

Memory Verse:

For he is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

Revelation 17:14

Questions:

1. It was customarily recognized that persons of royalty rode on donkeys. What else did the donkey symbolize? What did a horse symbolize?
2. Why then, did Jesus chose to ride a donkey into Jerusalem before His crucifixion?
3. What did Jesus say would happen if the people did not praise Him? Is He still worthy of our praise?
4. In what ways do we want to be like the people in our story today and in what ways should we be different?

Praise Day!

Gavin pressed his nose against the window. It was raining again. His sister, Grace, bumped him as she walked by. "Get out of my way," she snapped.

"Leave me alone, brat!" retorted Gavin. Soon the two were shouting at each other.

"What's going on in there?" called Mom from the kitchen. "Well?" she asked, entering the room. Gavin felt uneasy and didn't say anything. To his surprise, Grace didn't either. "Praise the Lord!" Mom suddenly exclaimed loudly. It

made Gavin jump. Mom smiled as the children looked at her curiously. "You were complaining with loud voices," she said, "so I thought I'd praise the Lord in an equally loud voice. After all, the rain will water all the thirsty plants. I'm thankful for that, aren't you?" Gavin looked at the rain streaming down the glass. "I think you need to make a praise list," continued Mom. "Write down all the wonderful things God is and does. Let's have a praise day instead of an arguing day." She went to the desk drawer and got out paper and pencils. Then she returned to the kitchen.

After thinking a moment, Gavin wrote God helped me with my math lesson. Grace took a sheet of paper and wrote, God gives us food every day.

Gavin grinned. "Hey, let's tape our pages together to make one long sheet—let's see how long of a list we can make!" he suggested. The list was very long and still growing when Dad came home. Mom asked him how his day went. "Terrible," said Dad. "First, I got a flat tire in the rain. IT made me late for work, and then..."

"Praise the Lord!" interrupted Gavin. Dad glanced at Mom. "We're having a praise day, Dad," explained Gavin, holding up the list.

"C'mon, Dad," encouraged Grace, "Praise the Lord for something."

Just then Dad's stomach rumbled. He grinned. "I praise the Lord for your mom, and I'm thankful that she's a good cook," he said. "Now let's thank God for our food and eat!" LG



Primary Sunday School

April 2, 2017. V67, Q2, W1

Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

Lesson text: Luke 19-28-42; Matthew 21:1-11; Zechariah 9:9

Five hundred years before Jesus, it was prophesied in the book of Zechariah that He would enter Jerusalem on the back of a donkey as the KING and as the promised Messiah. A donkey, rather than being a symbol of poverty or humility, was a symbol of royalty. It was customary in the Old Testament and in Jesus' time for princes and kings to ride on the backs of donkeys in their processions. Horses were used to go to battle and symbolized war, but a donkey was a symbol of peace.

On what we now celebrate as Palm Sunday, five days before Jesus' crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples to go into the village where they would see a donkey tied up; a donkey upon which no man had ever sat. This donkey had never borne an inferior load, but was fresh and was meant to carry the Son of God, the King of all kings. Jesus told them to untie it and bring it to Him. He said, "If anyone asks you why you are untying the donkey (or colt), tell them it is because the Lord has need of him." Sure enough, when the disciples went into the village, they found the donkey and untied him. Just as Jesus predicted, one of the owners asked them, "Why are you untying the donkey?" The disciples then gave them the message Jesus had instructed them to give.

When the disciples brought the donkey to Jesus, they put their clothes on the donkey's back for Him to sit on. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem (known as The City of Peace), multitudes of people spread their clothes in the road in front of Him. Others cut palm branches and spread them in the road. The people cried and shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."

Some of the Pharisees knew the people would think Jesus was a king and they did not like it. They told Jesus, "Rebuke your disciples." However, Jesus said to them, "If these people hold their peace the stones will immediately cry out." Jesus, while humble, did not stop the people on this occasion from proclaiming Him to be the KING OF PEACE--His true title.

When He drew near to Jerusalem, He looked over the city and wept. He said, "If you had only known what would bring you peace, but now it is hidden from you." Jesus cried because the people whom He loved, and who so desperately needed peace in their hearts, would reject Him.

Sister Julie Elwell

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 1. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. 2017.



Memory Verse:

Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips
from speaking guile. Psalms 34:13

Questions:

1. For what reason did the Jews seek to put Jesus to death?
2. How did Jesus respond when accused spitefully and very wrongfully?
3. Why is it hard to sometimes be quiet when we feel like lashing out at someone who does not treat us right?
4. Discuss what forgiveness means. What constructive things we can we do to change a bad attitude we might have against someone?

A Heavy Load

"Andrew," called Mom, "you forgot your backpack."

"I don't want it today, Mom," Andrew told her. "It's too heavy; it slows me down. And I'm already late."

That evening, Andrew wasn't acting very happy. "Is anything the matter?" Mom asked.

Andrew sighed. "Oliver wants me to come to his birthday party," he said, "but I still don't like him."

Mom frowned. "It's been three months now since he accused you of stealing his bike, and he's asked you to forgive him, hasn't he?" she asked.

Andrew nodded. "Yes, but he still bugs me," he said. Then he added, "Besides, I didn't even get to have a party for my birthday. It isn't fair!"

"I see," said Mom. "Anything else?"

Andrew hesitated. Then he finally said, "Well, Luke wore the championship sweatshirt that he got when the softball team won two years ago—I missed it because I broke my leg."

"That's quite a load you're carrying," said Mom. "It reminds me of your heavy backpack."

"My backpack?" repeated Andrew.

"Do you know why it felt so heavy?" asked Mom. "It's because it was loaded with things you should have gotten rid of long ago. See these?" She held up an empty soda bottle, an overdue library book, and a pair of running shoes. "After you left this morning, I checked your backpack to see what was making it so heavy."

Andrew looked embarrassed. "I guess it wasn't too smart of me to carry this heavy stuff around," he admitted.

Mom nodded. "Neither is it healthy to carry around in your heart old hurts from the past," she said. "Unload those hurts. With a light heart, you'll find it much easier to run the race Christ calls you to run."

LG



Primary Sunday School

April 9, 2017. V67, Q2, W2

A Crucified King

Lesson text: Matthew 27:14, 27-29; John 18:33-38; 19:19-22, 30; Matthew 27:54

Perhaps the crucifixion of Jesus was the darkest day the world has ever known. While just five days earlier the people had praised and hailed Jesus as a King, He now found himself betrayed and forsaken by His disciples. He was taken late on a Thursday night to the house of the high priest of the Jews for rough questioning. At the heart of the Jews' envy and hatred of Jesus was His claim that He was Christ, the Son of God. When morning came, they led him into the council of the chief priests and scribes. They asked Him, "Are you the Christ?" When Jesus did not deny this allegation, they angrily took Him to the Roman governor of Judea, a man named Pontius Pilate, seeking his death.

A mob of people formed as Jesus was led to Pilate early that Friday morning. Loud, raucous accusations were brought against Him by the rulers and people surrounding the fact that he claimed to be the King of the Jews. Jesus kept silent. When Pilate asked Jesus, "Do you hear what they are saying against you?" Jesus again answered him not a word so that Pilate greatly marveled.

Pilate could find no fault in Jesus, but because he feared the people, He turned Jesus over to the soldiers. The soldiers put a scarlet robe on Jesus and a crown of thorns, mockingly bowing before Him as one would a king. Pilate then wrote a sign and put it on the cross upon which Jesus willingly, and out of love, offered Himself. It said, "JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS." The Jews did not like what Pilate had written. They urged him to change the sign to say, "He said, I am king of the Jews." But Pilate answered them saying, "I have written what I have written." The sign was written in three different languages; Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Many people and foreigners visiting the city of Jerusalem that weekend were able to read the sign.

Some of Jesus' final words were, "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." Later, a Roman centurion, passing by the cross said, "Truly this was the Son of God."

But wait. This was not the end of the story of Jesus Christ, the Creator of the heavens and the universe! He would prove to the world in three short days that He truly is the King of kings!

Sister Julie Elwell

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 2. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. 2017.



Memory Verse:

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and
behold, I am alive forever more,
Amen. Revelation 1:18

Questions:

1. Although Jesus was crucified as a criminal, discuss how He came to be buried with the rich.
2. Why were the chief priests afraid and what did they do to try and alleviate their fears?
3. AN ALIVE KING: Discuss what happened on Resurrection morning.
4. How does Jesus' continued LIFE today benefit you? How powerful is He?

