

Week 6

REUNITED AND FORGIVEN!

Theme - God reunited Joseph with his family but Joseph had to forgive his brothers for what they had done. God wants us to forgive as well.

Games:

People Skittles Divide the children into groups of about five. One child from each group is the bowler and the rest are skittles. The skittles line up side by side facing away from the bowler. The bowler stands in a hoop about three metres from the skittles. He/she rolls the ball at his skittles and anyone who is hit on the leg turns and faces the bowler. When all the skittles are facing the bowler another player becomes the bowler and the game starts again and continues until all the players in the team have had a go at bowling. The team to finish first is the winner.

People Words Prepare sets of cards containing every letter of the alphabet. Divide the children into teams and give a set to each group. A leader calls out a word; the children find the correct letter cards and hold them up in the correct order so that the word can be read. The first team to do this wins a point. Make sure that you do not have words where letters are not repeated!

Get Knotted Divide the group into teams of 8-10. The children in each group stand in a circle facing inwards, and join hands with two different children across the circle. The team then tries to unravel itself back into a circle without anyone letting go hands. This is done by clambering over or under each other's arms.

Introduction Ask the children how they feel when someone has done them wrong. Do they want revenge? Even if they don't they probably find it hard to be nice to the person afterwards. Ask if anyone can remember what Joseph's brothers had done to him.

Story Joseph is made Governor of Egypt Genesis 41 v. 37 – 45 v. 28. If you are using the video play the final episode (Governor of Egypt) which lasts for 21 minutes so you might like to tell the first part of the story – the brothers go to buy food while Benjamin stays at home. Joseph accuses them of being spies and puts Simeon in prison. When they get home they find that their money is still in their sacks. You could show the last 10 minutes of the story that follows on from this starting from when the narrator is back in the corn market (a room with wooden benches). Alternatively you could act out the story using the script in the resources section. A leader can read the script while the children mime the parts.

Application Ask two children to pull in opposite directions on a rope to illustrate pulling against those who have wronged us. A leader walks towards the rope at right angles to it, holds the rope and keeps on walking. The children are pulled towards him and towards each other. This is what Jesus wants to do for us. When we let him into our friendships we find that we are pulled towards him and towards others. We need to ask Jesus to help us forgive others, however hard this may be.

Memory verse *"Be kind and forgive one another". Ephesians 4 v. 32* Divide the children into two teams. The first stands up and says the verse and sits down. The second stands up, says the bible reference and sits down. They keep doing this faster and faster until they know the verse. After a few goes you could swap them over so that all the children say the verse and the reference.

Quiz There are quiz questions on this week's story in the resources section.

Prayer See prayer resource sheet

Resources Story script, Fun Sheet

Reunited

Try to give everyone a part in the story. They could be Jacob, the brothers, Joseph, Egyptian servants, Pharaoh, other people in Canaan who are hungry etc.

Make one side of the hall Canaan and the other Egypt so that your actors can travel between the two. Try to bring in some props (e.g. sacks, a cup, Pharaoh's crown, money, and presents). This will add to the fun of acting the story.

Jacob was now an old man. He was living in Canaan with his sons, but missed Joseph very much. The famine that was in Egypt has also affected Canaan and everyone there was very hungry. When Jacob heard that there was plenty of food in Egypt he decided to send his ten elder sons there to buy some corn. He wouldn't let Benjamin (the youngest) go because Benjamin and Joseph were the only sons of his wife Rachel, who had died. So Benjamin stayed at home with his father.

The ten brothers got ready and travelled to Egypt. People from all over the world were going there to buy corn and when the brothers arrived they bowed down before Joseph. Joseph was dressed in Egyptian clothes and spoke to them in Egyptian. He asked someone else to tell him what the brothers were saying in Hebrew – even though he could understand them. His half-brothers did not recognise Joseph.

Joseph decided to put his half-brothers to the test. He wanted to find out if they had changed since they had sold him as a slave many years before. He pretended that he thought they were spies and wouldn't believe their story about their family. He had them all put in prison.

After three days Joseph said that nine of the brothers could go home to their families. However, one of them – Simeon – had to stay in prison until the others returned with their youngest brother Benjamin. This would be their proof that they were honest brothers and not a group of spies.

When they heard what Joseph said, they thought "This is God's way for paying us back for what we did to Joseph many years ago."

So the brothers set off back to Canaan with huge sacks of corn, but without Simeon. While they were on their journey, one of them opened his sack of corn and found the money he had given to pay for it was still there. This frightened them all.

When they got home they told their father everything that had happened and explained that they had to return to Egypt with Benjamin to prove they were not spies. Jacob was very upset "No, I have lost Joseph and now Simeon. I am not going to let Benjamin go to Egypt. Something might happen to him on the way, and the sorrow would kill me."

