

THE COMPASS



Volume 71, Quarter 2, 2021

The Story of Joseph and Easter

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ April 4, 2021

Easter



Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem

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

Five hundred years before Jesus came, 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 (no other

person had ever ridden him), 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 over it. He said, "If you had only known what would bring you peace, but now it is hidden from you." Jesus said this and cried because the people whom He loved, and who so desperately needed peace in their hearts, would reject Him.

Five short days later, many of the very same people who praised Jesus as king were involved in putting Him to death and denied they had ever known Him. We do not want to be fickle as those people were. We should not praise Jesus with our lips only when we are at church or when we think it will sound good and then go home or to school and act in sinful ways. When we sin or do wrong, it is the same as putting Jesus to death.

Jesus still weeps over us when we do not choose to accept Him as King in our lives and have the peace He wants so badly to give us. We need to make Jesus the permanent King of our hearts. It is worth more than all the money in the world to be able to go to bed at night, lay our heads on our pillow, and have peace in our hearts because we have submitted our lives to Him. ■

Lesson Discussion

- It was customarily recognized that persons of royalty rode on donkeys. What else did the donkey symbolize?

What did a horse symbolize?

- Why then, did Jesus choose to ride a donkey into Jerusalem before His crucifixion?
- What did Jesus say would happen if the people did not praise Him? Is He worthy of our praise still?
- In what ways do

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

Key Thought

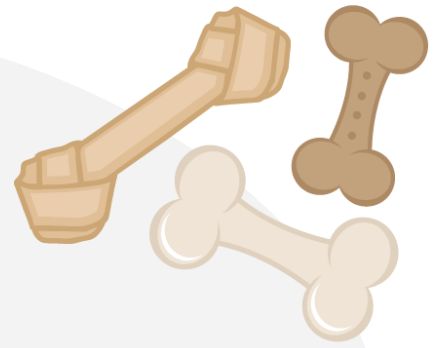
Jesus is worthy of our unfailing rather than fickle praise.

we want to be like the people in our story today, and in what ways should we be different?

Praising Jesus!

Needed: Doggie treats (and human treats, if desired)

I brought along some snacks this morning. Anybody here like... doggie treats? Eww, pretty gross! Especially this box of treats! Look at the flavor. Doesn't sound very good, does it? I imagine you guys would much rather have cookies or fruit, right?



You know who does love these treats? Dogs. Do any of you have dogs? I am sure they love treats. A dog will do just about anything for a treat. They will sit, lie down, roll over, play dead, and fetch a ball. If the dog knows he or she is going to get a treat, that dog will do whatever you want.

But you know something? When a dog does something for a treat, they do it for selfish reasons, don't they? When you first train a dog, the dog becomes conditioned to do tricks because they receive a reward. If you weren't waving one of these yummy treats, they might just walk away and ignore you.

You know sometimes we respond to God that way. We act nice and we pray because we want God to give us a treat, don't we? But God doesn't want us to love Him like that. Whether we have good times or bad, God wants us to love Him and thank Him for all the things He's given us, especially for the gift of Salvation and Jesus dying on the cross.

So get up and praise Him! He's done so much for all of us!

Sing a song of praise!

Read through the lesson text (Luke 19:28-42; Matthew 21:1-11; Zechariah 9:9) and see if you can match each of the following verses to their references without looking at your Bible!

And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

• Luke 19:41

Saying, Go ye into the village over against you; in the which at your entering ye shall find a colt tied, whereon yet never man sat: loose him, and bring him hither.

• Matthew 21:4-5

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it.

• Zechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

• Matthew 21:9

All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

• Luke 19:30

The Beautiful Way (primary) and *The Compass* (junior) Sunday school literature can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com or churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ April 11, 2021



A Crucified King Easter

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

Perhaps the crucifixion of Jesus is the darkest day the world has ever known. While just five days earlier, the people had praised and hailed Jesus as a King, on the day of his crucifixion, He 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 had formed as Jesus was led to Pilate early that Friday morning. The rulers and people brought loud, raucous accusations against Him 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 in 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!

In the middle of unfair accusations being hurled at Him, what did Jesus do? Did He retaliate with loud and angry words? Did he defend Himself? After all, He was in the right. No. He held his tongue and kept silent. Keeping silent is a very difficult thing to do when things are said about or to us that we don't like. Our natural desire is to raise our voice and say what we think. But Jesus knew God would ultimately defend Him.

God did have the final say and those who had unfairly accused Jesus became very silent. Furthermore, Jesus forgave His enemies their wrongdoing.

When things are said about us that we don't like, many times we feel like responding in anger. Very rarely do we feel like having a quiet and forgiving attitude. When we are treated in ways we don't like, we need to pray and tell Jesus how we honestly feel. We then need to ask Him for strength to be quiet and forgive. God will give us strength to do this if we ask Him! ■

Lesson Discussion

- For what reason did the Jews seek to put Jesus to death?

- How did Jesus respond when accused spitefully and very wrongfully?
- Why is it hard to sometimes be quiet when we feel like lashing out at someone who does not treat us right?
- Discuss what forgiveness means. What constructive

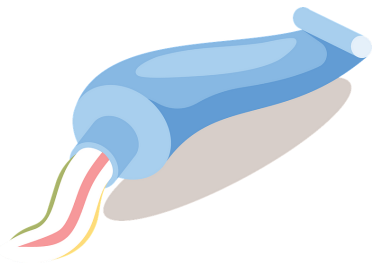
things can we do to change a bad attitude we might have against someone?

Memory Verse

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

Key Thought

In difficult situations, hold
your tongue, be silent, and
forgive as Jesus did.



Words Can't Go Back In!

Needed: a tube of toothpaste and a paper plate or towel

Directions: Unscrew the cap of the toothpaste and set it on the plate/towel so that any toothpaste that comes out is caught.

Talk about it:

Jesus is the Son of God! He is truth and righteousness and holiness! He had every right to fight back, argue, get upset, or at least defend Himself--or that's what we like to think. But what did He do? He stood silently, taking the accusing words, the physical beating, and the weight of *our sins* onto Himself. He never retaliated, but He prayed for those who were hurting and misusing Him.

Now imagine this: some of your friends want to do something you know you aren't supposed to do, and you do your best to convince them not to do it. You try to stand up for what's right, but instead of respecting you and making better choices, your friends mock you and tease you for being a "goodie-two-shoes." You can feel the anger building inside you! All you're trying to do is the right thing! Suddenly, your anger explodes out of you (*jam your hand down onto the tube of toothpaste and let it squirt all over the plate*) and defensive and even ugly words come out of your mouth.

Suddenly, you realize you've made a big mess.

Do you think all the words you just said will be easily cleaned up? Can they be put back in once they're out?

Jesus is always the first place we should look when trying to decide how we should act. When He was treated badly, even unjustly, He held His tongue. No messes to clean up. Just prayer for those around Him. Let's follow Jesus' lead!

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

Find the following words about Jesus' crucifixion and triumph.

- Accusation
- Crucify
- Defend
- Forgive
- Forsaken
- Silent
- Thorns



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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 him 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.