Quick as a Puppy

"Are we almost there?" asked McKenzie, peering out the car window. "I'm awfully tired."

"We'll be there in about an hour," replied Dad. "Aren't you getting excited about seeing our new home?"

"I guess so," answered McKenzie. "But I sure wish I didn't have to change schools. What if the kids in the new school laugh at me for being on crutches? What if someone trips me and knocks me down? What if I can't find my way around? What if I—"

"That's way too many 'what ifs,'" said Mom, reaching back to pat McKenzie's hand. "Don't borrow trouble before it happens."

"Well, back at home the kids knew what kind of help I needed and they took care of me," answered McKenzie, "but there won't be anybody to help me at the new school."

"You will have God," observed Dad. "The Bible says He is always ready to help in times of trouble." As he spoke, Dad slammed on the brakes, barely missing a little puppy that suddenly dashed in front of the car. The next moment, a truck turned from a side road and came toward them, right into Dad's lane. Everyone gasped in fright. But the other driver pulled his truck back into his own lane just in time to pass safely.

"Oh, my!" said Mom in a shaky voice. "You know, if you hadn't braked for the puppy when you did, we probably would have met that truck head-on."

"We're lucky the puppy came out into the road, aren't we?" asked McKenzie.

"It wasn't luck. It was God's protections," replied Dad. "The puppy caused me to slow down for the few seconds we needed to avoid that truck. I'm sure God caused him to cross at just the right moment—He knew what that ruck would do." After a moment, Dad added, "He also knows what your new school will be like—and no matter what your needs will be, He already knows how He will meet them."

"And He will send help as quick as that puppy ran into the road, won't He?" asked McKenzie with a grin. She sat up straight. "I'll try not to worry anymore!"

LG



Primary Sunday School

April 16, 2017. V67, Q2, W3

Jesus: Our Risen Saviour and King

Lesson text: Isaiah 53:9; John 19:38-42; Matthew 28:1-8; Acts 1:1-3

Approximately 700 years before Jesus' crucifixion, it was prophesied that He would be put to death with the wicked but buried with the rich. Executed criminals in Jerusalem were typically denied a proper burial and dumped in a deep, narrow valley right outside the city walls. Not Jesus.

Joseph was a rich man at Jesus' crucifixion. He was a disciple of Jesus, a counsellor, and a good and just man who had waited for the Kingdom of God. As soon as he knew Jesus had died, he went boldly to Pilate, the governor, asking permission to take the body of Jesus and bury Him. Pilate granted permission, so Joseph and Nicodemus (the Pharisee who had found Jesus by night to talk to him), took Jesus' body down from the cross. They wrapped Him in fine linen with spices, as was Jewish custom. There was a garden with a new sepulcher (tomb) made out of rock in which no man had ever lain. They placed Jesus inside and rolled a stone in front of the door. Thus, the prophecy of Jesus being buried with the rich was fulfilled.

The Jews were afraid and they also went to Pilate. They said, "Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, 'After three days I will rise again.'" They were afraid the disciples would steal Jesus' body away by night and then tell people that He was risen from the dead. (Or maybe they were afraid He would indeed rise from the dead?) Pilate said, go make the tomb as secure as you can. So they sealed the stone and set soldiers to guard it.

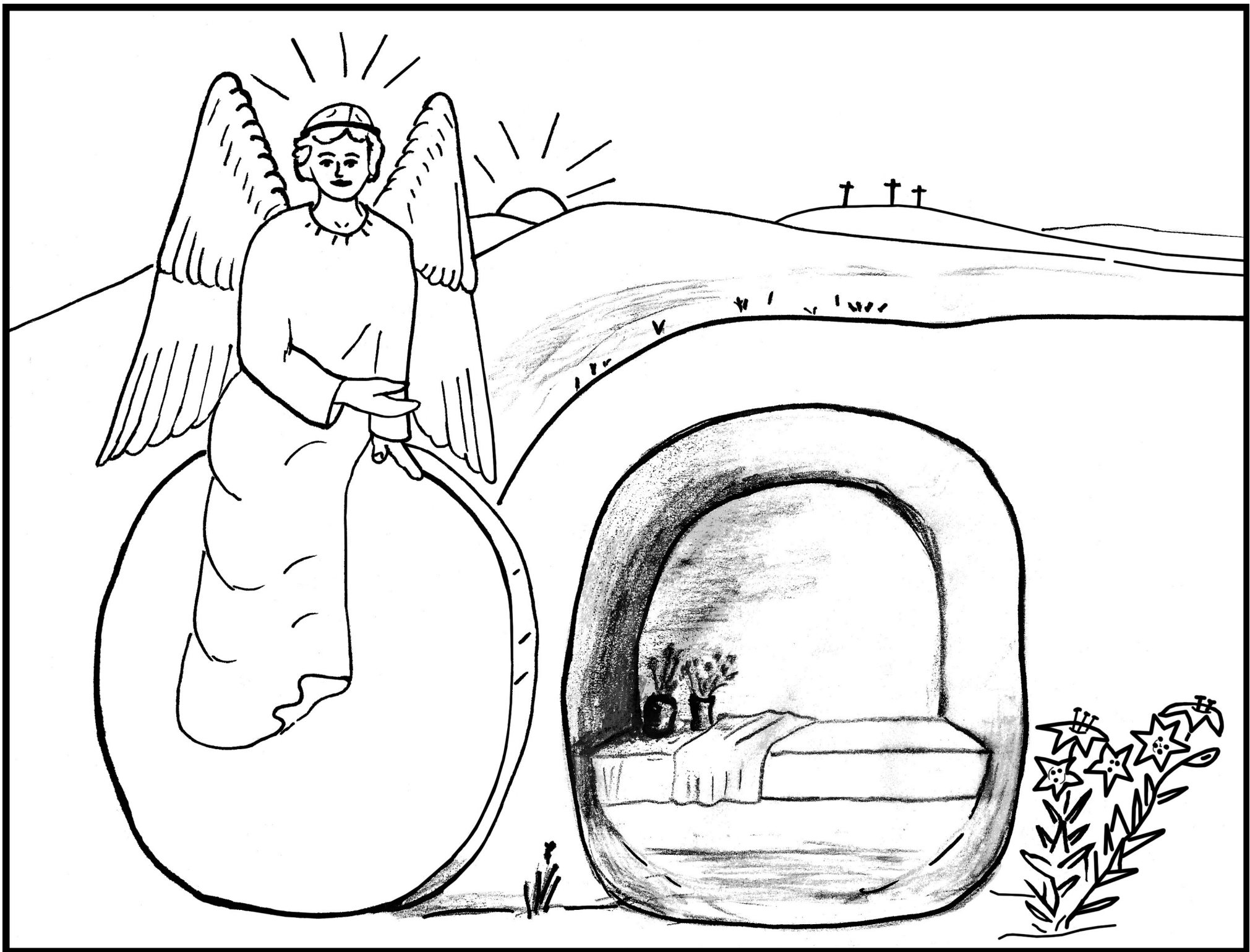
Early Sunday morning there was a great earthquake, for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it. The angel's face was like lightning and his clothes were white as snow. The soldiers began to shake in fear and fainted as dead men. Later, when the chief priests heard about all that had happened, they gave the soldiers a great sum of money and told them to say that Jesus' disciples had stolen him away while they slept. How afraid they must have been.

When Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and other women came to the tomb early that same morning, they were perplexed because the stone was rolled away from the tomb and Jesus' body was gone. Two angels in shining garments stood by and said, "Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!" What great, amazing joy filled the hearts of Jesus' followers. Jesus then showed Himself to His disciples for forty days, speaking to them of things about the Kingdom of God before ascending into heaven.

Sister Julie Elwell

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 3. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Rosie Gellenbeck, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

And she called his name Joseph; and said, The LORD shall add to me another son. Genesis 30:24

Questions:

1. How long did Abraham have to wait before Isaac was born? How did that period of time affect his faith?
2. Is it always easy to see how God is working His plan out in our lives?
3. How can we learn from Joseph's lineage to trust God's long-term plan for us?
4. How will your decisions affect those coming after you?

The Broken Promise

"Uncle Nathan promised to take me to the airport with him today," pouted Henry. "How can he change his mind all of a sudden? He promised!"

"Something came up, honey. This stormy weather delayed airplanes, and he's going to be too busy to have you along," explained Aunt Sophie.

