses for drinking. And he uses it for explaining dreams. You have done a very wicked thing!'"

So, the servant caught up with them and said what Joseph had told him to say.

But the brothers said, "Why do you say these things? We would not do anything like that! We brought back to you the money we found in our sacks. We brought it back from the land of Canaan. So, surely, we would not steal silver or gold from your master's house. If you find that silver cup in the sack of one of us, then let him die. And we will be your slaves."

The servant said, "We will do as you say. But only the man who has taken the cup will become my slave. The rest of you may go free."

Then they quickly lowered their sacks and opened it. The servant searched the sacks, going from the oldest brother to the youngest. When he found the cup in Benjamin's sack the brothers tore their clothes to show they were sad. Then they put their sacks back on the donkeys and returned to the city.

When Judah and his brothers went back to Joseph's house, Joseph was still there. The brothers bowed down on the ground before him. Joseph said to them, "What have you done? Didn't you know that a man like me can learn things by signs and dreams?"

Judah said, "Sir, what can we say? And how can we show we are not guilty? God has uncovered our guilt. So, all of us will be your slaves, not just Benjamin."

But Joseph said, "I will not make you all slaves! Only the man who stole the cup will be my slave. The rest of you may go back safely to your father."

Then Judah said to Joseph, "Sir, please let me speak plainly to you. Please don't be angry with me. I know that you are as powerful as the king of Egypt himself. When we were here before, you asked us about our father and we answered you, 'We have an old father and a younger brother who was born when our father was old. This youngest son's brother is dead. So, he is the only one of his mother's children left alive and our father loves him very much.' You said to us, 'Bring that brother to me. I want to see him.' And we said to you, 'That young boy cannot leave his father because his father would die.' But you said we must bring him because if we didn't, we would not be allowed to see you again. So, we went back to our father and told him what you had said.

"Later, our father said, 'Go again and buy more food.' We reminded our father that we couldn't go without our youngest brother as we would not be allowed to see the governor.' Our father was very sad in case something terrible happened to Benjamin. He is the most important thing in our father's life. When our father sees that the young boy is not with us, he will die. And it will be our fault. We will cause the great sorrow that kills our father.

Joseph could not control himself in front of his servants any longer so he cried out for everyone to leave. When only the brothers were left with him, he told them who he was. He cried so loudly that the Egyptians and the people in the king's palace heard about it. He said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But the brothers could not answer him, because they were very afraid of him.

So, Joseph said to them, "Come close to me. I am your brother Joseph who you sold as a slave to go to Egypt. Don't be worried or angry with yourselves because you sold me. No food has grown on the land for two years now. And there will be five more years without planting or harvest. So, God sent me here ahead of you to save people's lives. This was to make sure you have some descendants left on earth and to keep you alive in an amazing way. So, it was not you who sent me here, but God. God has made me the highest officer of the king of Egypt in charge of his palace. I am the master of all the land of Egypt.

"Leave quickly and go to my father. Tell him, 'Your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all Egypt. Come back quickly and live in the land of Goshen near to me. Bring your children, your grandchildren, your flocks and herds and all that you have will be near me. I will care for you during the next five years of hunger. In this way, you and your family and all that you have will not starve.'

