

God Saves

Bible Passage: Genesis 42—47; 50

(Joseph Becomes Ruler)

REMEMBER VERSE

Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6

The Big God Story Summary

Bible Passage: Genesis 42—47; 50

Ponder Point: God Saves

Last week we talked about a dream that God sent to Pharaoh. God helped Joseph interpret Pharaoh's dream, alerting him to the seven years of famine that were ahead. In return, Pharaoh brought Joseph out of prison, made him the second ruler of Egypt, and put him in charge of storing up lots of food before the famine.

After the famine began, many people traveled to Egypt to get food. Joseph's father, Jacob, and his brothers lived in Canaan, near Egypt. Jacob sent Joseph's brothers to Egypt to buy grain. Once the brothers got to Egypt, they bowed before Joseph, who was the ruler distributing the grain. The brothers didn't recognize Joseph, but Joseph recognized them.

Joseph sent his brothers home with food but told them to not come back for more food if they didn't bring their youngest brother, Benjamin. When the food ran out, Jacob let Benjamin go to Egypt with his brothers. When Joseph saw Benjamin, he had to leave the room to cry. Later, Joseph prepared a feast for his brothers. He also gave them grain to take home a second time. All this time, the brothers still didn't know who Joseph was! Then Joseph secretly put a silver cup in Benjamin's bag and told his servant to chase the brothers and accuse them of stealing the cup.

The brothers protested, saying they hadn't stolen anything, but they agreed with Joseph's servant: "Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame" (Genesis 44:10). The brothers agreed to be searched, and, of course, the cup was found in Benjamin's bag. The brothers knew their father would be heartbroken if Benjamin didn't return home with them. One of the brothers, Judah, begged to take Benjamin's place. He offered to stay in Egypt as a slave instead of Benjamin.

Joseph must have been amazed. The brothers who sold him as a slave were fiercely protecting his little brother. Joseph couldn't hide his secret any longer. He told his brothers, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold!" (Genesis 45:4). The brothers were shocked and terrified! But Joseph told them that "God sent me ahead of you" so he could save their lives and take care of them (Genesis 45:5).

Joseph could forgive his brothers because he knew God was using him to play an important role in His story! God didn't just save Joseph and his family. Through Joseph, God saved many other lives too. Because Joseph and his family were saved, their descendant, Jesus came to earth to die for our sins. By trusting and obeying Jesus, you can become a part of God's family. If you have not accepted God's gift of salvation through His Son Jesus, you can do that today.

Salvation Invitation

As the Holy Spirit leads, be prepared to talk to any of your children who want to ask Jesus to save them. Review *The Plan of Salvation* with them.

Questions for Younger Kids

- **How did Joseph respond when he saw his brothers?** Genesis 45:1–2 Joseph wept loudly.
- **How did God use the difficult parts of Joseph's life for good?** Genesis 45:1–11 God used them to bring Joseph to power in Egypt so that he could save his brothers' lives.
- **What does God save us from?** Sin and death.
- **Have you been saved by God? If so, tell about it.**

Questions for Older Kids

- **How did Joseph respond when he saw his brothers?** Genesis 45:1–2 Joseph wept loudly.
- **How did God use the difficult parts of Joseph's life for good? Genesis 45:1–11** God used all the difficult times to bring Joseph into a position of power so that many people, including Joseph's family, could be saved.
- **Read Genesis 45:12–15 with your child(ren.) How do you think you might respond in a similar situation? Would you respond like Joseph, or do you think you'd have a difficult time forgiving your brothers?**
- **God saved Joseph's family by bringing them to Egypt. What other family in the Big God Story did God save by sending them to Egypt?** Matthew 2:13–15 An angel warned Jesus' father, Joseph, to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt to save them from King Herod.
- **What difficult situations has God saved you from? How do you think He might want to use those situations for good? Genesis 50:20**
- **Have you been saved by God? If so, tell about it.**

CRAFT

Supplies: construction paper, glue, rice or oats, string or yarn See <https://pin.it/sOGDq1g> for a photo. Feel free to improvise with the materials that you have on hand.