"But he broke his promise!" insisted Henry.

"I'm not sure he actually promised," said his aunt, "but in any case, I think you should try to understand. He can't help it that his plans had to change. It's kind of like last week when I said I'd be home from shopping by five o'clock, but

then I got in a traffic jam and didn't get home until almost six. You forgave me because you knew I couldn't help it that something happened to change my plans."

"Well, I hate things that change plans," grumbled Henry. He watched out the window as the rain poured down. He had looked forward to this special day at the airport.

A little later, Henry's face brightened. "It's still raining, but the sun's coming out!" he exclaimed. "Maybe Uncle Nathan will come and get me now."

"Your uncle will still be busy," said Aunt Sophie.

The frown returned to Henry's face. "I hate broken promises," he said, "even when they're caused by a change that wasn't planned."

"Keep looking out the window," his aunt suggested. "Maybe you will see the sign of a promise that will never be broken—a sign that God gave."

"There it is already," said Henry, pointing to the beginning of a beautiful rainbow. "That's the sign God gave when He promised never to destroy the earth with a flood. We learned that in Sunday school."

"That's right," said Aunt Sophie, "and it always reminds me that God will always keep all of His promises. Why don't we go look up some of God's 'forever' promises to get your mind off the disappointments of today?"

LG



Primary Sunday School

April 23, 2017. V67, Q2, W4

Joseph's Lineage

Lesson text: Genesis 12:2-3, 15:1-6, 18:14, 21:1-5, 25:21-26, 27:6-29, 30:22-24, 32:24-28

Joseph was a great, powerful, and faithful man of God. He is often looked up to as a Biblical hero, and his story is a true testament to how God can work in a person's life.

Even before Joseph was born, God's plan was in motion. Several generations before his birth, God promised Abraham that he would be a great nation. Abraham's children were to be greater in number than the stars in the heaven! Abraham trusted in God's promise and continued on his way, his faith increasing with every circumstance he encountered. At one point in his life, he said, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Twenty-five long years after God spoke His promise to Abraham, Isaac was born. Abraham was 100 years old! His waiting was over and his faith was rewarded. He now knew that his family would become a great nation.

From Isaac, Jacob and Esau were born. Do you remember their story? Jacob tricked Isaac into giving him the firstborn's blessing, even though it rightfully belong to Esau. Jacob inherited riches, the promise of many children, and God's blessing because of his deception. But in the end, he submitted to God's way. He had two wives and twelve sons. The wife that he truly loved, Rachel, bore Joseph and Benjamin. They were their father's favorites, despite the fact that they were among the younger of Jacob's sons.

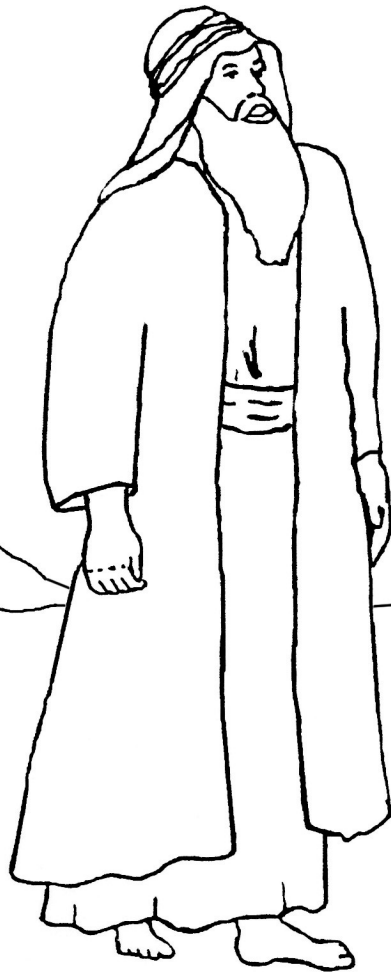
From there, Joseph's story begins. But long before he was ever thought of, God's plan was in the works—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob all had to follow God's will for their lives in order for Joseph's story to come to pass. How powerful our God is to have worked all of this out!

Lindsey Gellenbeck

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 4. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Rosie Gellenbeck, Illustrator. 2017.

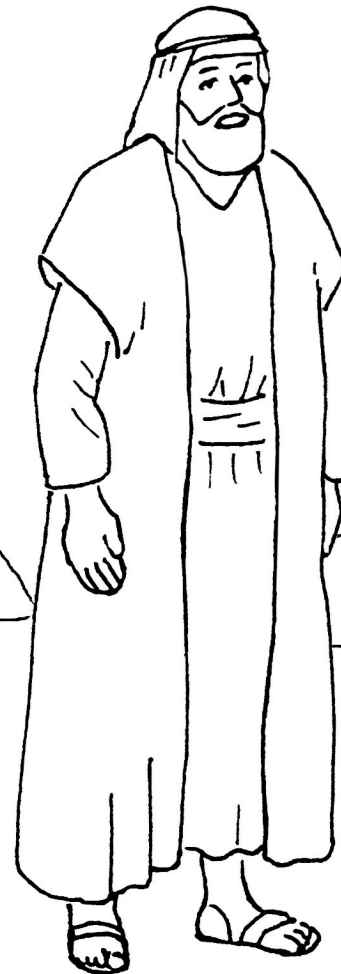
Abraham



Isaac



Jacob



Joseph



Memory Verse:

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours. Genesis 37:3

Questions:

1. What happened that made Joseph's brothers' jealousy even worse?
2. How could Jacob have handled things differently to prevent the rift between the brothers?
3. Discuss how it feels to be favored. How does God want you to handle that situation?
4. Discuss how it feels to be rejected. Where can you find true worth?

Fruit Roll

The pocket of Grace's red sweater bulged. She didn't want Miss Gordon to notice, so she slipped into the classroom without her usual "Good morning" and took her seat. She quickly removed a big orange from her pocket and hid it behind the large box of crayons inside her desk.

The morning dragged. Usually, Grace enjoyed reading class, but not today. She could not keep her mind on the story.

But Andrew had said the class should wait until time for math. When Miss Gordon turned to the chalkboard, he would give the signal.

Excitement really built up at recess. Everyone kept looking at Andrew. When he put his hand in his desk, Grace covered her mouth. She didn't want Miss Gordon to see that she was giggling. She reached inside her desk and took hold of her orange.

At last Miss Gordon had her back to the class. Grace drew a long breath as Andrew yelled, "Fruit roll!" In a flash, Grace's orange was rolling down the aisle with lots of others. The room became noisy, and Miss Gordon looked puzzled. "It's for you," Andrew said pointing to the fruit.

"Oh," said Miss Gordon in surprise. "How thoughtful of you! Thanks, class."

That afternoon, Grace told her mother about the fun they'd had. "Miss Gordon said she'd never heard of a fruit roll," said Grace. "She got oranges, grapefruit, some tangerines, and even a lemon. She liked it—and she let us play upset the fruit basket until lunch time."

"Good," said Mom. "I was sure you'd enjoy it." She smiled at Grace. "Did you know that you should have a fruit roll every day?" she asked.

"Every day?" exclaimed Grace.

Mom nodded. "I'm thinking of the fruit of the Spirit," she said. "It's quite a list. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control should be 'rolling' from your life each day. I don't know if your Heavenly Father chuckles the way you did about the fruit roll, but I'm sure He's happy when He see His fruit in you!"

LG



Primary Sunday School

April 30, 2017. V67, Q2, W5

Joseph's Brothers

Lesson text: Genesis 37:3-36

Joseph was his father's favorite son, and Jacob did not do a good job at hiding it. Instead of treating his children equally, Jacob made Joseph a coat of many colors. Joseph's brothers looked at his new coat and hated him all the more for it. They had nothing nice to say about their brother.

Then, to make matters worse, Joseph had several dreams. In the first, he saw twelve sheaves of wheat in a field. Each sheave represented one of Jacob's twelve sons. Eleven of the sheaves bowed down to the sheave that was Joseph's and worshiped it. In the second, he dreamed that the sun, moon, and eleven stars also bowed to him. When Joseph told his brothers his dream, they became very angry at his words and cruelly mocked him. They simply could not forgive him.

Later, Jacob sent Joseph into the fields to check on his brothers as they watched over the flocks. When they saw him coming, they started scheming amongst themselves. What could they do to enact revenge on their little brother? They mocked him, saying, "Behold, this dreamer cometh!" They were so angry, they decided to kill him and throw his body into a dry well.