Lesson Discussion

- Although Jesus was crucified as a criminal, discuss how He came to be buried with the rich.

Memory Verse

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

Revelation 1:18

Key Thought

NOTHING we face is too big for Jesus Christ.

- Why were the chief priests afraid, and what did they do to try and alleviate their fears?

- AN ALIVE KING:** Discuss what happened on Resurrection morning.

- How does Jesus'

continued LIFE today benefit you? How powerful is He?

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.

Incredibly, against all human reasoning, Jesus rose from the dead.

Neither the stone nor the soldiers were big enough or strong enough to keep Him in the grave. The terrible, cruel words and actions of those who betrayed and crucified Jesus also lost their power.

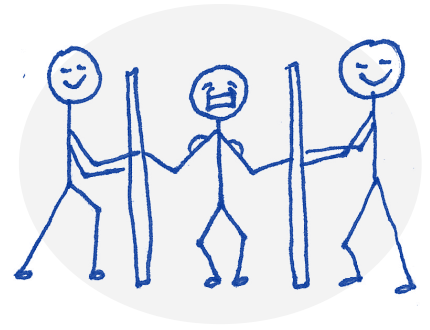
Nothing in our lives, no matter what it is, is stronger than the power of Jesus Christ. Whatever hard things we face—discouragement, loneliness, the betrayal of friends, cruel words, or any other mountain of trouble—is not strong enough to destroy us if we will draw our strength and help from Jesus. He is sitting on the right hand of the throne of God waiting and listening for our prayers.

Nothing is too big for our risen Saviour. We serve an "ALIVE KING!" ■

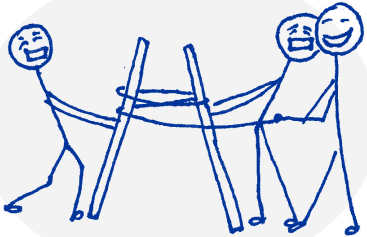
For With God...

Needed: two broom handles or sturdy sticks of similar height, rope, three volunteers

Directions: Have one volunteer stand in the middle holding onto both sticks. Have two volunteers standing on either side holding to their respective sticks. Instruct the middle volunteer to pull the sticks together with all his strength while the outer volunteers pull against him. Can the middle man pull the two sticks together?



Can the middle man pull the two sticks together?



Next, wrap the rope around the two sticks a few times, being sure it doesn't slip all the way to the floor. (It may be helpful to tie a loop at one end of the rope and put that end around the first stick as an anchor.) Have the outer volunteers pull on their sticks like the last time, but have the middle man pull the loose end of the rope with all his strength. Can he pull the two sticks together this time?

Jesus died on the cross, suffered the punishment for our sins, and was buried in a tomb. But against all logic and the laws of nature, He rose from the grave in three days by the incredible and awesome power of God! Did you know that the same power God used to raise His son is available for us to use today? When we use our own strength, we can accomplish very little, as was demonstrated in the first exercise. But when we have God (represented by the rope), there is NO power that can stand against us! On which side do you want to be--holding a stick and fighting a losing battle or using God's strength to tighten the ropes until your objective is won?

CRACK THE CODE:

If Jesus has the power to rise from the grave, He certainly has the power to...

18 4 8 11 12 2 4 17 20 24 1 2

!

4 25 12 15 7 2 2 3 11 16

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
7	15	5	21	11	17	24	1	20	9	13	3	10
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
19	4	18	22	12	16	2	25	23	8	14	6	26

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ April 25, 2021

The Story of Joseph

Joseph's Lineage

Faith in God's Promises



Lesson Text: Genesis 12—32

Joseph was a great, powerful, and faithful man of God. People often look up to him 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 set his plan 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.

Lesson Discussion

- How long did Abraham have to wait before Isaac was born? How did that period of time affect his faith?

Memory Verse

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

Key Thought

God has a plan for you that began long before you were born. Trust in Him!

- How will your decisions affect those coming after you?

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 belonged 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 youngest 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.

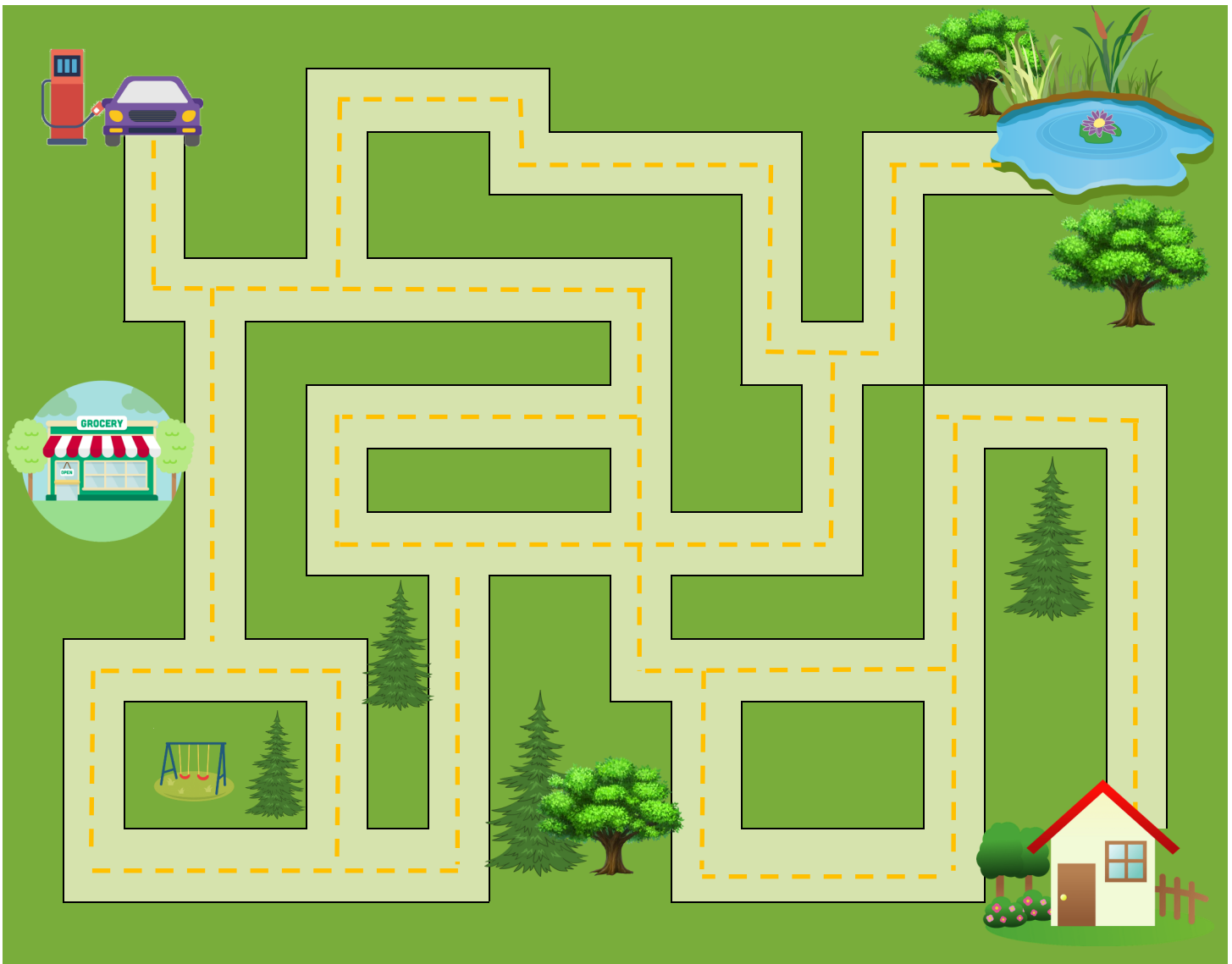
How powerful our God is to have worked all of this out!