When the brothers opened the other sacks of corn they found the rest of their money had also been returned. How could they return to Egypt now? They hadn't even paid for their corn!

The weeks passed and the famine in Canaan got worse. The food that they had got from Egypt was running out and they knew they would have to go and get more. The brothers also knew that they could not go back without Benjamin- if they did they wouldn't get any more food and would probably be killed.

Judah said to his father "Send Benjamin to Egypt with me, and if I don't bring him back to you, then you can blame me forever for losing him." So eventually Jacob agreed. This time they took money to pay for the new corn, the corn they had before and also presents of honey, spices and pistachio nuts.

When Joseph saw his half-brothers and saw that his own full-brother Benjamin was with them he said to his servant "Take these men to my house. They are going to eat with me today at noon, so kill an animal and prepare it."

The brothers still did not recognise Joseph, and they thought they would be attacked and made into slaves. So they told the servant about the money, but he said he had received the payment in full. Then he went and fetched Simeon from prison - and everyone was pleased to see him.

When the meal was ready, and Joseph arrived the brothers bowed down low and gave him their presents. When Joseph saw that Benjamin was with them he was so happy that he had to go outside because he was crying.

When Joseph had come back he made everyone sit down and arranged them in order - from the eldest to the youngest. When they saw how he had arranged them they looked at each other in amazement. The food was delicious and Benjamin was given five times as much as everyone else.

In the morning Joseph asked one of his servants to fill his brothers' sacks with the food that they wanted and to put a precious silver cup in the top of Benjamin's sack. The brothers didn't know what had happened and while it was still quite early they were sent on their way.

When they had travelled only a short distance, Joseph called one of the servants and told him to chase after them. "When you find them say 'Why have you stolen my master's silver cup? Why did you repay good with evil.'"

The servant set off and soon caught up with the brothers. He began to search their sacks for the cup and found it in the top of Benjamin's sack. Then the brothers returned to Egypt to see Joseph.

"What can we say?" the brothers asked Joseph. "We will be your slaves."

"No," Joseph said, "only the one who stole my silver cup must be my slave. The rest of you can return home to Canaan."

Then Judah stepped forward and said "Please Sir, take me as your slave instead. It will break my father's heart to lose his youngest son. He has already lost his son Joseph and the sorrow of losing Benjamin would probably kill him."

Joseph knew that Judah had been the brother who had suggested that he was sold as a slave. Now he was offering to stay as a slave himself, instead of Benjamin. Joseph realised that his brothers had changed, and were sorry for what they had done to him. He sent all his servants out of the room.