Thankfully, the eldest of the brothers stopped the rest from killing Joseph. He said instead, "Do not shed his blood, but cast him into the pit." So when Joseph came upon his brothers in the field, they tore his beautiful coat from around his shoulders and threw him into the pit. Feeling proud of themselves, they sat down to enjoy their meal when they saw some Ishmeelites passing by on their way to Egypt. Quickly forming a new plan, they decided to sell Joseph into slavery and tell their father that he had been slain by an evil beast.

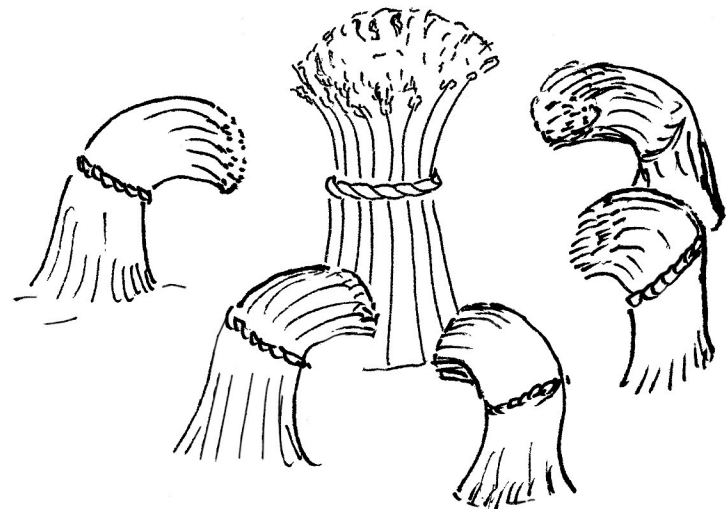
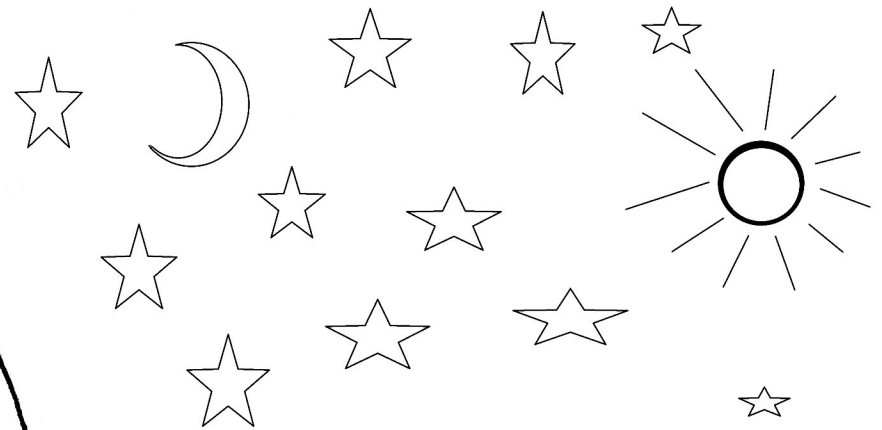
When Jacob heard this, he was so grieved that he tore his clothes and refused to be comforted by his family.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 5. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Rosie Gellenbeck, Illustrator. 2017.

Cut strips of colored paper and
glue them onto Joseph's coat.



Memory Verse:

And his master saw that the LORD was with him Joseph, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. Genesis 39:3

Questions:

1. What did Joseph do that caused Potiphar to notice him?
2. In what ways did Joseph benefit from working hard? How was he blessed?
3. How can you apply Joseph's story to your life? Does God want you to work hard?
4. What kinds of attributes make a good worker? Which of these do you need to cultivate?

Squeaky Hinges

"Don't forget to take out the trash, Rachelle," said Mom, coming into the kitchen.

Rachelle scowled. "Aw, I hate taking out the trash," she complained. "Tony gets the easy stuff to do, while I have to tramp around the house collecting smelly old garbage."

"You chose to take care of the trash as your job this month," Mom reminded her. "You said you were tired of dusting and folding laundry and that Bret always got the easy jobs, like emptying the trash." Rachelle muttered to herself, but she started collecting the trash.

The back door squeaked loudly as Rachelle's brother pushed it open and stepped into the room. "Bret, quit going in and out," whined Rachelle crossly. "That squeaky door is driving me crazy."

Bret only grinned and turned back toward the door. "I think I let something outside," he teased. "I'll be back in a minute." He swung the door back and forth and Rachelle covered her ears. "I don't think this door wants to work anymore," said Bret.

Mom smiled. "Maybe not," she agreed. "Maybe it doesn't like its job anymore, so its hinges have become loud and squeaky to let everyone know." She paused, then added, "Those hinges remind me of the Israelites after they left Egypt. The Israelites complained a lot, even though God was good to them and provided for all their needs." She looked at Rachelle. "Some people are still like that today."

Rachelle sighed. "You mean me, don't you?" she said. She hesitated, then added, "I'm sorry."

Just then, Dad opened the squeaky door and came in. "I guess it's about time for me to oil those hinges," he said.

Mom smiled and nodded. "We need to apply the oil of contentment to our lives," she said, putting an arm around Rachelle's shoulders. "Instead of complaining, we should be content with whatever God has for us."

LG



Primary Sunday School

May 7, 2017. V67, Q2, W6

Potiphar's House

Lesson text: Genesis 39:1-6

After Joseph's brothers sold him to the Ishmeelites, he was taken to Egypt and sold to a very powerful man. Potiphar was the captain of the guard, an officer of Pharaoh. He was a man accustomed to wealth and comfort, and probably not very concerned with the slaves that were brought into his household.

However, from the very beginning of Joseph's stay at Potiphar's house, he worked hard and had a good attitude. Everything that he worked on turned out well and for a slave, he became prosperous. Soon, he was brought to the attention of Potiphar himself. Upon observing Joseph, Potiphar realized that the Lord was with Joseph and that He blessed everything he did. Potiphar was very pleased with Joseph's work ethic and attitude. Joseph was promoted to overseer of Potiphar's house!

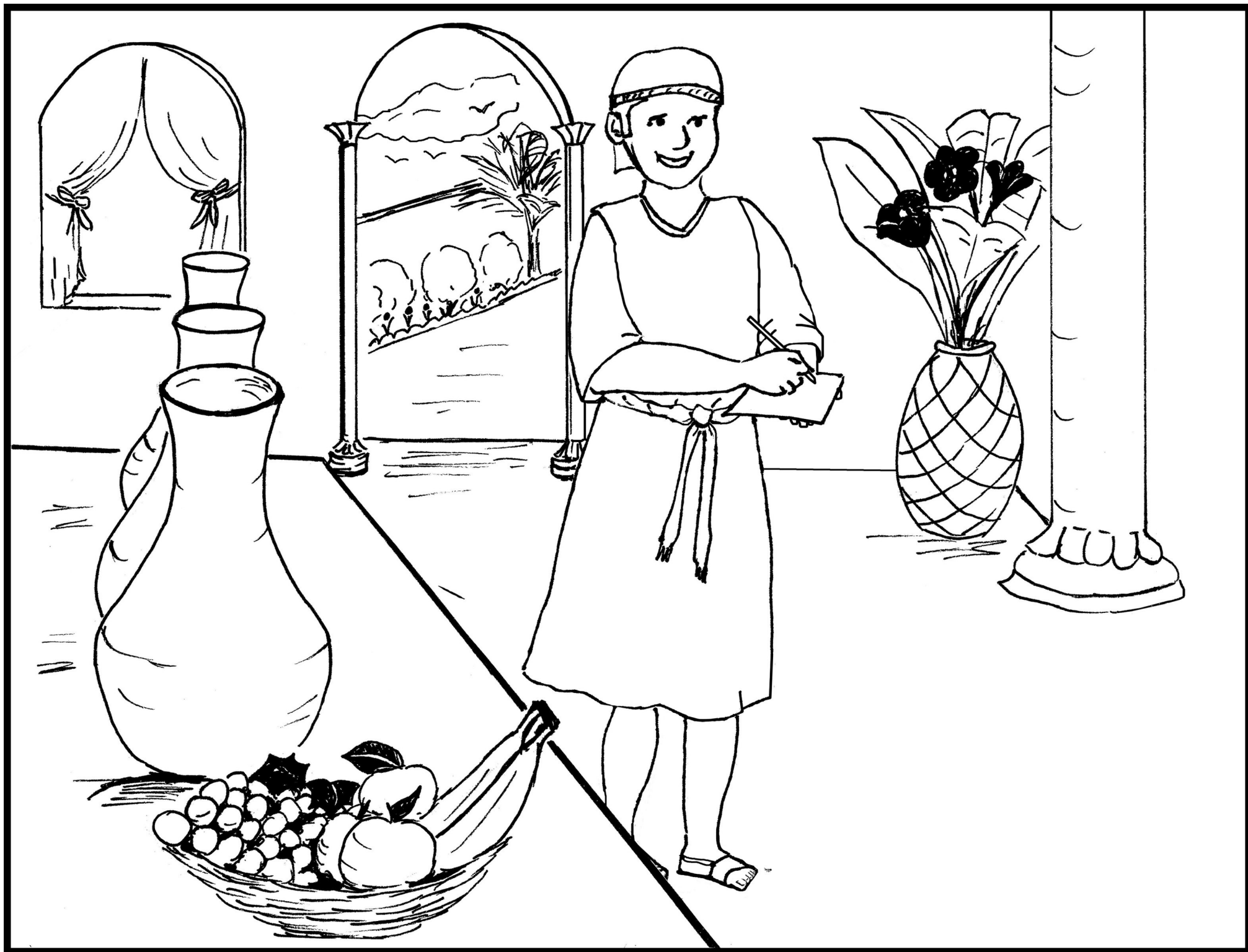
From that time forward, everything that Potiphar owned was blessed of God. For Joseph's sake, the Lord prospered Potiphar's crops and investments, making him even wealthier than he was before. Potiphar knew this was because of Joseph's management and the blessing of Joseph's God. He turned everything he owned over into Joseph's management, becoming so uninvolved in his own household affairs that he didn't even know of everything he owned! He only knew that he sat down to a well-laden table for dinner every night.