Use the template on the next page to cut a "sack" out of brown or orange construction paper. Tie a piece of string or yarn around the narrow part of the sack. Glue the sack to a larger piece of paper. Cover the mouth of the sack with glue and sprinkle rice or oats on it. Ask your child to write the following verse on the paper, "God sent me ahead of you...to save your lives." Genesis 45:7

CONNECT AS A FAMILY

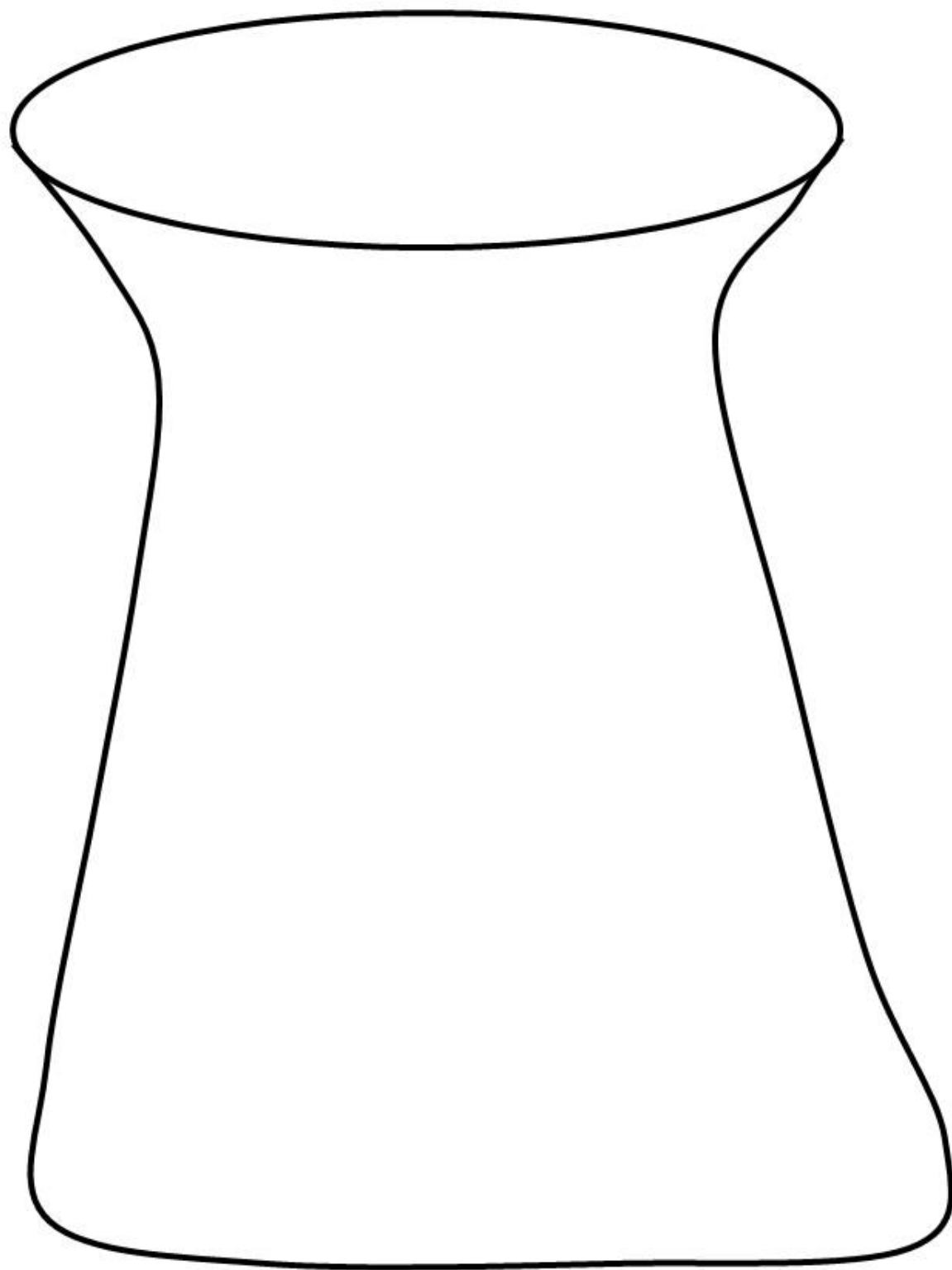
Tell your children a story of how God used a difficult circumstance in your family for good. Then **read Genesis 45:1–15**. Explain to your children that this passage of Scripture describes another time God turned something hard and painful into something good. Ask your children if they want God to work through any difficult or discouraging situations they are currently experiencing in their own lives. Pray with your children about the things that they mention.