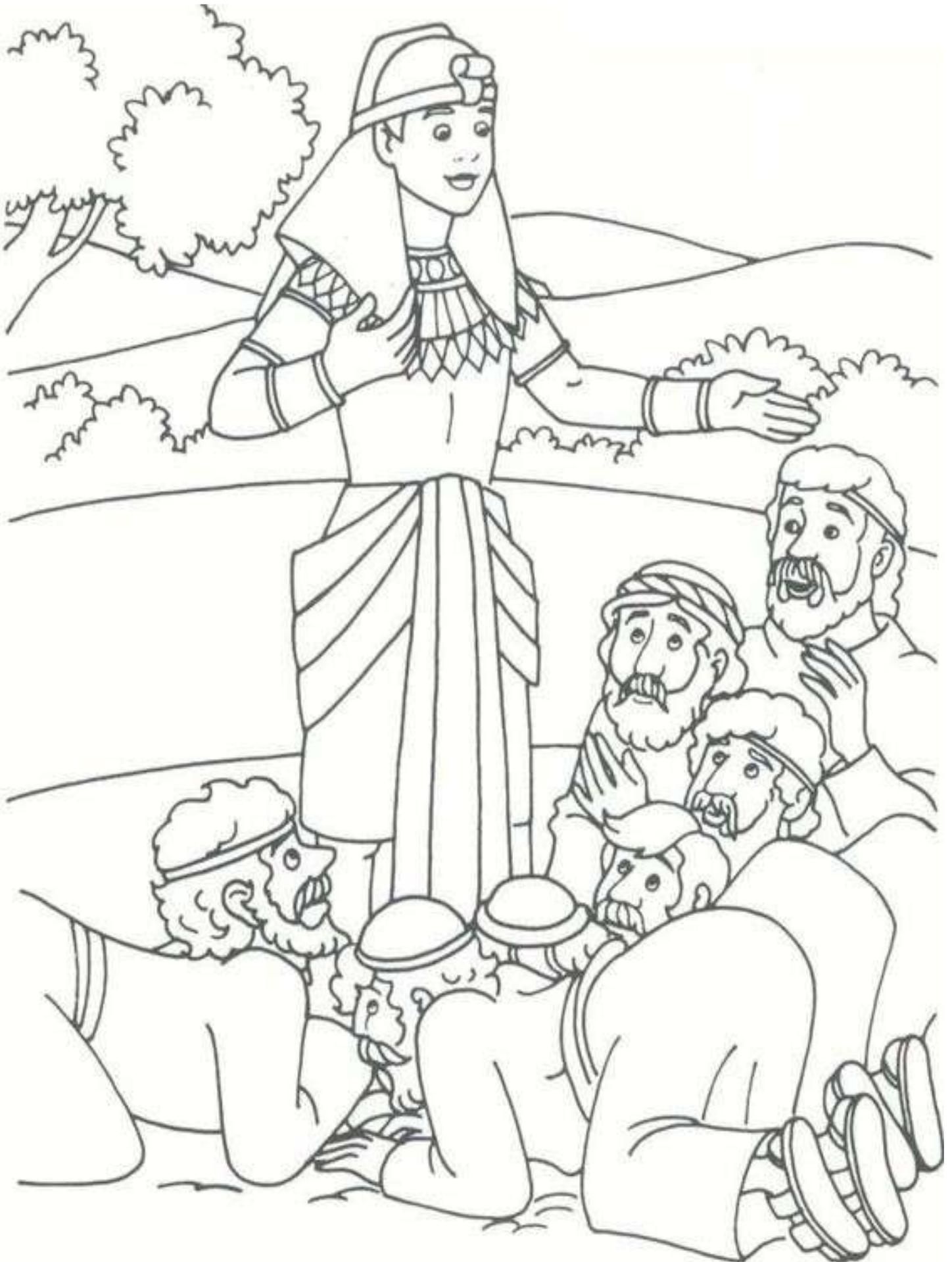
"Tell our father about everything you have seen. Now hurry and bring him back to me." Then Joseph hugged his brother Benjamin and they both cried. Then Joseph cried as he kissed and hugged all his brothers. After this, his brothers talked with him.

The king of Egypt and his officers learned that Joseph's brothers had come. And they were very happy about this. So, the king said to Joseph, "Tell your brothers to load their animals and go back to the land of Canaan. Tell them to bring their father and their families back here to me. I will give them the best land in Egypt. And they will eat the best food we have here. Tell them to take some wagons from Egypt for their children and their wives. And tell them to bring their father back also. Tell them not to worry about bringing any of their things with them. We will give them the best of what we have in Egypt."