The Bible says that Joseph was a goodly person, and well favored.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 6. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Rosie Gellenbeck, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Hebrews 4:16

Questions:

1. What did Joseph say to Potiphar's wife that made her angry?
2. Discuss the different ways you are tempted in your everyday life.
3. Does God judge us based on our temptations or our actions?
4. Discuss the different tactics you can use to resist temptation.

Chameleon

Tanner took a few small bites of his dinner, but mostly he just pushed the food around his plate. "You're being awfully quiet tonight, Tanner, and you've hardly touched your dinner," said his mother. "Did something happen at school today?"

"Well, Seth brought a chameleon to class," Tanner said quietly. "Chameleons are lizards that change their color to blend in with their surroundings—it turns green when it sits on a leaf, and grayish-brown when it sits on a rock. My teacher says that protects them from their enemies."

"That sounds interesting," Mom said, "but that doesn't explain why you're so quiet. Did something else happen?"

Tanner kept his eyes on his plate and slowly nodded. "Seth took his chameleon out of the cage and handed it to me. We were playing with it when we were supposed to be working. Mr. Johnson caught us, and now we have to stay after school for a week."

Mom frowned. "That's the second time you've gotten into trouble at school this month," she said. "Seth was involved the last time, too."

"Well he always dares me to do stuff," Tanner said.

"Hmmm. I guess you're a little bit like that chameleon—you change to match your surroundings," observed Dad. "When you're with Seth, it's apparently a change for the worse, because that's when you get into trouble."

"Yeah, I guess you're right," agreed Tanner. "Seth always gets me into trouble."

"No, son, you get yourself into trouble," corrected Dad. "Perhaps you should spend more time with other friends and less time with Seth. But in any case, the way you behave is your own responsibility."

Mom nodded in agreement. "When you're tempted to do wrong," she said, "don't forget to ask the Lord to help you say no."

LG



Primary Sunday School

May 14, 2017. V67, Q2, W7.

Potiphar's Wife

Lesson text: Genesis 39:7-20; Matthew 4:10

Joseph was a very powerful man in Potiphar's house. Everything Potiphar owned was given to Joseph to manage. Because of his position of power, Potiphar's wife soon took notice of him and began talking to him. Joseph was a good, honest man and he knew it was not a good thing to become friends with another man's wife. But she would not leave him alone!

One day, she came to Joseph and asked him be friends without Potiphar knowing. He refused her, saying, "Your husband has put me in a position of power in his house. It would be very wrong of me to go behind his back, and it would be a sin against God." Despite the fact that Joseph refused, Potiphar's wife continued to pester him.

Soon, she became angry that he would not go along with her wicked schemes! When no one was in the house, she set up a trap to frame Joseph. That means that she made it look like he was going behind Potiphar's back when he really wasn't. Joseph tried to escape her trap, but before he could get away, she grabbed his coat and tore it from around him as he ran.

When Potiphar returned, his wife lied to him, saying, "That Hebrew servant you brought into our house came and hurt me." Potiphar was very upset. He believed what his wife told him for it looked as though she had proof. But Joseph knew in his heart that he had done nothing wrong. Still, Potiphar put Joseph in the prison where the king's prisoners were kept.

Joseph was now in a foreign land, separated from his family, accused of a crime he did not commit, and locked in prison. Still he trusted in God.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 7. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Tiffany Sallee, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily,
as to the Lord, and not unto men.

Colossians 3:23

Questions:

1. Discuss the ways Joseph was faithful to God's work, even while stuck in prison.
2. Do you think Joseph's attitudes made a difference in his work? How?
3. Brainstorm ways you can work for God in your everyday life.
4. Does it matter if what you do for God seems large or small?

Fruit Roll

Katy charged out of the house, slamming the screen door behind her. "I don't belong in this family!" she yelled angrily, running past the open garage door.

"Hold it!" When she heard the stern voice, Katy stopped and turned to face her father. He was sitting at a workbench in the garage, holding a small wooden car with a missing wheel. "What's this you're saying?" he asked.

Katy's cheeks flamed red. "Mom always gives me jobs to do," she complained. "Jessie has to do hardly any work just because she's smaller than I am."

Dad looked at the hole he had drilled for the last wheel. "Hand me that block over there, would you?" he asked. Katy

did so, and her father quickly attached the block to the tiny car, saying, "Here. Give this a test run."

"But it has a square wheel," Katy said. She pushed the little car across the table. "It won't work with a square wheel. You have to round off the corners."

Dad nodded thoughtfully. "That's right. And people are like wheels."

"What?" Katy asked, puzzled.

"They all affect each other," explained Dad. "There are four people in this family. When one complains about, or doesn't do her share of the work, it hurts everyone else." Katy looked at her father, starting to feel sheepish. "Not only that, but the rest of us can't do the work God created us to do as effectively if you aren't doing the work He created you to do."

Katy looked down at her shoes. "I'm sorry, Dad. I don't want to be a square wheel. I just really don't enjoy housework."

"Maybe you could sing some of the songs you've learned in Sunday school while you work. God has given you a beautiful singing voice, and you can share it with the rest of us!"

Already feeling better about the work she had to do, Katy hugged her father then headed inside. "Thanks, Dad."

LG



Primary Sunday School

May 21, 2017. V67, Q2, W8

A Captive Interpreter

Lesson text: Genesis 39:20-23; 40:1-9

We learned in the last lesson that Joseph was thrown into the prison where the king kept his prisoners. While Joseph was in prison, God showed mercy and allowed Joseph to gain favor in the sight of the prison keeper. Soon, the prison keeper had given Joseph charge over all the other prisoners, and whatever decisions and activities went on were approved by him. Just like Joseph's former master, the keeper of the prison barely paid attention to the things that were happening in his own prison. His trust in Joseph was so complete that he didn't worry about anything!

Joseph met two men while he was imprisoned. They were palace workers—one a butler and the other a baker. Both of them had done something to anger the pharaoh, and that is how they ended up in prison. One day, Joseph noticed that both men looked sad. When he asked why, they said, "We have dreamed dreams but there is no one to tell us what they mean." Joseph responded, "God is the interpreter of all dreams. Why don't you tell me and I will see if I can tell you what they mean."

The butler said, "In my dream, there was a grapevine with three branches. On each branch was a ripe bunch of grapes, and I took them and pressed them into pharaoh's cup." The baker said, "In my dream, I held three baskets of baked meat upon my head for the pharaoh. But the ravens from the sky landed upon the baskets and ate all the meat."

Joseph told the butler that his dream meant he would be restored to his position in the palace in three days. However, the baker's dream meant that Pharaoh would hang him in three days! Joseph asked the butler to remember him when he returned to the palace, for he was unjustly imprisoned.

