

JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF TO HIS BROTHERS

Behind the plans of man stands the plan of God.



THE STORY: GENESIS 45:1-11

MONDAY

Joseph revealed himself to his brothers

Joseph revealed himself to his brothers - Joseph's brothers were afraid of Joseph as ruler over all of Egypt. They became speechless when they learned his true identity. Already fearing punishment and death, they must have thought Joseph would take revenge on them. Instead, Joseph called them to draw near. Though we deserve judgment, God calls us to draw near. Joseph comforted them, and his tears revealed his love.

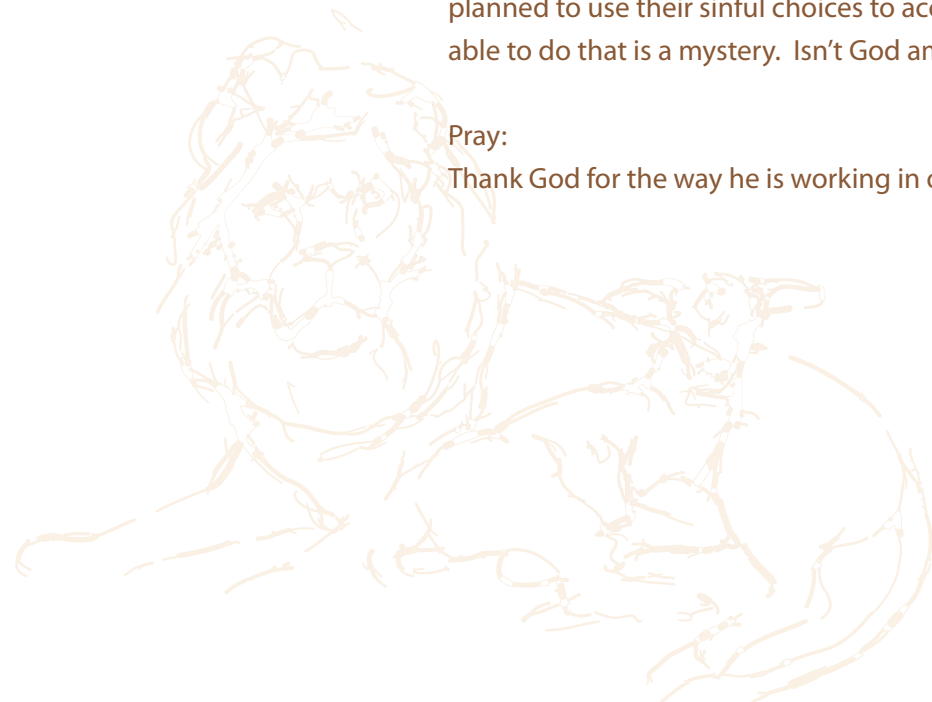
After revealing himself to his brothers, Joseph encouraged them. He attributed the events of history to the active purpose of God. In Genesis 45:5, he told them that it was God who sent him to Egypt even though it was his brothers who sold him into slavery. In verse seven he repeated this understanding. In verse eight he repeated it again. Finally, in verse nine, he said that it was God who made him lord of all Egypt, even though it came to pass through Pharaoh's command.

Talk About it:

Who sold Joseph into slavery - Joseph's brothers or God? (In the mysterious sovereignty of God both are true! Proverbs 16:9 tells us that even though a man plans in his heart, it is the Lord who determines his steps. Joseph's brothers chose to sin against their brother. They are responsible for that decision. God, however, planned to use their sinful choices to accomplish His own perfect plan. How God is able to do that is a mystery. Isn't God amazing?!)

Pray:

Thank God for the way he is working in our lives to accomplish His plan, even when





THE STORY: GENESIS 45:12- 15 & 50:15-21

TUESDAY

Joseph forgave his brothers.

Joseph forgave his brothers. Instead of bringing judgment against his brothers, Joseph forgave them. As ruler of Egypt, he could have had them thrown in prison for the rest of their lives because of what they did to him. Instead, recognizing the plan of God to save Israel, Joseph embraced his brothers. He kissed them and wept over them. And then he talked with them. We don't know the content of that conversation, but it is clear that Joseph became fully reconciled with his brothers.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Is it difficult to forgive those who sin against us? *(Yes. It can be difficult because, in our sinful hearts, we want to play God and judge others for what they did or said to us. God, however, reserves judgment for himself.)*

PRAY:

Ask God to help you to forgive others who have sinned against you. *(You may want to ask your children if there is anyone they have not forgiven and if they might be holding onto a wrong committed against them.)*