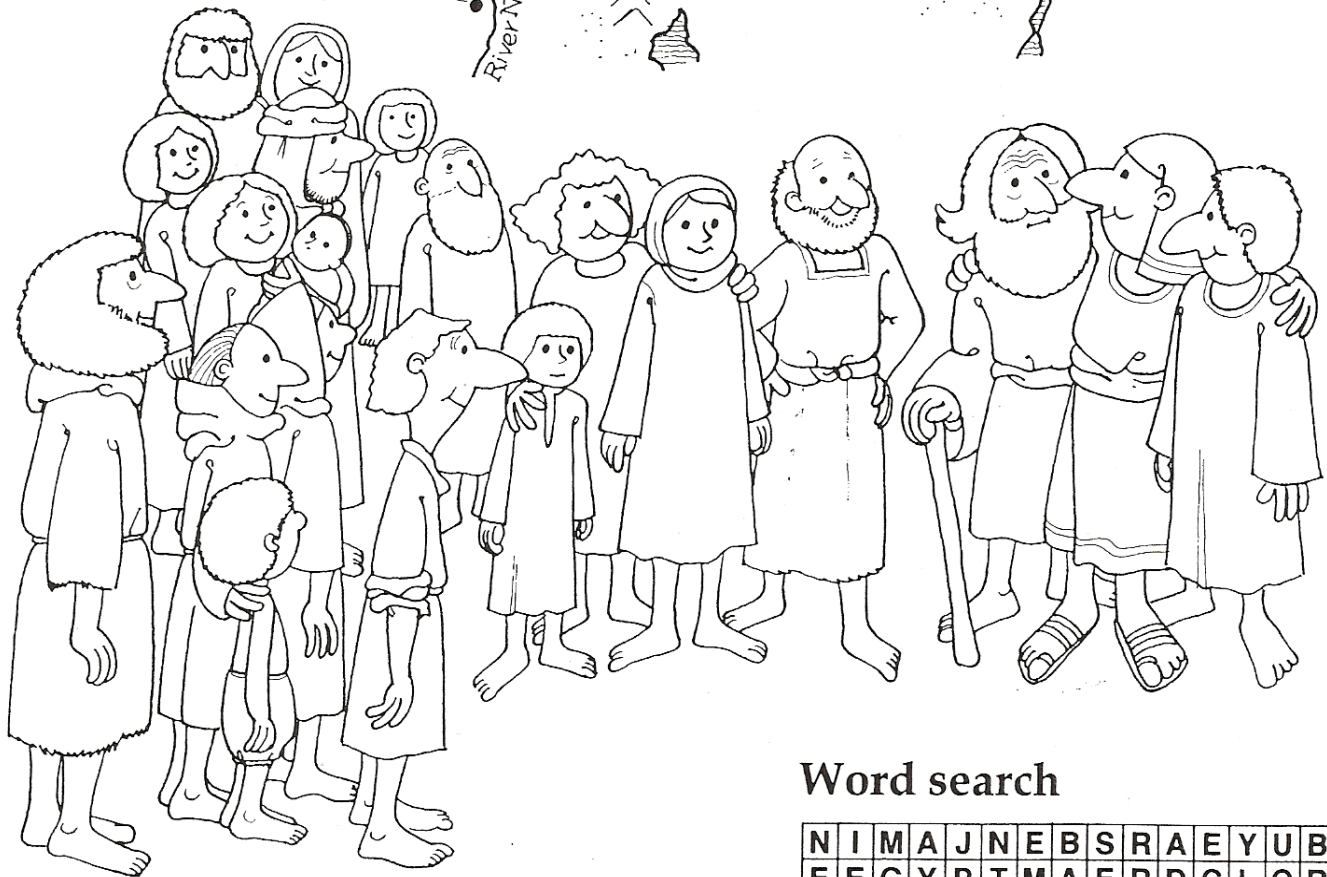
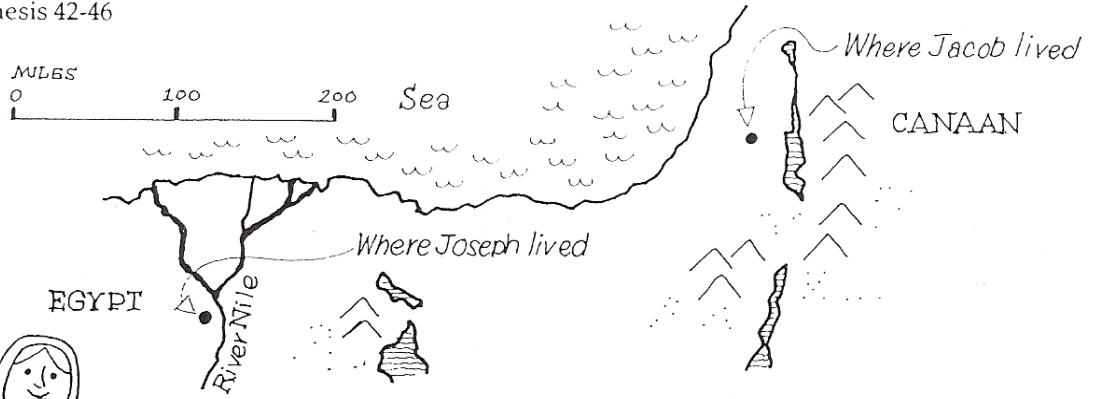
Joseph began to cry as he said "I am Joseph." Then he asked them all about his father and whether he was still alive. He also told them that they must realise that what happened to him was all part of God's plan. God had sent Joseph ahead into Egypt to prepare for the years of the famine. He was able to store enough food for many people.

Joseph gave Benjamin a big hug and then asked his brothers to fetch their father Jacob so that he could see him.

When Pharaoh heard what had happened, and that Joseph's family was there he sent a message inviting them, their wives and their children to come and live in Egypt. So Joseph gave his brothers wonderful gifts of food and clothes and they set off for Canaan to share the joyful news with the rest of the family.

When they told Jacob that Joseph was alive he could hardly believe it. They packed up all they had and went back to Egypt. There were sixty-six members of Jacob's family who moved and lived in Egypt.

Find the story in Genesis 42-46



Forgive others

(Luke 6:37)

Write down the names of the people in your family:-

Word search

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

- | | | |
|-------------|----------|-----------|
| BAG | EGYPT | KING |
| BENJAMIN | EVIL | LIVESTOCK |
| BROTHERS | FAMINE | MISSING |
| BUY | FATHER | MONEY |
| CANAAN | FLOCKS | NILE |
| CHILDREN | FOOD | SACK |
| CITY | GOD | SEVEN |
| CORN | GOOD | SHEPHERDS |
| CROPS | GOSHEN | SON |
| CUP | GOVERNOR | SPIES |
| DESCENDANTS | JACOB | YEARS |
| DRANK | JOSEPH | YOUNGEST |
| DREAM | JUDAH | |