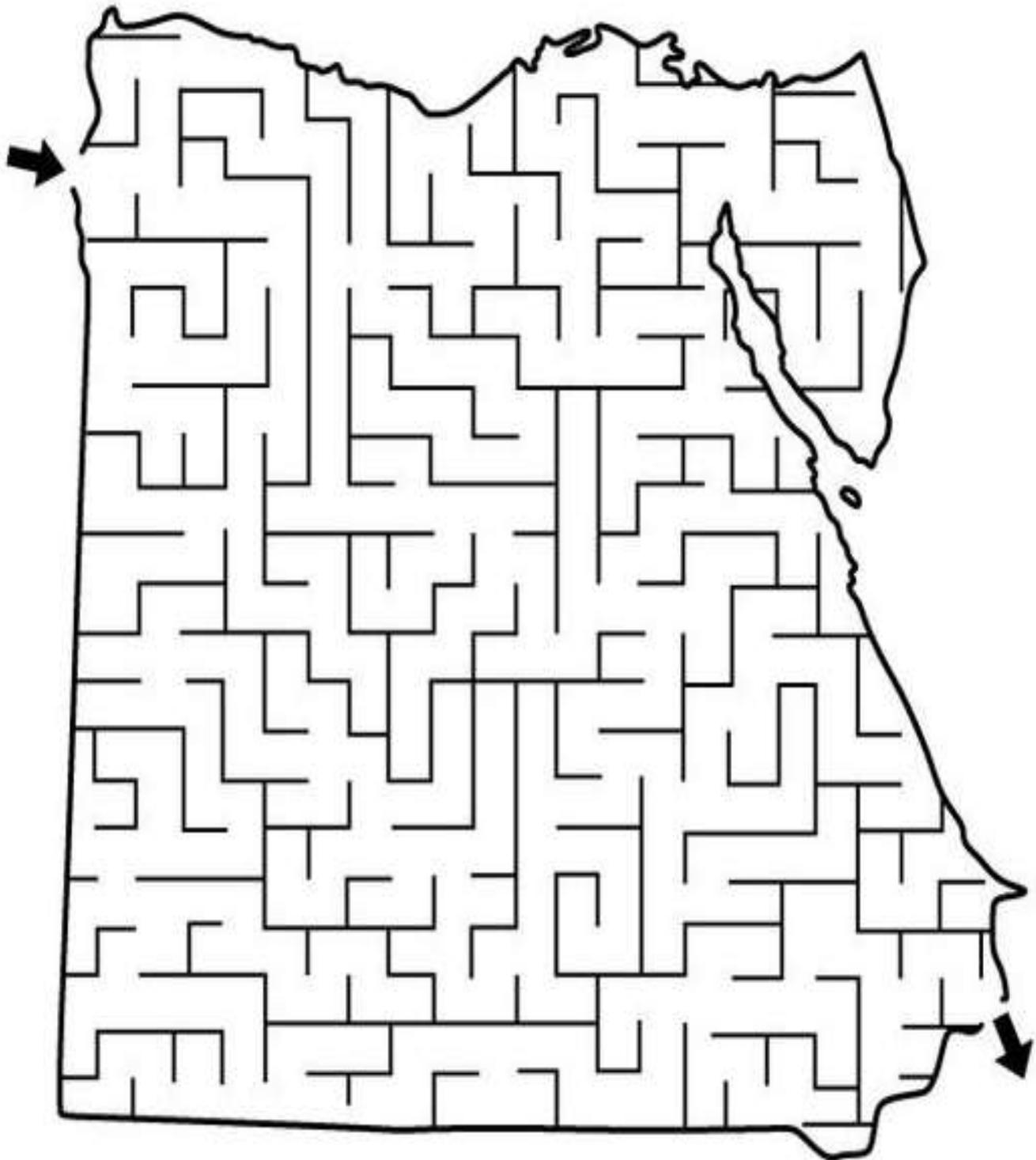
So, the sons of Israel did this. Joseph gave them wagons as the king had ordered. And he gave them food for their trip. He gave each brother a change of clothes. But he gave Benjamin five changes of clothes. And Joseph gave him about seven and one-half pounds of silver. Joseph also sent his father ten donkeys loaded with the best things from Egypt. And he sent ten female donkeys. They were loaded with grain, bread and other food for his father on his trip back. Then Joseph told his brothers to go. As they were leaving, he said to them, "Don't quarrel on the way home."

So, the brothers left Egypt and went to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. They told him, "Joseph is still alive. He is the ruler over all the land of Egypt." Their father was shocked and did not believe them. But the brothers told him everything Joseph had said. Then Jacob saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him back to Egypt. Now Jacob felt better. Jacob, also called Israel, said, "Now I believe you. My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

