

Lying Down and Getting Up!!!

July 30/August 1, 2010

(Read the following story from Genesis 42-45. Stop as indicated to let your child(ren) participate and respond. Show them where this story is found in your Bible.

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

"I am so hungry that I could eat a bear!!"

"Me too, me too! I am so hungry that I could eat a horse!!"

Joseph's eleven brothers were really, really hungry! The seven bad years that Pharaoh dreamt about came. Just like Joseph said, during those seven bad years, no food grew in the fields. The people were getting hungrier and hungrier and hungrier. *(Discuss with your children the times that you get hungry - before a breakfast or dinner. What would it be like if you couldn't eat for days at a time?)*

There was no food anywhere.....except in Egypt. In Egypt, Joseph had saved so much food during the seven good years that the storehouses were overflowing!! *(Talk with your children about how important it is to save when things are going great so that when things are not so good, they can have what they need to get by.)* **Jacob, the father, said to his sons, "I have heard that there is food in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us."**

When the brothers went to Egypt they weren't expecting to see Joseph and when they got to Egypt, the brothers didn't even recognize him. Joseph was dressed like an Egyptian king!! But even though the brothers didn't recognize Joseph, they could see that he was the second most important person in Egypt. So, the brothers bowed down to Joseph with their faces to the ground and asked Joseph if they could buy some of the food in his storehouses. *(Just like the dream that Joseph had when he was much younger!)* Joseph recognized his brothers right away. Joseph remembered how his brothers had been so mean to him. Joseph remembered how his brothers threw him into that empty well and how they sold him to the traders going to Egypt. Was Joseph angry with his brothers? No!!! Joseph cried and cried when he saw his brothers. *(Discuss why Joseph cried...because he was so happy to see his brothers? Because he missed them so much and now they were here? Because he was so thankful to God for bringing them to him?)* Joseph understood that God wants us to forgive. Joseph forgave his brothers for being so mean to him. God wants us to forgive, too.

These commandments that I give to you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

— Deuteronomy 6:6-8

1. What did the brothers go to Egypt to buy?
2. Who did the brothers not recognize in Egypt?
3. What did Joseph do when he saw his brothers?
4. Who forgave his brothers?
5. Who wants us to forgive?

ANSWERS:
(1) Food (2) Joseph (3) He cried
(4) Joseph (5) God

At Home And On The Road

At a meal or in the car, discuss the following with your child.

Talk about what a great story we have this week! How wonderful it was that Joseph forgave his brothers for all the bad things they did to him. The brothers took his colorful coat that his dad gave him, they threw him in a well, and then sold him into slavery to people who came from Egypt. Through it all Joseph still loved his brothers.

Discussion: Discuss with your child how much God loves each one of us even when we do bad things every day—things that make God really sad - like not sharing toys or being mean to a brother or sister, or not obeying our parents. But God, just like Joseph, still loves us, no matter what we do. **How wonderful to know there is nothing we could ever do to change God's love for us!**

Read Deuteronomy 6:5 to your child and show them where it is found in the Bible.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

Sing the verse to "If You're Happy and You Know It"

Love the Lord your God with all your heart (clap, clap),
Love the Lord your God with all your soul (clap, clap),
Love the Lord your God with all your strength.
Deuteronomy 6 verse 5 (clap, clap)

Hands and Forehead

Enjoy the following scripture verse with your child.

Doorframes And Gates

Enjoy this project that reinforces the lesson to your child.

(Have fun with this project that reinforces the lesson to your child.)

Sharing God's Love. Make mini hearts from red scrap paper. Hide them around your home - under furniture, under things, in your children's pockets. Tell your child when they find the hearts, "I love you and so does God." Talk about the love Joseph showed his brothers when he cared for their needs when they didn't have food, and talk about God's never ending love for them.