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 8. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Tiffany Sallee, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. Genesis 41:41

Questions:

1. Discuss how Joseph might have felt after the butler moved to the palace and forgot about him.
2. Think of a time you had to wait on God for an answer. Was it easy?
3. How would you have felt in Joseph's shoes when the pharaoh called you to the palace? Would you have been able to remain humble and trusting in God?
4. How are Joseph's and Esther's stories similar? Discuss the similarities in their faith while they waited on God.

Maple Syrup

"Are we going to set up all the trees today?" asked Mitchell as his father drilled a hole into the trunk of a maple tree. "This will take forever."

"Making maple syrup does take a long time, and it's hard work," agreed Dad, "but it's worth the effort."

Derek helped his father until all the maple trees had buckets hanging from the pipes, ready to collect the sap that dripped out during the week.

Back in the house, Mitchell slumped into a chair. "What a lot of work," he said with a sigh. "In a week we'll be out there gathering all those buckets of sap.

But no, we won't have syrup yet! We'll have to dump the sap in a big container and gather wood to build a fire under it. And then what will we have? Gallons and gallons of syrup? No! By the time the water is out of the sap, we'll probably have one measly little quart of syrup. Making maple syrup takes too long. Wouldn't it be easier to just buy some?"

"Yes, but it wouldn't be nearly as good," said Mom. "We're going for quality!"

"Well, I hate waiting," grumbled Mitchell.

"Hmmm. Do you suppose God thinks and feels like that too?" Dad asked.

Mitchell frowned. "God?" he asked. "I've never thought about what God thinks of maple syrup."

Dad smiled. "I wasn't talking about syrup," he said, "but it occurred to me that it sometimes takes us a long time to make some very small steps toward godliness. And God waits."

Mom nodded. "It's a slow process for a life to be 'boiled down' like the sap," she agreed. "And after all the 'water' or negative things in our life are removed, it might look like there's very little left!"

"God patiently waits for us to make those little steps," added Dad, "because when the result is quality, it means a lot."

LG



Primary Sunday School

May 28, 2017. V67, Q2, W9

Elevated to the Palace

Lesson text: Genesis 40:20-23; 41:1-41

The butler and the baker were both taken out of prison, and just as Joseph said would happen, the baker was hanged and the butler was restored to his former position. The butler, however, forgot all about Joseph in his return to the palace. For two more years Joseph was imprisoned, all the while trusting God to take care of him.

God was at work, for Pharaoh had two dreams that troubled him greatly. He dreamed that he stood by the river where seven fat and flourishing cows grazed. Seven more cows, thin and starving, came out of the river and devoured the fat cows. In the second dream, he dreamed that a stalk of corn had seven hearty, delicious-looking ears on it, but seven thin ears of corn devoured the hearty ears.

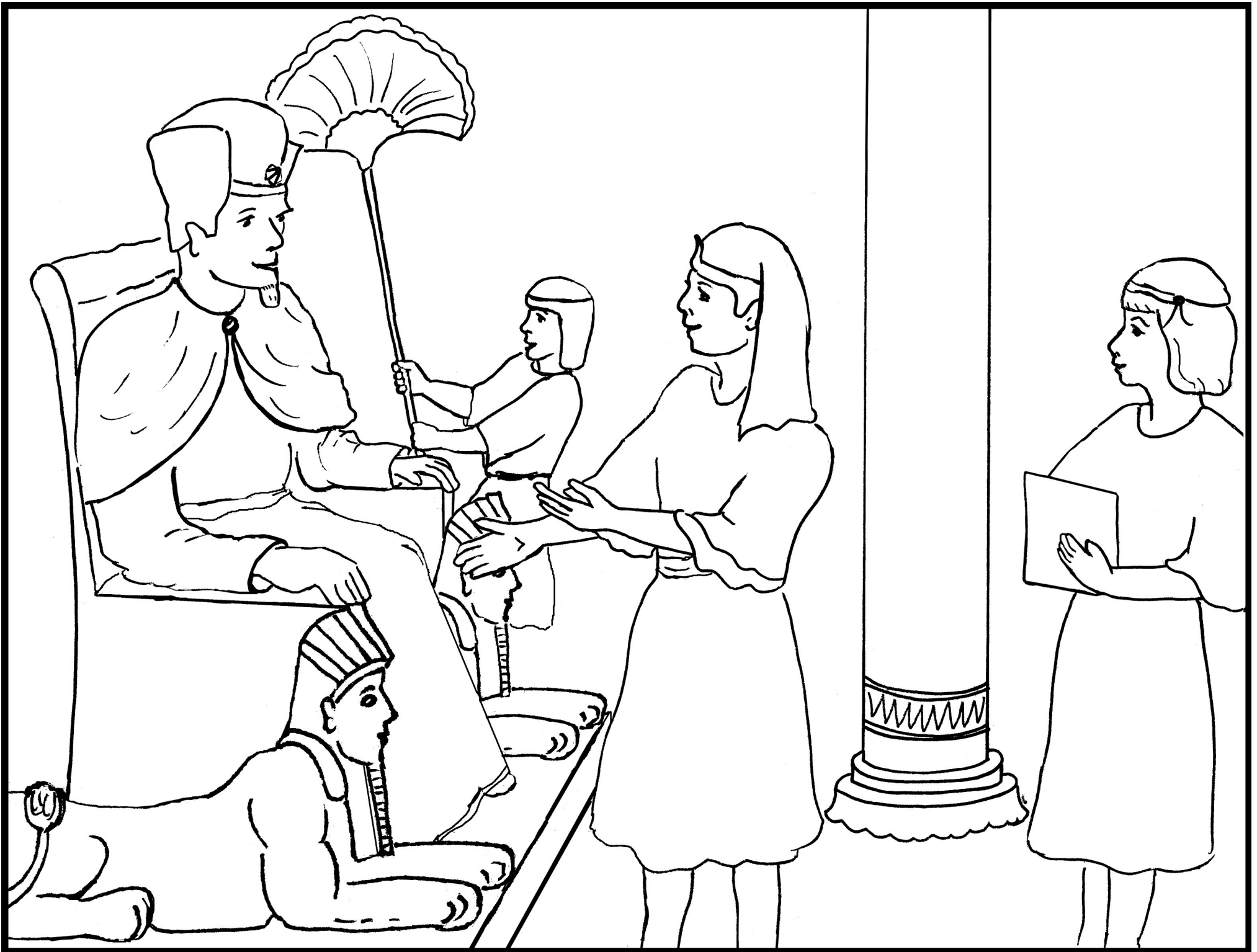
Pharaoh was so troubled, he called for all his magicians and wise men to interpret the dreams. None of the men could tell the pharaoh what the dreams meant. Suddenly, the butler remembered Joseph and told the pharaoh about him. The pharaoh quickly called for Joseph, who was brought from the prison and given new clothes and a haircut.

Joseph told the pharaoh, "I cannot interpret dreams, but God shall give you an answer." So Pharaoh told Joseph his dreams. Joseph said, "The two dreams mean the same thing. God has shown me that the seven fat cows and the seven flourishing ears of corn represent seven years when the food will grow in abundance. The seven skinny cows and thin ears of corn represent seven years of famine. If you appoint a wise man, he can store food during the seven years of plenty so your people do not starve during the famine. Pharaoh replied, "God is surely with you, and there is no man as wise as you. You shall be over my house and all the land of Egypt."

Lindsey Gellenbeck

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 9. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. Rosie Gellenbeck, Illustrator. 2017.



Memory Verse:

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Luke 6:36

Questions:

1. How do you think Joseph felt when he saw his brothers for the first time?
2. What is the natural reaction to someone when they treat you poorly? Do you think Joseph felt these feelings?
3. Discuss the steps needed to have a merciful spirit like the one Joseph showed his brothers.
4. Why is it so important that we show mercy to those around us?

Rekindled

Joe gazed at the fire as it became smaller and smaller. Sitting in front of the fireplace usually made him feel contented, but not tonight. His father sat next to him and asked, "What's bothering you, son?"

Joe felt embarrassed when tears came to his eyes but he couldn't stop them. "I may have just lost my best friend. I was with some guys in the hallway at school today when Mason walked by. One guy made a bad remark about Mason—loud enough for him to hear. Then they all laughed. Mason looked right at me... and I just stood there and laughed with them."

Dad put his arm around Joe. "I see," he said.