Have you ever been through a particularly hard time and wondered why God was allowing it? Perhaps you lost a beloved grandparent and life hasn't been the same since. Perhaps school is a lot harder than you thought it would be, and you're struggling to make good grades. Perhaps you and your sibling or best friend aren't getting along like you used to, and it seems as though all you do is fight. God allows hard things to come our way for a purpose. It is often hard to see His hand working out the details of our own lives, but take a look at how God prepared the way for Joseph! He was making it possible for Joseph to be a great man of faith long before he was even born!

Everyone has gone through hard times that seem without purpose, but sometimes God allows us to see the reason for those circumstances later. It becomes clear that the trial was for a reason and a greater good. Even hard times that your parents and grandparents went through earlier in their lives have made a difference in your life now.

Imagine how your actions and decisions are affecting those who will come after you!

The way you choose to live your life impacts more people than you know. Your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends, neighbors, and many others are affected by YOU. When a hard time comes your way and you feel like you are struggling to trust God, remember how far back Joseph's story goes. His great grandfather had to BELIEVE in God's promise of a great nation in order for Joseph's life to be possible. You can trust in God's plans and promises the same way! ■



God's Plan for You

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Jeremiah 29:11

Take a look at this map. The car at the gas station needs to get home, but there are so many ways to get there! Take a colored pencil or crayon, and trace the roadways on the **most direct** route home you can find. Then, using a different color, trace a round-about route that takes a few detours and wrong turns.

Which way would you take if you were driving the car?

Did you know that God has promised that He will make a way for each of us? He proved that in Joseph's life. He never failed him, even when it looked like Joseph was going in the wrong direction. God gave Joseph a *wonderful* ending and fulfilled all of His promises to him. God has the same kind of plan and faithfulness in store for you! When you don't trust God and choose your own path, you end up wandering around, making wrong turns, or even crashing into the lake and hurting yourself. Taking God's way doesn't always look like the most scenic route or the smoothest road to take, but He **promised** He would get us home if we believe in Him and follow His directions.

Will you follow your own way, or will you trust God to pave the way to get you safely home?

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ May 2, 2021

The Story of Joseph Joseph's Brothers Jealousy

Lesson Text: Genesis 37:3-36



Joseph was his father's favorite son, and Jacob did not do a good job 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 that he shared with his brothers. 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 mocked him with cruelty.

They simply could not forgive him for being their father's favorite.

One day, 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 let his family comfort him.

Have you ever been in a situation where there was favoritism? If you are the favorite, it doesn't feel too bad to be treated well! But, if you are not the favorite, being ignored and passed over is very painful. This is how all of Joseph's brothers felt when Jacob blatantly showed his preference of Joseph over them, and the rejection and hurt led them to act in a drastic and terrible manner.

If you end up in a situation where favoritism is being shown to you, how can you act in order to make those around you feel better? Making an effort to include them and showing extra kindness goes a long way toward soothing the hurt of coming in second. Being humble and gracious is absolutely necessary, and definitely a part of God's plan, if you are the one in the spotlight!

But how do you deal with the hurt of being rejected? When someone else is being favored, whether justified or not, it is incredibly hard to deal with your emotions. It helps to remember that your worth is placed **ONLY** in God.

His love for each of His children is all-encompassing and equally measured.

His love for you is just as powerful as His love toward the person next to you, the ugliest sinner, or the most beautiful saint. He does **NOT** play favorites. Hanging onto this truth can be helpful if you are struggling with not being the favored individual in a certain situation.

Take a look at Jacob. How did he feel when his favored son died? He **REFUSED** to let his family comfort him. It is so important, if you are in a position of leadership or power, that you do not show favoritism between those around you. Not only does it hurt them, but you will end up being deeply hurt in the end too. ■

Lesson Discussion

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

Key Thought

There is a certain way God wants you to act, whether you are the one in a position of power, the favored individual, or the one being passed over.

- What happened that made Joseph's brothers' jealousy even worse?
- How could Jacob have handled things differently to prevent the rift between him and his brothers?
- Discuss how it feels to be favored. How does God want you to handle that situation?
- Discuss how it feels to be rejected.

Where can you find true worth?

Pennies!

Needed: a handful of pennies

Hold out your handful of pennies to your class and ask them which penny is worth the most. They should answer that all pennies are worth the same amount!

Hand a penny to each student. Ask them what their pennies look like. Are they dirty? Old? Shiny? Brand new?



We need to remember that in God's eyes, we are ALL worthy! It doesn't matter what we look like, how old we are, where we came from, or if other people like us. God made us in His image. He loves us because He created us, and there isn't any person's opinion that can change God's mind about us.

When we meet new people, when we are at home with our siblings, or when we play with our friends, we need to remember that God loves each of those people as much as He loves us. That means that our love for everyone else should be equal as well. We might have one friend that we feel closer to than another, but that doesn't mean that the other friend isn't worthy of our attention and love. This is what Jesus came to teach us! Love your neighbor!

Use the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle about Joseph and his brothers!
(Use the word bank to help you.)