Joseph meets his brothers - colour me in

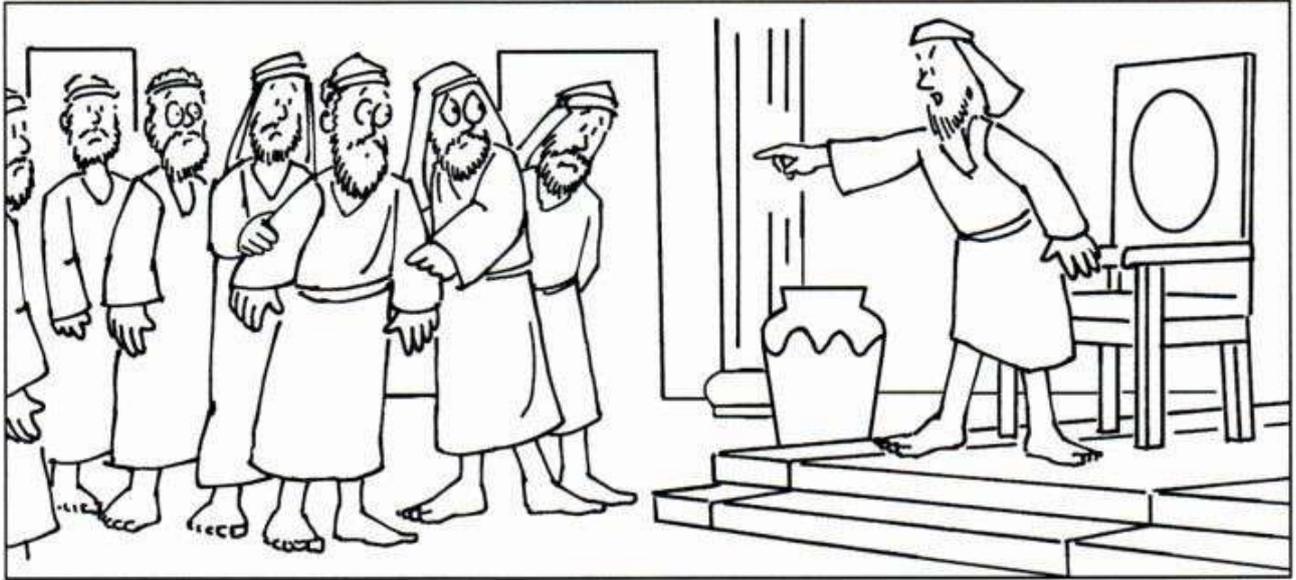


Egypt Maze

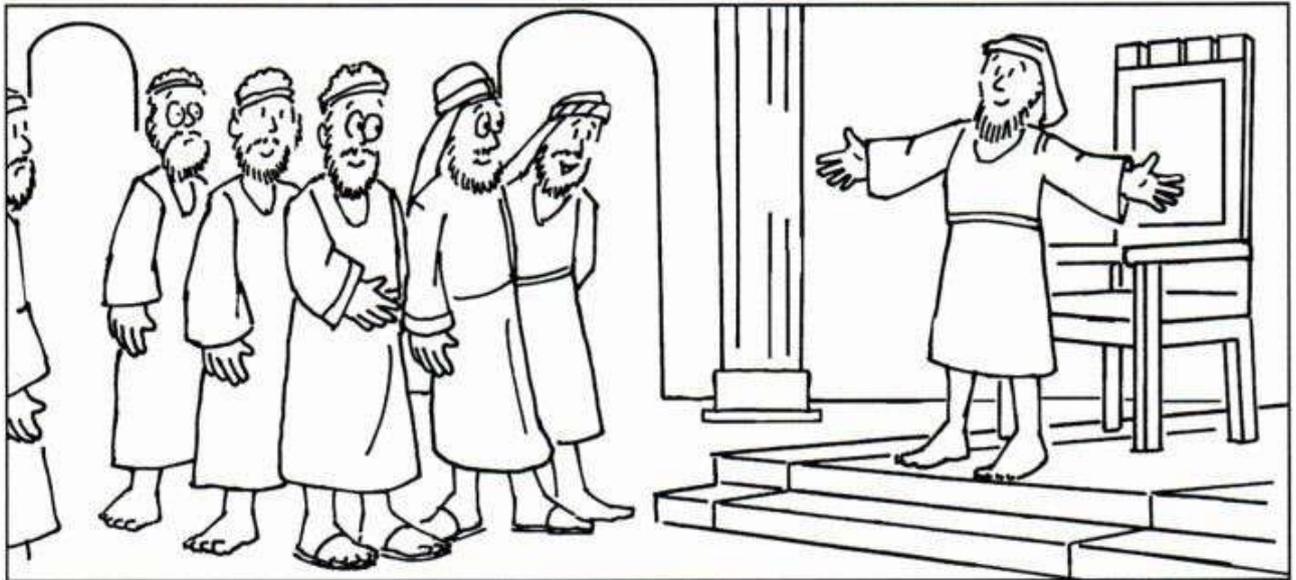


Joseph meets his brothers

Joseph pretended to be angry with his brothers. Later he told them he had forgiven them.
Circle 10 things different in the bottom picture.

