

UNIT VERSE

You are the only God.
You created the earth and
everything on it.
Nehemiah 9:6

JOSEPH LOVED HIS BROTHERS**Joseph loved His Brothers****CONTEXT AND COMMENTARY FOR PERSONAL STUDY AND PREPARATION**

(For age-appropriate language, use the Bible story on the following pages.)

LIFE POINT

God planned for
people to show love.

**LEVEL OF
BIBLICAL
LEARNING**

Families love one
another.

**SCRIPTURE
REFERENCE**

Genesis 37; 42:1-
8,25-26; 43:1-
2,15-17; 45:1-14;
46:28-34; 50:15-
21

WEEKLY VERSE

Be kind and loving.
Ephesians 4:32

Joseph came from an incredibly dysfunctional family. His father, Jacob, had multiple wives, and these women bore him many children through a rivalry filled with spite and insecurities (Genesis 29:31-35; Genesis 30:1-24; Genesis 35:16-20). Because Jacob loved one wife more than the others, he also loved certain children more than the others. Joseph was the favored child, which caused resentment and anger among his brothers. All of these factors eventually led to them selling Joseph into slavery when they got the chance.

Dysfunctional, indeed.

Many years later, after Joseph had risen to power in Egypt, he came face to face with his brothers, the people who had completely destroyed the life he knew, and he had a choice to make. Would he forgive or get his revenge?

When someone in your family hurts or injures you, you face the same decision. It is tempting to dwell on various ways you can make that person pay for how he hurt you-the silent treatment, spread lies about him, share his dirty secrets. The options are endless for getting revenge! But is this the way of Jesus?

The apostle Peter taught Christians to respond differently. He implored Christians to be loving and compassionate, and they should not pay "back evil for evil or insult for insult" (1 Peter 3:9). Peter calls us to follow the way of Jesus. Jesus never paid evil back with evil, nor did He ever take revenge on those who hurt or disappointed Him. Peter knew this firsthand after Jesus forgave him for denying that he even knew Him (Luke 22:54-62; John 21:15-19).

Jesus wants to forgive people when they repent and turn back from their wrong behavior. Do you?

Joseph forgave his brothers. Jesus offers forgiveness to everyone. Are you willing to forgive your family members? As you pray this week, thank God for the family He gave you. Ask Him to fill you with a desire to forgive quickly when your family members sin against you.



TELL THE STORY

JOSEPH LOVED HIS BROTHER

Based on Genesis 37; 42:1-8,25-26; 43:1-2,15-17; 45:1-14; 46:28-34; 50:15-21

Joseph's father loved him and gave him a colorful robe (coat).

Joseph's older brothers were mean to him and sent him away.

Joseph became a leader in Egypt and sold grain to the people.

Joseph's brothers came to buy grain.

Joseph told them who he was.

Joseph showed love to his family.

Joseph had his father, brothers, and all of their families come to live closer to him so he could take care of them.

Sing the scripture reference to “Happy Birthday” including the scripture reference. Sing the verse throughout the morning.



BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

ART

Provide stiff white paper with a heart outline. Place grain such as oatmeal in cups at the table along with glue. Preschoolers will decorate the heart with grain as they work say “God wants family members to love and help one another, Joseph loved his brothers, (insert child’s name) can love your family too!” **For Babies:** Allow babies to find heart shapes in bins of rice!

BLOCKS

Build a palace for Pharaoh with cardboard and plastic cups or legos. As children work to build the palace say “Joseph worked for Pharaoh (king) who lived in a palace. Joseph’s brothers traveled to see him to buy food, Joseph chose to be kind to his brothers, God had a plan for Joseph to help his family. God has a plan for (Insert child’s name). **For Babies:** Build a structure with three or four cardboard blocks repeat same bible truth!”

HOMELIVING

Add a cash register along with coins and food. As preschoolers buy and sell food say “there was a famine (not a lot of food) in Egypt. People needed to buy food for their families. Joseph’s brothers traveled to buy food. They found Joseph in charge of all the food! God had a plan to help Joseph’s family. God had a plan to help Joseph’s family. God has a plan for your family. **For Babies:** Play with large plastic coins and plastic food. Repeat the same bible truth.

NATURE

Fill a tub with dry oats or rice to represent grain. Provide scoops, cups, and sifters for preschoolers to explore with. As the preschoolers play say “Joseph helped his family have food, God loves families, God wants families to love each other.” Thank God for your family! How can we help our family? **For Babies:** They will also enjoy playing with oats or rice!

PUZZLES & MANIPULATIVES

Place fabric swatches and clothespins on the carpet. Allow children to clip the clothes pins to the fabric. As the children work say “Joseph’s dad, Israel, gave him a special coat. This made his brothers sad and they did not want to talk to him. Joseph still loved his brothers. God wants families to love each other.”

Use books with pictures of families. Say, “God made all families”. “We can pray for our families.”