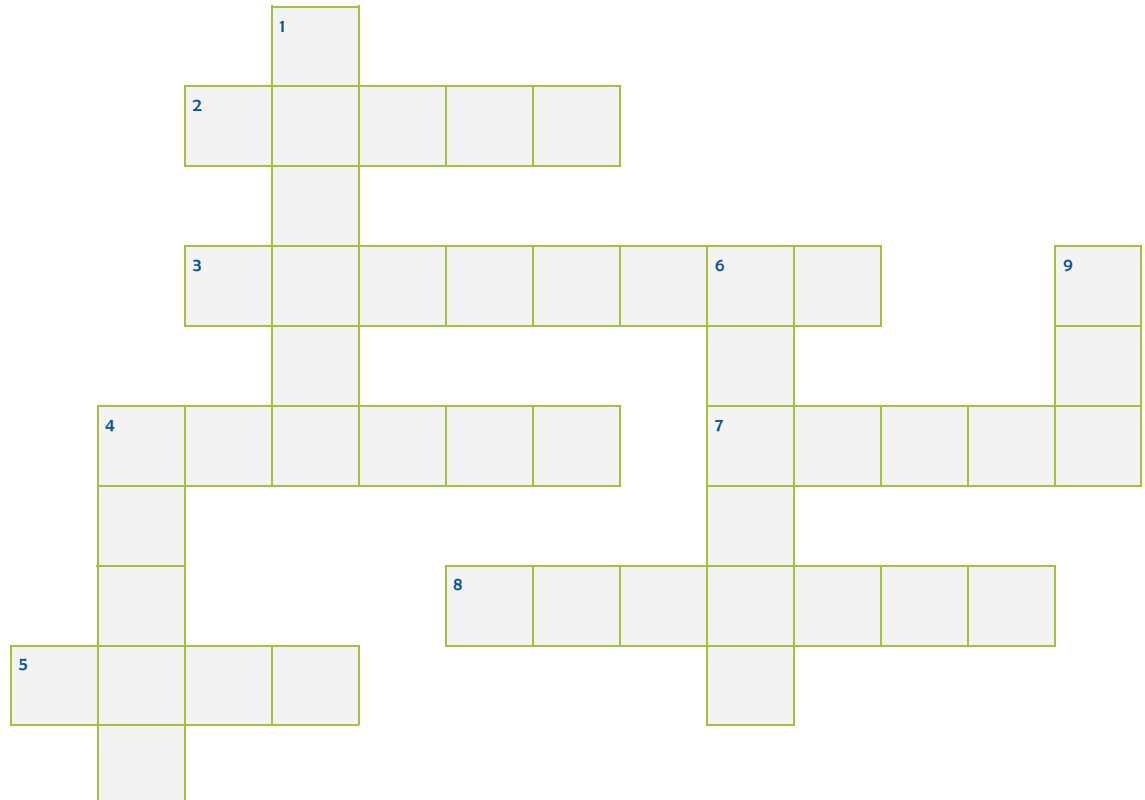
- Coat
- Cruel
- Dreams
- Egypt
- Favorite
- Jacob
- Joseph
- Pit
- Slavery
- Twelve

Down

1. Joseph had two of these that his brothers did not like.
4. The father of twelve sons.
6. How many brothers did Joseph have?
9. Joseph's brothers threw him into this.

Across

2. Joseph's brothers were ____ to him.
3. Jacob had a ____ son.
4. The main character of today's story.
5. Jacob had a colorful one of these made for his favorite son.
7. Where did Joseph end up as a slave?
8. Joseph's brothers sold him into this.



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Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

Contributor: Sister Julie Elwell.

Volume 71, Quarter 2, Week 5. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck. 2021.

THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ May 9, 2021

The Story of Joseph

Potiphar's House

Hard Work and Success



Lesson Text: Genesis 39:1–6

After Joseph's brothers sold him to the Ishmeelites, they took him to **Egypt (11)** and sold him to a very powerful man, Potiphar. Potiphar was the captain of the guard and an officer of Pharaoh. He was a man accustomed to wealth and comfort, and probably not very concerned with the slaves 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 on which he worked turned out well, and for a slave, he became prosperous.

Soon, he drew the attention of **Potiphar (6)** himself. Upon observing Joseph, Potiphar **realized (10)** 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 (2)** of Potiphar's house!

Lesson Discussion

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

Key Thought

Working hard and having a good attitude can lead to great success. God blesses those who are not lazy!

of these do you need to cultivate?

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

From that time forward, God blessed everything that Potiphar owned. For Joseph's sake, the Lord prospered Potiphar's crops and investments, making him even **wealthier (8)** 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 to 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.

Think about your own life. "How many times have I asked you to pick up your room?" Have you heard that before? The voice of your mom probably just rang in your head, and she probably didn't sound happy! But if she was scolding you, then most likely you hadn't done what she asked you to do. Normally, our parents don't ask us to work hard all day, every day. But they do usually want us to do a few chores and keep our own belongings clean and organized. Do you do this with a good attitude? Are you a hard worker when you need to be?

If we look at Joseph's life, it's easy to see that he had every reason to be a slow, lazy worker with a bad attitude toward his master. He had been born the favored son of a godly man! He didn't deserve to be sold into **slavery (7)** or to be forced into the mundane tasks of a slave! Certainly, he didn't deserve to have been forced from his homeland into a strange, foreign place where false gods and wickedness abounded.

But how did Joseph react to his circumstances? The Bible does not record Joseph **moping (3)** around Potiphar's house, barely finishing the tasks assigned him. No, it says that he was a **goodly (1)** person. That means **cheerful (5)**, dedicated, self-motivated, and **eager (9)** to please. He didn't spend a whole day finishing one menial task. He worked hard to get it done and then looked around to see what he could do next!

His behavior was so out of the ordinary that the master of the house noticed him!

Sometimes it is really hard to feel motivated to work like Joseph did. Oftentimes, getting in the mood to get our work done is the hardest part. But God is very pleased with hard, cheerful workers. The Bible says, "Go to the ant, thou **sluggard (4)**; consider her ways." Doing the jobs assigned to you in a prompt, willing manner is part of your calling as a Christian. When you don't feel like working hard, remember the benefits that Joseph received from his hard work! ■

Digging for Treasure

There was a farmer who owned a large vineyard. He was sick and about to die, so he called his sons in to tell them a parting secret.

“My sons, I will die shortly, but I would have you know that there lies a hidden treasure in my vineyard. Dig, and you will find it.” Then he passed away.

As soon as their father was buried, the sons took shovels and spades and turned up the soil of the vineyard over and over again in their search to find the buried treasure. They soon realized that the treasure was not buried in the dirt. However, the vines, after so thorough a digging, produced a flourishing crop like the vineyard had never seen.

Sometimes, it's hard to see that hard work produces rewards of its own, but believe it or not, you will be blessed!

This thought applies to the chores you have to do at home, your schoolwork, and your relationships—especially your relationship with God! It takes effort and work to get to know Him and build a relationship, but it will bring about the greatest blessings! Don't be afraid to dig in and find out.

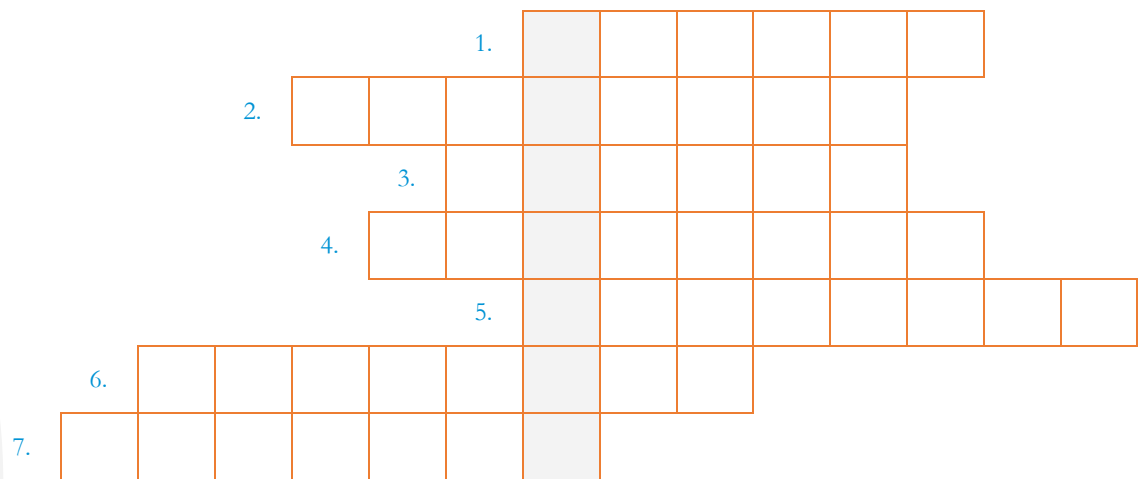


Directions:

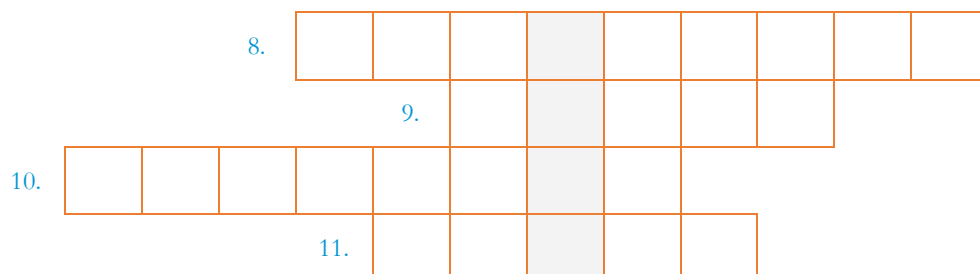
Go back through the lesson and find the words that are bolded with a number next to them:

Example (1)

Write each word into the corresponding space in the puzzle to find out what Joseph was **NOT**.



OR

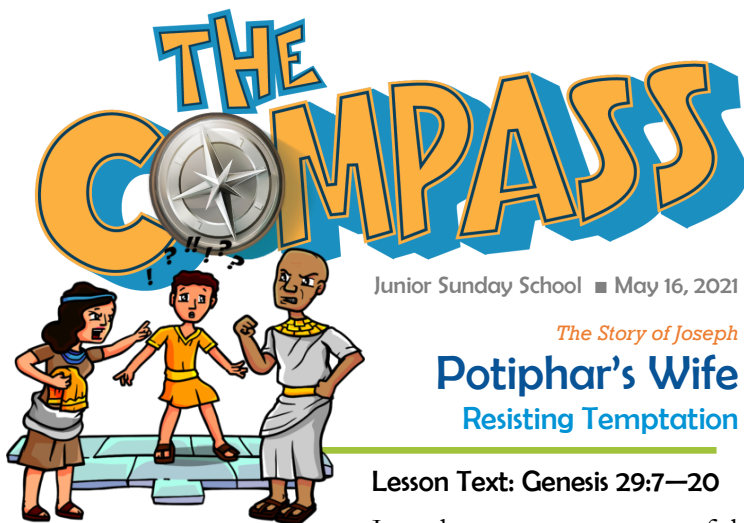


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Contributor: Sister Julie Elwell.

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Lesson Text: Genesis 29:7—20

Joseph was a very powerful man in Potiphar's house. He managed everything that Potiphar owned. 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 to 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.

It is often hard to do the right thing. There is a reason that God's way is called the straight and narrow. It is a lot harder to stay on a narrow path than it is a wide one! Part of staying on that narrow path is resisting when Satan tempts us.

Joseph was a good man. We know that he loved and trusted God to take care of him. Still, the devil had power to tempt him while he lived in Potiphar's house. Even Jesus was tempted of the devil!

But both Joseph and Jesus had God's power to refuse what the enemy was offering them.

There are things that tempt us in our lives too. Satan is constantly putting situations in our path that lure us away from God's plan. It is not something that we have to be ashamed of when we are tempted to do something that is wrong. We know it is wrong to steal, cheat, lie, disobey, etc. Oftentimes, those are not the things we are tempted with most. More often, a bad attitude, being unkind, arguing with our siblings or parents, or withholding truths are temptations that we face. Do any of these things sound familiar to you?

Thankfully, God remembers that we are just human. Sometimes, we even give into temptation in a moment of weakness. But

God's plan for us is that we possess His great power to overcome our temptations and say no to the things that we know are wrong.

Remember how Joseph handled himself the next time you are tempted: he FLED the enemy! Sometimes, that is the best tactic we can use. When you cannot run away, remember that God's strength is enough to carry you through. You can say, just as Jesus did, "Get thee hence, Satan." ■

Lesson Discussion

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

Key Thought

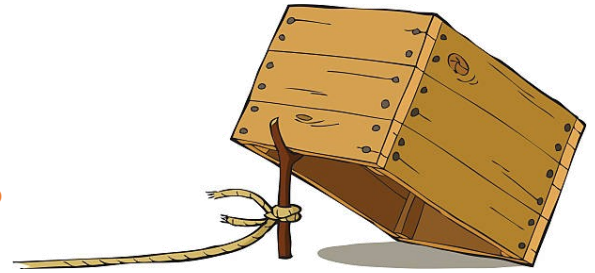
Both Jesus and Joseph are good examples of how we can resist temptation: use God's power and flee the enemy!

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

It's a Trap!

Needed: Box, stick, rope, candy bar

Directions: Set up the box trap on a table or the floor where the students can see it. Place the candy bar "inside" the trap --beneath the box.




Temptation always looks appealing, right? There's something that you want, and you usually want it bad! The devil is a master at making what we want look nearly irresistible, and it can make us blind to the danger that's connected with it.

Joseph was tempted to become friends with a woman who was another man's wife. God talks about this in the Bible, and Joseph knew it was wrong. How did Joseph handle the temptation? Did he stay and talk? Did he see what Potiphar's wife wanted?

You might be able to stick your hand underneath the trap and get the candy bar out before it comes crashing down on you, but the devil is always faster than you are. He will trap you before you've even realized what happened.

Talk about some of the things that tempt you. Use the space below to write some of them down.

Now think about what Joseph did when he was tempted. How can you react when you are tempted? What are some of the things you can do to help you "run away" from the things that you know are wrong?

<p>Memory Verse Toolkit</p> <p>Verses to help me resist temptation</p> 	<p>For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.</p> <p>John 3:16</p>	<p>For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23</p>
<p>But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8</p>	<p>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9</p>	<p>For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:10</p>
<p>Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. 1 Corinthians 9:24</p>	<p>A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. John 13:34</p>	<p>All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2 Timothy 3:16-17</p>
<p>Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king. 1 Peter 2:17</p>	<p>Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. James 1:12</p>	<p>Directions: Cut out the pages of your toolkit and staple them together. Work on memorizing and using each scripture!</p>

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Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.

Contributor: Sister Julie Elwell.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ May 23, 2021



The Story of Joseph A Captive Interpreter Doing God's Work

Lesson Text: Genesis 39:20—23, 40:1—19

We learned in the last lesson that Potiphar threw Joseph 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, he had to approve. 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."

Memory Verse

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

Colossians 3:23

Key Thought

Even simple, mundane tasks are work for God if done with the right attitude.

Lesson Discussion

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

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 the 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.

Oftentimes, we do not know how we can work for God. We might think, "I am in no position to do anything for God! I have no talents or strengths that might be useful to him." Those thoughts are lies from the enemy!

God has something for each of His children to do, no matter their situation, personality, or age.