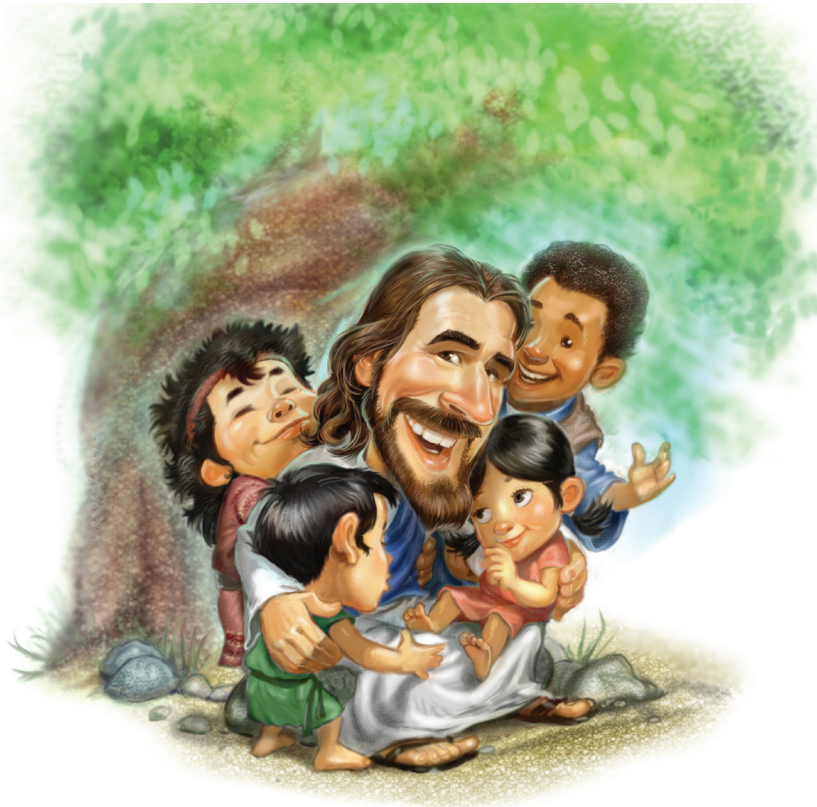
BLESSING

Blessings are often used in the Bible. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide.

A blessing to pray over your child(ren):

May you know that God loves you. He saves you. He protects you and will always be with you in difficult times.





The Plan of Salvation

God's Plan: You Were Created to Know Him

From the beginning, God wanted the people He created to know Him. (See Genesis 1–3.) That includes you! God loves you and wants you to have the best life possible.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (John 10:10)

The Problem: Sin

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve disobeyed God (Genesis 3). Because of that, all people are born with a desire to do wrong things. These wrongs—also known as sins—prevent us from having a relationship with God. In fact, the results of sin are death and eternal separation from God.

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)



God's Solution: Jesus

We've all messed up with God. Even if we try really hard, none of us can live a perfect life. Our best efforts could never earn God's forgiveness or pay the price for our sin. Because God loves people, He decided to send His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross in our place. Only Jesus could live a perfect life and keep all of God's laws. He died on the cross as the final sacrifice for our sins. If we choose to believe in Jesus, we gain a right relationship with God and will spend eternity with Him.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)

Your Response: Accept God's Gift

What do you do when someone gives you a gift? You accept it, don't you? The best response to God's gift of forgiveness is to accept what Jesus has done. You can do this by admitting that you've done wrong and you need God's forgiveness. When you do this, God sends His Holy Spirit to live inside you.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9)

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

If you are ready to trust Jesus, pray something like this:

Lord Jesus, I've sinned against You. Have mercy on me and forgive my sin. I believe You died in my place, then rose from the dead. Because of You, I can be a child of God. Thank You for dying on the cross for me. In Your name, amen.

What Now?

- **Tell Someone.** Tell your parents, your friends—anyone you can think of. See if they notice the change in your life.
- **Start Praying.** You can talk to God anytime you like. He's your new best friend.
- **Read the Bible.** The Bible is God's message book for you. The more you read it the better you will know Him.
- **Serve God.** Look for ways to serve Him using your talents and resources.