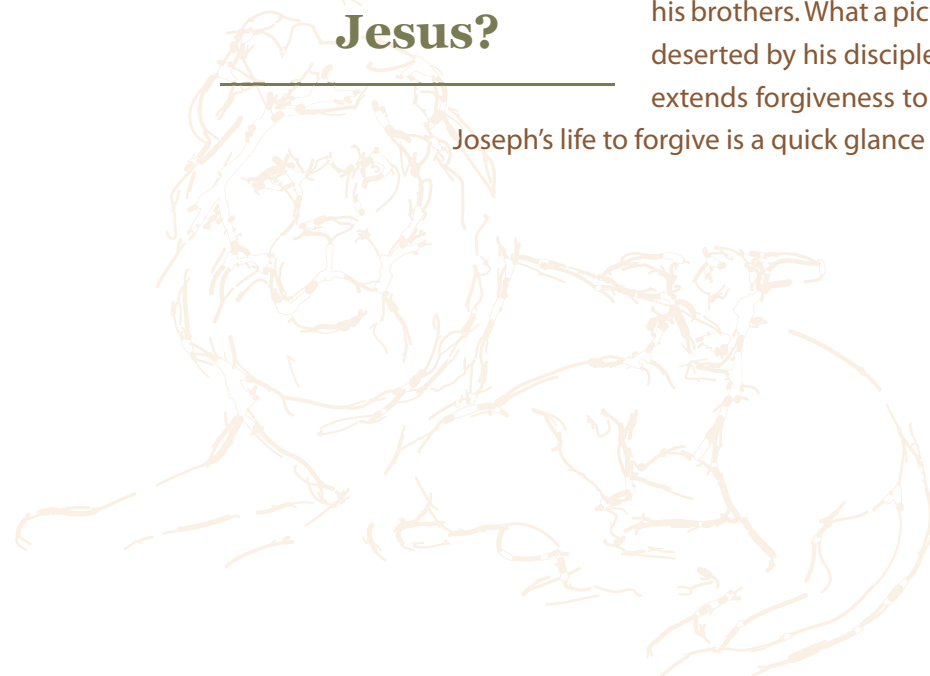


THE STORY: LUKE 23:33-43

WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, and left for dead by his brothers who then lied to their father about his demise. In the end, when Joseph revealed his identity, he forgave his brothers. What a picture of Jesus who was betrayed by his friend, deserted by his disciples, and crucified by his own people. He, too, extends forgiveness to the very ones who hurt Him. The grace on Joseph's life to forgive is a quick glance forward to Jesus.



TALK ABOUT IT:

How are Joseph and Jesus alike? *(Both were rejected by their own people and used of God to bring salvation to Israel.)*

How should Jesus' example of forgiveness motivate us to forgive others? *(The meaning of Christian is a follower of Christ. Perhaps there is no greater expression of Christ in our lives than to forgive others for their sins against us. When we are more aware of Christ's forgiveness of our sins, forgiving others comes easily.)*

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins made possible by the cross.



THE STORY: GENESIS 45:16 - 46:4

THURSDAY

Israel goes to Egypt

Israel goes to Egypt – Pharaoh who invited all of Joseph's family to return to Egypt when he heard about Joseph's brothers. He gave them the best of Egypt. When Jacob heard that Joseph was alive in Egypt, he was amazed. No mention was made of the sin of the brothers to their father. Joseph's forgiveness is so complete that it seems in their conversation they determine not to labor their father with their former deceit. There was only rejoicing when they arrived. God directed Jacob to return and revealed His plan to prosper Israel while in Egypt. God also promised to bring Israel back out of Egypt. This would be accomplished some 400 years later through Moses.

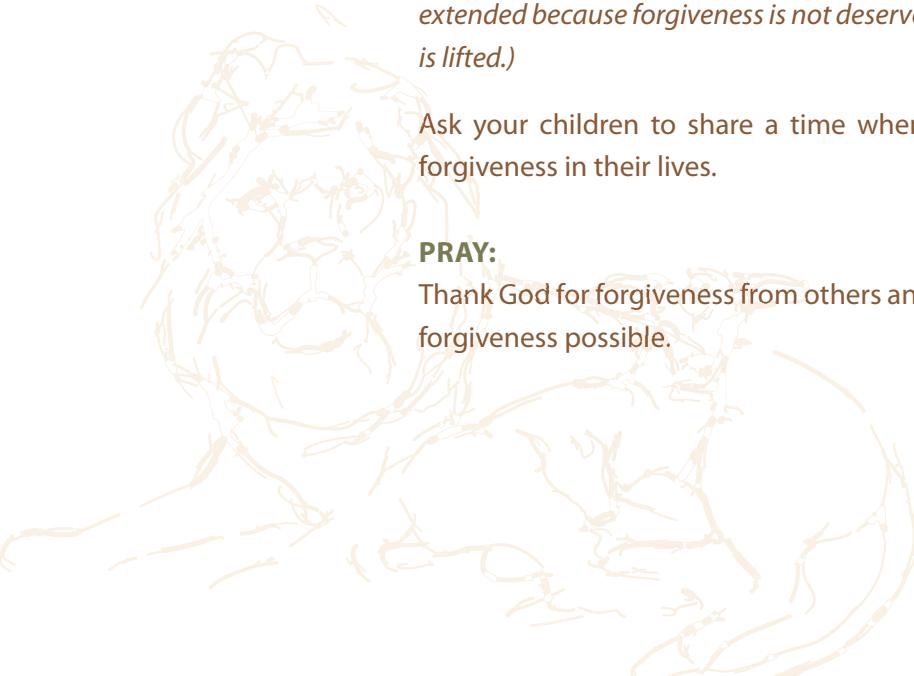
TALK ABOUT IT:

How do joy and grace flow from forgiveness? *(When we forgive others, not only do we honor God who forgives, but we extend grace and joy to those we forgive. Grace is extended because forgiveness is not deserved. And joy flows because the burden of guilt is lifted.)*

Ask your children to share a time when they experienced the grace and joy of forgiveness in their lives.

PRAY:

Thank God for forgiveness from others and, most importantly, from God who makes forgiveness possible.





On the road to Emmaus.

In Luke 2:32 Simeon prophesied over Jesus saying that He would be a light, or the way to God, to the Gentiles. Isaiah said that He would be a light to the nations, but all the nations outside of Israel were known as the nations of the Gentiles. So Luke connects the two passages. The two passages are more directly connected in Acts 13:47.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How are Isaiah 49:6 and Luke 2:32 similar? *(They are very close. The only difference is that Isaiah talked about nations, but not Gentiles. But when one considers that the nations were called Gentiles, they are nearly identical.)*

How are Isaiah 49:6 and Acts 13:47 similar? *(They are nearly identical.)*

How does the similarity of these passage tell us Isaiah is referring to Jesus? *(The passages are identical with the Acts passage, directly making the claim of Christ as the subject.)*

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for bringing the light to Israel and to us (the gentiles) as well.