Joseph was in a place he thought he would never be! How was he to find work to do for God when he was stuck in prison? Surely, all of his talents were going to waste in the dirty, dank cells. But that was not Joseph's attitude! We read that, just as in Potiphar's house, he quickly rose to a position of power. We don't know exactly what Joseph was doing or saying, but the simple work that Joseph was completing was the work God had for him at that time.

Because he was faithful, Joseph had access to the other prisoners, and in this way, he got to know the butcher and the baker from the palace. If he hadn't been faithful in his work, this opportunity would never have come his way! When he was given another chance to work for God by interpreting their dreams, he was faithful again.

It is so easy to feel discouraged or lost when it comes to working for God. But even if you aren't a missionary, a teacher, preacher, or song leader, God has something for you to do.

If you are praying for a specific job to do, be sure you don't miss the everyday opportunities to do God's work:

clean the church after service, help your mom out around the house, or help your little siblings with their homework. These are ways that each of us can do God's work, even if they seem small or insignificant. ■

What Does the Bible Say?

- And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof. And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him. Genesis 2:19-20

*So God gave people work from the very beginning, even before sin broke the world—
God wanted people to work.*

- For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost. Luke 19:10

Did you realize that Jesus had a job to do while on Earth and He's still doing that job now?

- And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Colossians 3:23

God also wants us to do our best and work for Him in all our jobs.

- And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Matthew 22:39

God also wants us to help others by our work. We can show love for our neighbors in working hard at our jobs.

- In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury (poverty.) Proverbs 14:23

This is the way our world works, working hard will make your life easier and allow you to help others even more.

Write three jobs you can do for God in the space provided. Think of ways to serve Him at home, at school, at church, and with other people:

- _____
- _____
- _____

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

Find the following words about Joseph's time in prison:

- Attitude
- Dream
- Jail
- Jobs
- Joseph
- Work



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Contributor: Sister Julie Elwell.

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ May 30, 2021

The Story of Joseph

Elevated to the Palace

God's Timing

Lesson Text: Genesis 40—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. After all of the kindness and care he had shown toward the butler, surely Joseph's heart must have been grieved to be left in the prison. 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 are. You shall be in charge over my house and all the land of Egypt."

Have you ever had to wait for something for which you were very anxious? Good things or bad, sometimes it is VERY hard to be patient and play the waiting game. It is often doubly hard if there is uncertainty involved. The enemy likes to attack us with questions and doubt. "What will I do if this happens? How will things change if this happens? I won't be able to manage if this happens!" Thankfully, there is a peace and comfort that God provides especially for those times. A common verse in Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

Even in Joseph's waiting and wondering, God's plan was at work.

It wasn't what Joseph wanted, to be sold by his brothers, forced into slavery, falsely accused, and imprisoned unjustly. But God had a mighty plan that worked all of those terrible things for good, if Joseph could wait for the right time.

The same type of situation occurred to another faithful servant of God. Esther was taken from her life and forced to become queen. She, too, suffered and was forced to wait for God's plan to be revealed. But her faith, even in her waiting, was strong. She said, "Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14).

It goes against our human nature to wait when we want change or an answer right away. But take comfort: if you are waiting, your faith will carry you through. God's great plan will be revealed in His time. ■

Lesson Discussion

- Discuss how Joseph might have felt after the butler moved to the palace and forgot about him.

Memory Verse

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

Genesis 41:41

Key Thought

We are often made to suffer through a period of waiting, but God's timing is perfect and His plan will be revealed.

- Think of a time you had to wait on God for an answer. Was it easy?

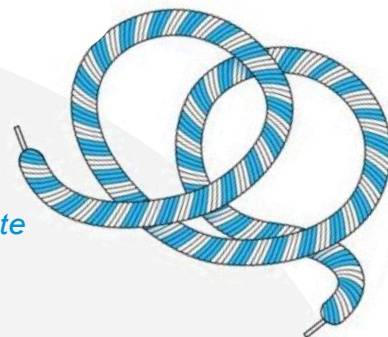
- How would you have felt in Joseph's shoes when the pharaoh called you to the palace? Would you have been able to remain humble and trusting in God?

- How are Joseph's and Esther's stories similar? Discuss the

similarities in their faith while they waited on God.

All Tied Up

Needed: A shoe lace or piece of string about the same length



Think about some things you want. Can you share them with the class?

Possible answers: birthdays, christmas, being able to drive, seeing a favorite friend, having their own money

There are a lot of things we look forward to in life, but sometimes they don't happen as fast as we want them to. If you're waiting for your birthday or Christmas, you will have an entire 364 days between each special day to wait. That's a lot of days! If you're waiting to be able to drive or be old enough to earn your own money, you will have to wait even more than one year. Maybe you're waiting for the day you see your favorite friend, but the two weeks until you meet up are *dragging*.

Imagine being in Joseph's shoes. God had made him promises--remember his dreams about his brothers? Joseph knew God kept His promises, didn't he? But do you think it was always easy for Joseph to wait while he was stuck in jail? Do you think he got impatient, or even upset at God for allowing so much time to be "wasted?"

What happens to us when we get so impatient we can hardly stand it?

Pass the shoe lace around the class and have each student say aloud the event or day they are looking forward to while they tie a knot in the lace. Hold the lace up for everyone to see.

This is what can happen when we let impatience or anger for having to wait get the better of us. We get all knotted and tangled until it looks like we can never be straightened out.

Joseph didn't allow himself to become tied in knots while he waited. He had patience. He trusted God to fulfill His promises. And then, when the time came, Joseph was ready to move on to the next event in his life. Could he have been ready if he was a tangled mess of knots?!

12 1 26 13 7 5 1 25 13 7

_____ on the Lord, be of good
_____, and he shall
_____ thine _____:
wait, I say, on the _____.

15 16 20 26 10 5 13

Psalms 27:14

22 16 26 2

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
10	21	15	2	13	19	5	25	9	18	3	22	11
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
7	16	4	24	26	12	1	20	17	8	14	23	6

Directions:
Use the chart to decode each word,
and then use those words to fill in
the verse above. (Note: some words
may be used twice!)

25 13 10 26 1

8 10 9 1

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ June 6, 2021

The Story of Joseph

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

Mercy



Lesson Text: Genesis 41—42

During the seven years of plenty, Joseph stored up grain from all over Egypt. Eventually, there was so much grain in the storehouses 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 that his family would not starve. The only son he did not send was Benjamin, Rachel's other son. Benjamin was Jacob's favorite son, and the youngest, among those he had left.

Ten of Joseph's brothers came to Egypt and unknowingly bowed themselves before Joseph, 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 Joseph 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 went to them and said, "I will let you live if you bring me your youngest brother," for he was beginning his plan to see if his brothers' hearts had changed. 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.

Though Joseph was a humble, Godly man, he was also a man of power. His position in Egypt granted him whatever his heart desired. He lived in comfort and ease and enjoyed great respect from the people and from Pharaoh himself. How easy it would have been for him to grow proud and resentful. However, God kept His hand over him, and

Joseph surrendered to the gentle spirit God wanted him to have.