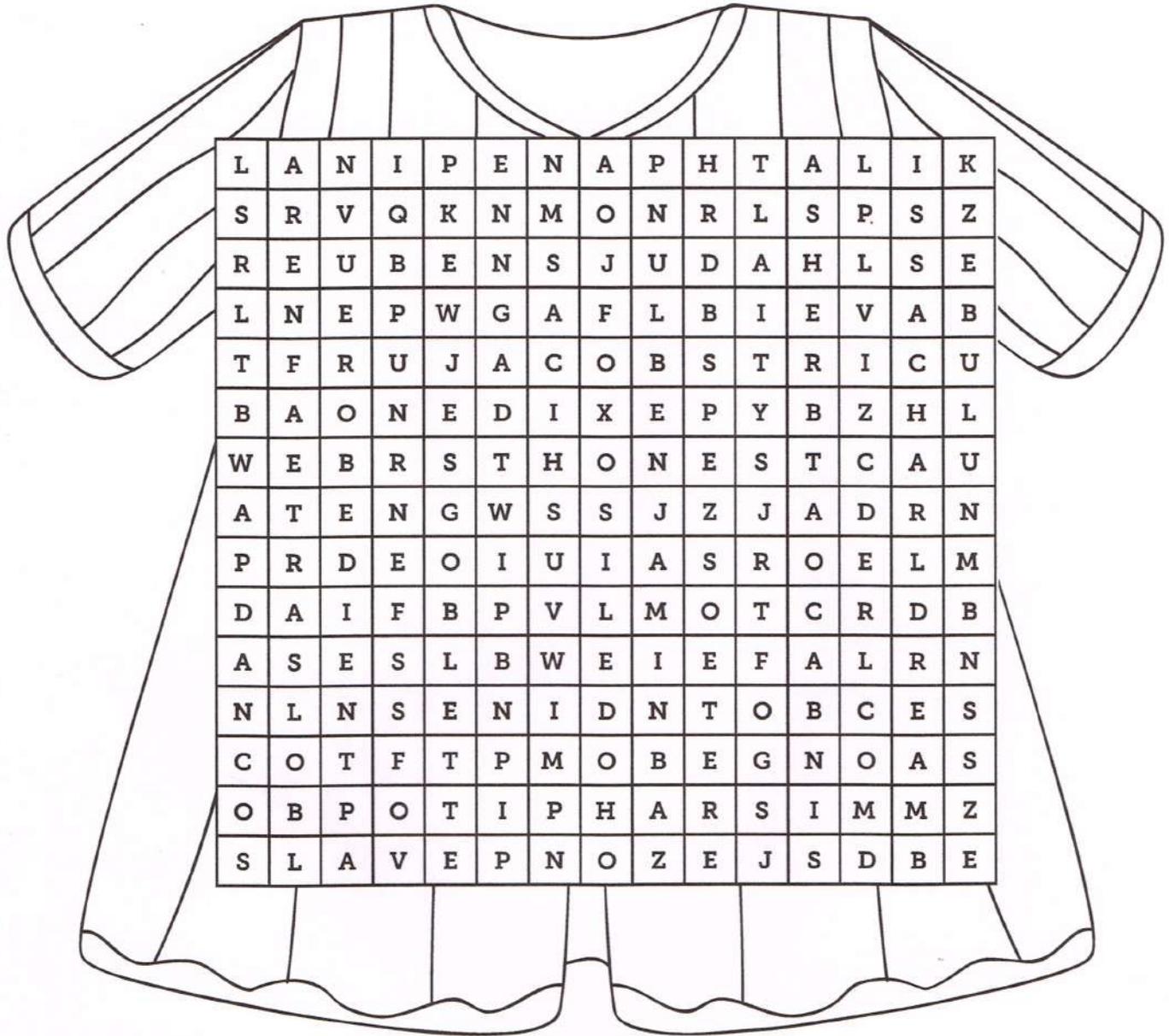


Joseph forgives his brothers



Joseph Word Search

Search for the given words below hidden in the squares.



FORGIVENESS
 BENJAMIN
 GOBLET
 SLAVE
 NAPHTALI

OBEDIENT
 JACOB
 HONEST
 ZEBULUN
 ASHER

JUDAH
 SIMEON
 LEVI
 COAT
 ISSACHAR

GAD
 REUBEN
 DREAM
 DAN
 POTIPHAR

Memory Verse for you to colour



Prayer

We give thanks for streetlamps that shine on our path, but oh! for a glimpse of the stars that wheel their way through the heavens above with Jupiter, Venus and Mars.

We give thanks for pavements without ruts or holes, but oh! for the smell of the earth, the feel of tussocks and tree-roots and mud, the planet that gave us birth.
Amen.

Family Time

You will need: A cup!

Joseph hid a silver cup in the sack of his youngest brother, Benjamin (Genesis 44). It was a trap to see if his brothers had really changed. Take it in turns to hide a cup or other object around the house. The person who has hidden it could give clues or say "warmer" or "colder" to help everybody else find it!

I bet you are getting really good at reading, especially with Joseph's story as each part is spread over so many chapters. I wonder if you could get points from your teachers for all this extra reading. Well you get a gold star off me.



Until next week take care.

God bless, Jackie

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