"I don't know why I did it... except that these were the popular guys, and I guess I wanted them to like me," Joe continued miserably. He stared ahead at the fireplace.

Dad spoke softly. "Joe, you remind me of that fire."

"What do you mean?" Joe asked. All that was left of the fire was a dull orange glow in the ashes.

Dad crouched in front of the fireplace and blew on the glowing embers. While he blew, he added a few scraps of newspaper and small pieces of kindling. Soon the flames were flickering brightly again. "You're a Christian, son, but you failed the Lord, as well as your friend Mason. When we become weak and fail, we need to ask God's forgiveness and help. Just as I had to rekindle the fire, you need to ask God to rekindle your spiritual fire." Dad patted Joe's shoulder. "Talk to the Lord—tell Him about what you did and ask for His mercy. Then talk to Mason, too. You owe him an apology."

Joe settled back and prayed silently while the warmth from the fire filled the room. In a few minutes, he would have to make the tough phone call to Mason, but he was sure God would fill his soul with warmth.

LG



Primary Sunday School

June 4, 2017. V67, Q2, W10

Joseph's Brothers Come to Egypt

Lesson text: Genesis 41:42-57; 42:1-34

During the seven years of plenty, Joseph stored up grain from all over Egypt. So much was saved that he stopped counting how much there was! The famine spread far and wide, all the way to Canaan where Jacob and his sons lived. Jacob saw that there was food in Egypt, and sent his sons to buy some so his family would not starve. The only son he did not send was Benjamin, Rachel's other son. Benjamin was Jacob's favorite son among those he had left.

So ten of Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt and bowed themselves before him, asking if they could buy corn for their families. Joseph immediately knew his brothers, but he hid his own identity from them. He looked, spoke, and acted like an Egyptian, and his brothers believed he was dead. As Joseph observed them bowing before him, he remembered the dreams he had before he'd been sold. They had come true.

Joseph was not sure what his brothers' intentions were, so he accused them of being spies. His brothers said, "We are honest men! We are the sons of one man from the land of Canaan. We have one brother who did not come with us, and one brother who has died." To test them, Joseph put them all in prison for three days. He then came to them and said, "I will let you live if you bring me your youngest brother." Joseph had Simeon bound and imprisoned.

As the brothers left Egypt, they felt very guilty for what they had done to Joseph so many years ago. They believed that God was surely punishing them for their sins. As they traveled home, they noticed that the money they had used to pay for their corn was still in their sacks. When they got home, they told their father everything that had happened.

Lindsey Gellenbeck

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 10. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. 2017.



Memory Verse:

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. Hebrews 11:6

Questions:

1. Why did Jacob have his sons take gifts back to Joseph?
2. What did God promise Jacob early on in his life? Has God promised you anything?
3. Discuss how differently Jacob spoke about meeting his brother and sending Benjamin to Egypt.
4. Was it right for Jacob to have very little faith about sending Benjamin to Egypt? How should he have reacted to this crisis?

Thick Ice

Patrick couldn't believe his ears when Grandpa pulled out some photos and began to tell the family about his recent fishing trip in Minnesota. "You mean you really drove right out on the ice, Grandpa?" he asked in disbelief.

"Yes, indeed," Grandpa replied. "I drove on it, camped on it, and fished through a hole in it."

"But you always warn me about walking on the river in the winter!" exclaimed Patrick.

"That's true," Grandpa said, nodding. "When your father was your age, he almost died because he trusted the ice on the river. But I was in no danger. The

difference between the lake and the river was the thickness of the ice." He hesitated and stroked the snowy beard on his chin.

Patrick's father laughed. "Go ahead, Dad," he told Grandpa. "It's obvious that you want to say something about our spiritual lives."

Chuckling, Grandpa said, "Well, now that you mention it, it does remind me of our walk with Christ. Patrick, no matter how much faith your father had in the river ice, it would not hold him up. On the other hand, even if I had been scared to step out on the lake ice, it was thick and strong."

Patrick nodded, thinking about what Grandpa was saying.

"Our feelings are not as important as what we trust in. Some people feel very good about themselves. They feel sure that their church membership or the good things they do will get them into heaven. But those things are like thin ice—they won't hold. Other people know they are sinners. But they also know that God loves them and that Jesus died to save them, so they put their trust in Him. Jesus is like the thick, strong ice. When your trust is in Him, you are safe."

"Even though sometimes I hardly feel like a Christian?" asked Patrick. "Maybe I've done something wrong. But God says I am one because I've accepted Jesus as my savior, right?"

"Exactly!" agreed Grandpa. "Your faith may be weak, but as long as you are serving Jesus, He will always support and keep you safe."

LG



Primary Sunday School

June 11, 2017. V67, Q2, W11

The Famine Grows

Lesson text: Genesis 28:13-15; 32:9-12; 42:36-28; 43:1-14

When Joseph's nine brothers returned home, Jacob scolded them saying, "You have taken my children away from me! First Joseph dies, Simeon is imprisoned, and you would take Benjamin from me as well. Everything is against me!"

Reuben said to his father, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring Simeon and Benjamin back to you."

Jacob replied, "My son, Benjamin, will not go with you. He is the only son of Rachel I have left and if something were to happen to him along the way, I shall die in sorrow."

So the sons of Jacob stayed in the land of Canaan while the famine grew worse and worse. Soon, their large families ate all of the food they had brought back from Egypt. When Jacob realized this, he said to his sons, "Go again to Egypt and buy us a little food."

Judah replied, "The man from Egypt commanded that we did not return unless our brother, Benjamin, went with us. If you allow him to go, we will go and buy more food."

Jacob's heart was grieved. He said, "Why did you tell that man you had a younger brother in the first place?"

Judah reminded his father, "The man asked us directly if our father was still alive and if we had any other brothers! How were we supposed to know he would demand to meet Benjamin? Please send him with us so we can buy food for our children. If we return without him, I will bear the blame forever."

Reluctantly, Jacob said, "If you must take him, take our best fruits, balm, honey, spices, and nuts as a gift to this man. God give you mercy that you can bring Benjamin back to me, for if he is lost, I will be gravely grieved."

Lindsey Gellenbeck

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Memory Verse:

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

Questions:

1. Discuss the tests Joseph set for his brothers. Was there more than one?
2. How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers offered themselves for Benjamin?
3. Discuss the similarities between Joseph's brothers and the prodigal son.
4. What must we do to show God we are truly repentant?

Washed Clean

"But, Mom..." Keith began.

"Keith, you're the oldest. I don't want to hear any more about it," said Mom. She handed him a scrub brush and a bucket. "I want it all cleaned up."

Keith groaned as he stomped down the basement stairs. He stared glumly at the paint splatters on the floor. I wouldn't have to clean this up if Phil had been more careful painting the walls, Keith thought. Mom should make him help. The fresh latex paint washed off the cement floor easily enough. Still, he was upset over having to clean up a mess

that he felt was more his little brother's fault than his.

After a while, Keith heard his mother came down the stairs. She sat on the bottom steps. "How is it going?"

"Alright," Keith mumbled.

"You may be right that Phil got more paint on the floor than you did," Mom said, "but you're not the first person who has ever had to clean up someone else's mess. I've had to do that often myself, and I used to be resentful about it too. But then I realized that when I make a mess of my life and can't clean it up myself, Jesus is always ready to help me." Keith stopped scrubbing and looked at his mother. "Think about it," she said. "Jesus takes all our sins and makes us clean. When we come to him for help, He takes all our mistakes and straightens them out. We don't stop to thank Him for that very often."

Keith dunked the brush in the water and started scrubbing again. Somehow, he didn't feel as angry as he had a minute ago.

"Do you know why I asked you to do this instead of your brother?" his mom asked. Keith looked at her and shook his head. "Because I wanted it done well." She squeezed his shoulder and went back upstairs.

LG



Primary Sunday School

June 18, 2017. V67, Q2, W12

Joseph's Test

Lesson text: Genesis 43:15-34; 44; 45:1-9

When Joseph saw his brothers coming, he told his servant to make a large feast and invite the men to eat with him. His brothers were afraid because of the money they had found on their way home, but the servant eased their fears and brought Simeon out to them.

When Joseph came home to eat, he asked how his brothers were. When he saw Benjamin, he was so moved to see him that he ran from the room and wept. Later, they feasted, and Joseph gave Benjamin five times as much food as the rest of the brothers.