How do you think Joseph felt when he saw his brothers? Could you have forgiven them and been kind to them after everything they had done? Joseph struggled with what to think. He didn't know what had brought his brothers to Egypt. But that spirit of humility and forgiveness kept him from truly punishing them. He tested them and found out as much as he could about his father and younger brother, but he did not treat them in the manner which they surely would have deserved. He treated them with kindness and mercy.

God does the same thing for us when we make mistakes, even when we knowingly do something wrong. Despite our treatment of Him, God is generous and merciful. (Eventually, He will let us suffer the consequences of our sin, but He is always willing and ready to forgive us if we ask.) It is not an easy task to forgive someone when they have wronged us so drastically, but the spirit of mercy is something that God uses freely with us. He wants us to cultivate it in our relationships with others as well.

Has someone wronged you? Are you finding it hard to forgive them and treat them with kindness? Remember that Joseph showed mercy to his brothers, and God shows mercy to you. In fact, His mercy is SO great that He allowed His beloved son to die so that you could spend eternity in Heaven. Surely, if God can do that for you, He can help you have true forgiveness and mercy for someone who has treated you badly. ■

Lesson Discussion

- How do you think Joseph felt when he saw his brothers for the first time?

Memory Verse

Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

Luke 6:36

Key Thought

God's mercy extends far beyond our ability to understand. He can help you treat those around you with mercy as well.

- What is the natural reaction to someone when they treat you poorly? Do you think Joseph felt these feelings?

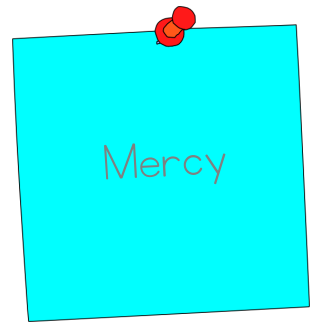
- Discuss the steps needed to have a merciful spirit like the one Joseph showed his brothers.

- Why is it so

important that we show mercy to those around us?

Mercy Over Punishment

Needed: sticky notes, pens or crayons



The Bible teaches us that we are all sinners. None of us can go through life without doing something wrong. Only Jesus did that! The Bible also teaches us that God is just and holy. He cannot be where there is sin, and because of that, our sin separates us from Him. Thankfully, He made a way for us to come back to Him through Jesus' death and resurrection. God extends mercy to us in more ways than we can even know, but that doesn't mean we won't pay the price for the things we do wrong. It does mean that we are saved from suffering eternal punishment. God's mercy covers our sins and allows us to be with Him in heaven forever as long as we are living a holy life for Him.

Let's talk about punishments and mercy. Look at the list below and think of a punishment that fits each scenario and write it below each one. These are the punishments we deserve, aren't they? What did God provide? Write the word "MERCY" on a sticky note and cover each sin and the punishment. This is what God does for us when we ask forgiveness! Thank you, Jesus!

Lying about your homework	Stealing from the store	Hitting someone at school
Punishment:	Punishment:	Punishment:
Breaking someone's toy on purpose	Yelling at your parents	Fighting with your sister
Punishment:	Punishment:	Punishment:

Use the clues and the word bank to fill in the crossword puzzle.

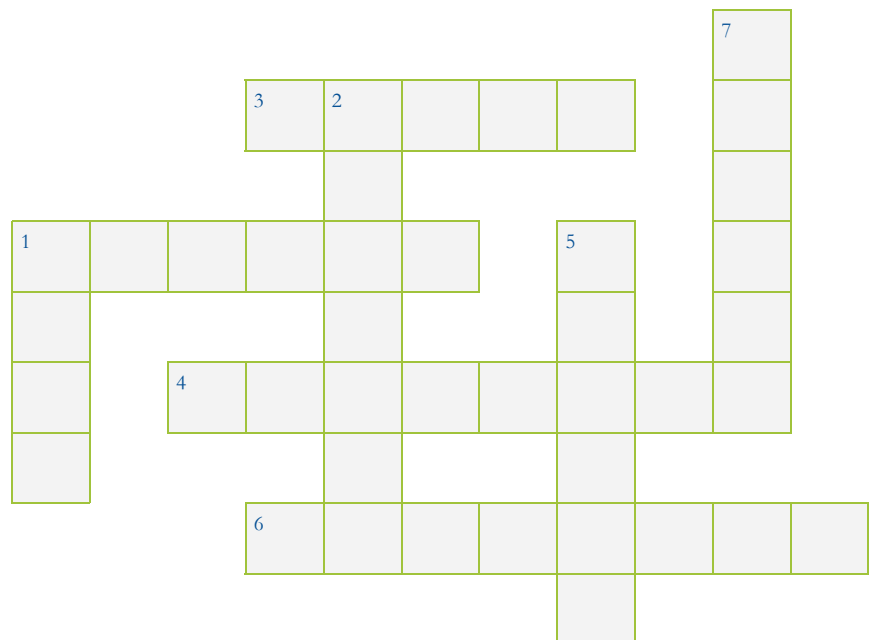
Down:

- The brothers found their bags still full of ____.
- Joseph stored this up during Egypt's seven years of plenty.
- After seven years of plenty, there was seven years of ____.
- Joseph had the eldest brother imprisoned. What was his name?

Across:

- The land Jacob is from.
- Joseph was in charge of all of this land.
- This son was Jacob's favorite after Joseph.
- Instead of being cruel to his brothers, Joseph showed this.

Word Bank: Benjamin, Canaan, Corn, Egypt, Famine, Grain, Kindness, Simeon



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Please email questions or input to gellenbeck.lindsey@gmail.com.
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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ June 13, 2021

The Story of Joseph

The Famine Grows Worse

Faith in God's Promises

Lesson Text: Genesis 28, 32, 42–43

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!"

One of the brothers, 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, another of Joseph's brothers, replied, "The man

from Egypt commanded that we do 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."

This trial was very hard for Jacob. Do you remember the dream Jacob had early in his life? What did God tell him after he awoke from that dream? "I am the Lord God of your fathers, Abraham and Isaac. I will give you and your family the land where you now lie, and your children will be numbered as the dust of the earth, spreading in all directions. All of your children will be blessed. Behold, I am with you, and I will keep you wherever you go and will not leave you until these promises are fulfilled." Later on in Jacob's life, he was facing possible death at the hand of his brother. He prayed to God, saying, "God, you told me you would deal well with me. I am not worthy of any of the mercy you have shown to me, but now I am in trouble! I pray, deliver me from the hand of my brother!"

How different this prayer sounds than the words he spoke to his sons. Jacob's faith earlier in his life was almost tangible. He was SO sure that God would take care of him because God had promised it. Where was this faith when it came to his favored son, Benjamin? Where is the prayer full of confidence that God would deal well with him?

How easy it is to be like Jacob and forget God's promises to us.

Did you know there are over 5,000 promises in the Bible that say God will take care of us?

Sometimes it takes great faith to step forward and act on those promises, but it is far worse if we sit back and grumble in fear, as Jacob did in this instance. Choose to be like the young Jacob—his faith in God was unshakable, and only faith will ensure that God's promises will be fulfilled for us. ■

Lesson Discussion

- Why did Jacob have his sons take gifts back to Joseph?

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

Key Thought

Having faith in God's promises, despite our circumstances, is the only way to guarantee spiritual success.