When the brothers were leaving, Joseph placed his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. He then sent his servant after his brothers and accused them of stealing. The men knew no one had stolen a silver cup, so they promised if Joseph's servant could find it, the man whose sack it was in would die and the rest would become slaves. When the cup was found in Benjamin's sack, the men returned to Joseph and fell before him on the ground. They begged that Benjamin's life would be spared.

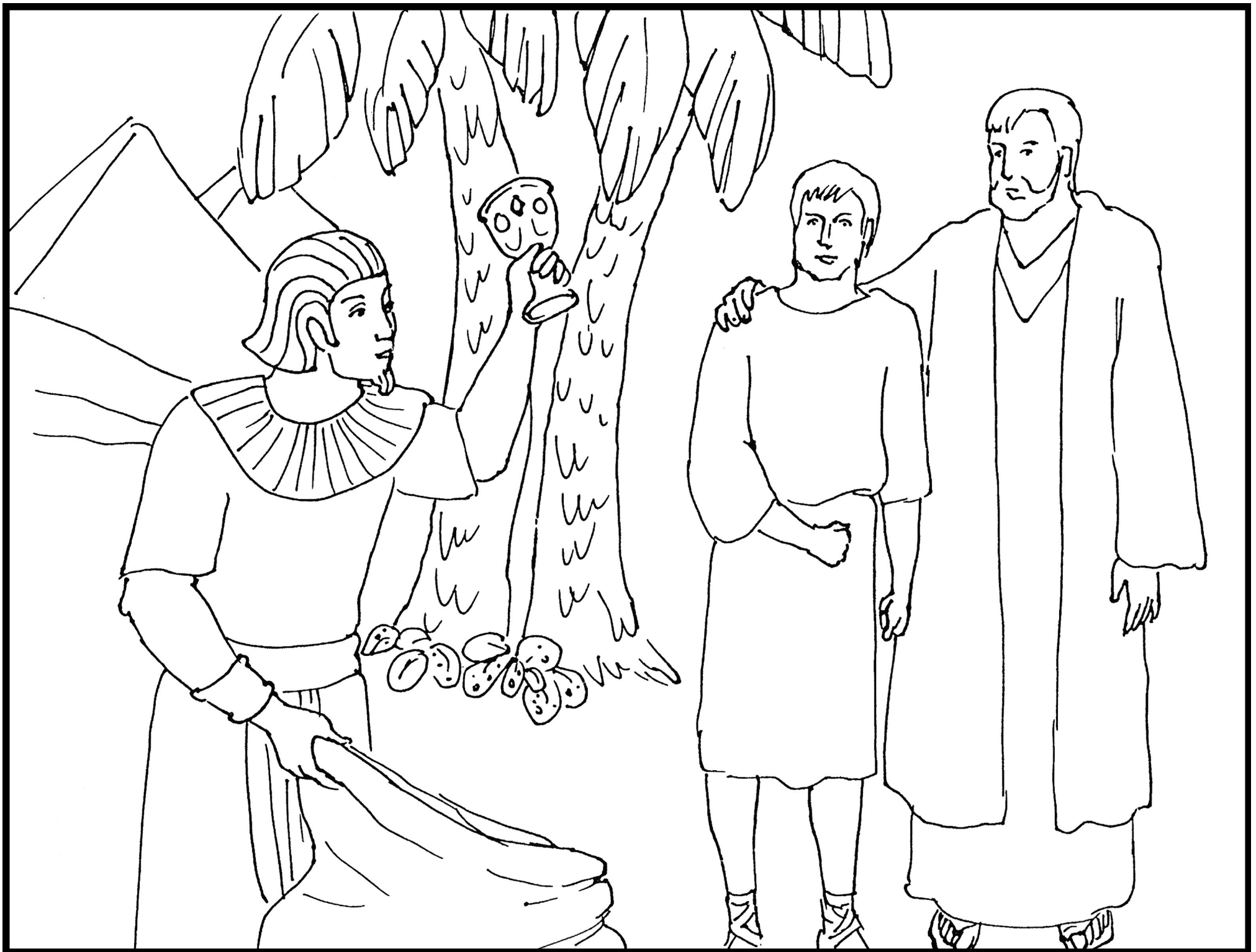
Judah said, "Our father favors his youngest two sons. The one is dead, and Benjamin is left. If I came home without him, my father would surely die. Please, let Benjamin go and take me as a servant instead."

Joseph could no longer stand the secret. He cried out with a loud voice and revealed who he was to his brothers. He said, "Do not be sad or angry that you sold me into slavery, for God sent me here to preserve our family through the famine. Now hasten to my father and tell him I am still alive and that God has made me ruler of Egypt!"

Lindsey Gellenbeck

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Volume 67, Quarter 2, Week 12. Lindsey Gellenbeck, Editor. 2017.



Grandma Sylvia

Lydia watched as her mom helped Grandma into the rocking chair. "Here you go, Mom," Lydia's mom said. "Are you comfortable?"

"Yes, dear," Grandma replied, adjusting a blanket around her knees. "If you don't mind, I think I'll take a cup of tea now."

"I'll bring that to you in just a few minutes," Mom said, patting Grandma's hand.

"Lydia, honey," Grandma said, "Would you mind bringing me my knitting bag? I want to finish that blanket for Aunt Cara's new baby."

Lydia trudged down the hallway to her Grandma's bedroom—her bedroom. Grandma Sylvia had moved in after she fell and broke her hip since she couldn't get around by herself anymore. Lydia had to move into the spare room upstairs so Grandma wouldn't have to use the stairs. All Grandma had done since she moved in was boss everyone around.

After she'd given her grandma the knitting bag, she slouched into the kitchen where her mom was making tea. "Mom, why is Grandma so bossy? I get so tired of her asking me to fetch this and that. And I want my old room back! I don't like the one upstairs."

Lydia's mom looked over at her, a frown creasing her forehead. After a moment, she said, "Do you remember in the Bible

when Jesus stayed in Jerusalem after the Passover and his parents found him in the temple?"

She thought back on the Bible story. "Yes. He was only twelve years old, right?"

"That's right," her mom answered. "And do you remember what happened when his parents asked him where he had been?"

"He told them he had to do his father's business—meaning God," Lydia answered, not sure what her mom was getting at.

"Yes. And then he obediently followed them home to Nazareth." She looked at Lydia. "If Jesus, the Son of God, respected his parents, don't you think we should do the same thing?" Lydia started to feel ashamed of her annoyance. "Just because Grandma is old, and yes, maybe a little bossy, does not mean she doesn't deserve respect. God has placed all parents, and grandparents, in a position of authority. It doesn't matter if you don't feel like running around getting things for her or not—God has called you to be respectful of her. And hopefully if you ever have to take care of me when I'm old, you'll have the same respect for me as well."

LG



Primary Sunday School

June 25, 2017. V67, Q2, W13

Jacob Moves to Egypt

Lesson text: Genesis 46:29-30; 47:7-10, 12, 28-31; 48:12; 50:1-14

Joseph's brothers returned to Jacob and informed him that Joseph was alive! At first, Jacob did not believe his sons, but soon he was convinced to make the journey to Egypt to reunite with his beloved Joseph. When Joseph saw his father coming, he went out to meet him in a chariot and fell upon his neck, crying with joy.

Joseph settled his family in the land of Goshen, then took his father and presented him to the pharaoh. Pharaoh asked Jacob, "How old are you?" Jacob responded, "The days of my pilgrimage are one hundred and thirty years."

The Bible says that Joseph nourished his aging father, giving him the best of the land, along with enough bread to feed everyone in his family. For seventeen years, Jacob lived in Egypt. In one instance, Joseph bowed himself before his father, displaying love and respect beyond words.

When his time came to die, Jacob requested that his body be returned to the place where Abraham and Isaac had been buried. Joseph swore to his father that his wishes would be followed. When Jacob finally died, Joseph wept over his father's body and mourned deeply. He then took Jacob's body and returned it to the land of Canaan to be buried with his ancestors. Joseph dedicated seven days to the mourning of his father at his burial place. His grief was so intense, that the people of the land looked on and said, "This is a grievous mourning to the Egyptians."

Lindsey Gellenbeck

Memory Verse:

And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.

Genesis 50:1

Questions:

1. What was the name of the land where Jacob's family was settled?
2. How old was Jacob when he was reunited with Joseph?
3. In what ways did Joseph show respect to his father?
4. Discuss ways you can show respect to your father and mother.

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