- What did God promise Jacob early on in his life? Has God promised you anything?

- Discuss how differently Jacob spoke about meeting his brother and sending Benjamin to Egypt.

- Was it right for Jacob to have very little faith about sending Benjamin to Egypt? How should he have reacted to

this crisis?

Unknown Outcomes

Needed: Sharp pencils, plastic sandwich bags, water

Jacob didn't want to send his favored son, Benjamin, to Egypt. He didn't know what would happen to him if he let him go! Sometimes we face situations where we don't know what the outcome will be. If we really put our trust in God, what will happen? Let's try something to help us understand what having faith in God is really like.



Directions: Fill the plastic sandwich bag with water. Hold it over the sink or a container and poke the sharpened pencil through the bag.

Did you think the bag would leak water with the pencil poked through it? A bag with a hole in it should leak, shouldn't it?

Putting our faith in God is like poking the pencil through the plastic bag. We don't always know what the outcome will be, but in the end, God holds everything together right where it should be. God knows what will happen, and He is making everything work out the way He wants it to!

God knew Benjamin would reunite with Jacob after he went to Egypt. In fact, we will see that Jacob's trust in God brought back his lost son Joseph as well!

Next time you are in a situation where you are scared of what might happen, remember that God is holding everything in place. He will take care of you!

When is it hard to put your trust in God? For each of the following situations, think about a way that you can put your faith in God and trust Him to take care of you. Write it in the space provided.

You got hurt while climbing a tree, and the scrapes are bleeding.	There is a new student in your class, and you're scared to talk to him.
Your parents just told you that you will be moving to a new place.	Your friends are trying to get you to do something you know is wrong.

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Contributor: Sister Julie Elwell.

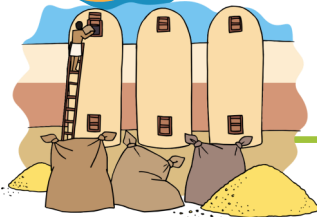
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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ June 20, 2021

Joseph's Test Repentance

Lesson Text: Genesis 43—45



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 by bringing Simeon out to them.

When Joseph came home to eat, he asked how his brothers were, and upon seeing Benjamin, he was so moved 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. They, therefore, promised if Joseph's servant could find it, the man whose sack it was in would die, and the rest would become slaves.

The cup was found in Benjamin's sack, and the men returned to Joseph and fell before him on the ground.

Lesson Discussion

Memory Verse

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgement. Isaiah 1:16-17a

Key Thought

True repentance requires action as well as sorrow for the wrongs we have committed.

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

truly repentant?

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!"

The Bible says that Joseph commanded his servants to make a feast for his brothers when he saw that they had returned to Egypt. Does this sound familiar to you? Is there another story where a feast was prepared when someone returned home? The father of the prodigal son did the same thing as Joseph. Both instances tell stories of repentance.

The prodigal son came home to be a servant in his father's house. Joseph's brothers, the very men who had plotted to kill him, offered themselves as slaves in the place of their younger brother. How changed their hearts had to have been to be willing to become slaves! It appears that they were changed men by the time the famine struck the land.

Do you suppose sometimes God tests our repentance the way Joseph tested his brothers? Joseph wanted to be sure that his brothers were sorry for the wrong they had committed against him. It had been many years since he had seen them, and he had no way of knowing how their actions had affected them. So he set up tests to determine the state of their hearts. They proved to be repentant!

Oftentimes, we tell God we are sorry for the sins we have committed, but we are unwilling to change our ways. God will send tests and trials to solidify our resolve to do what is right.

Repentance is more than just being sorry for what we've done wrong—it's being willing to COMPLETELY change the way we live in order to do what we know is right.

That takes a lot more commitment than simply uttering the words, "I'm sorry."

Let's learn from Joseph's brothers. If we commit a wrong, let's be willing to give up everything in order to make it right. ■

How Don't I Repent?



Needed: A bottle of spot treatment, crayons/markers, a patch, wet wipes, four pieces of torn or stained cloth (optional)

Joseph's brothers did something terrible, didn't they? They sinned against their brother and against God, but eventually, they repented. They confessed and asked forgiveness for how badly they'd acted. This is what Jesus preached while He was on Earth. "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 4:17). The world, however, does not teach Jesus' way. Let's look at a few of the things the world tries to convince us to do when we sin:

Display the four items listed above. Hold up each item as you discuss it with the class. (If you are using the four pieces of cloth, demonstrate each item on a piece of cloth as you explain.)

Spot treatment: Sin is a stain on our hearts, isn't it? What do you do with a shirt if it has a stain on it? Spray some spot treatment on it, and toss it in the laundry basket to wash tomorrow. The world wants us to put off repenting—no need to do it today! There is always tomorrow, right? Jesus wants us to come and confess today. Right now! Tomorrow is not promised to any of us.

Patch: When a shirt or pair of pants gets a tear in it, you can use this to cover the hole. It hides the flaw in the piece of clothing. The world wants us to think that we can cover up the sins we have committed. No need to tell anyone or do anything about it, but God will forgive our sins and forget them! He makes us brand new.

Wet wipes: These are often used to clean up messes, but let's face it, if you try to clean blueberry juice out of your shirt with a wipe, it won't do much good! The world will often tell us that we need to do the best we can, and everything will be okay. The truth is, we can never do or be good enough to cleanse ourselves of our sins. We need God for that!

Crayons/markers: Have you ever seen someone with ripped pants draw a pretty picture all around the tear in the fabric? The world is trying so hard to make some ugly sins look as pretty as possible. This is a trick of the enemy. Some things may look good on the outside, but it doesn't change the fact that it is sin against God. Don't try to justify your wrongdoings or make them look as pretty as possible. Come to God with an honest heart, and He will help you make it right.

Read these four situations and match it to the different methods of handling wrongdoing that the world likes to use.

You are playing ball in your backyard, and you accidentally throw it over the fence and through your neighbor's window. You know your neighbor is gone on vacation, so you think, "I won't tell anyone I did that right now. Maybe when he gets back, I'll go talk to him."

• Crayons/Markers

Your little sister is just learning to read, and while she's struggling to sound out a big word, you say, "I read way better than that when I was kindergarten!" And then you laugh. Your dad gets you in trouble for being rude, but you insist you were just being funny.

• Patch

During recess, you call a student from your class a mean name, and later, they cry in the bathroom. You know you should apologize, but you don't want to admit that you did something wrong, so you cover it up by being extra friendly to that student the next day.

• Spot Treatment

While your mom is at the grocery store, you are using one of her glass vases as a nerf gun target. Without meaning to, your shot knocks the vase onto the floor, and it breaks into many pieces. (You didn't think your nerf gun was that strong!) Quickly, you sweep up the pieces and dump them into the trash, hoping she'll never notice it's gone. But when your mom gets home, she finds a piece you missed and asks what happened to her vase.

• Wet Wipes

Crayons/Markers: "Your little sister is just..."
Patch: "During recess, you call..."
Spot Treatment: "You are playing ball..."
Wet Wipes: "While your mom is at..."

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THE COMPASS

Junior Sunday School ■ June 27, 2021



The Story of Joseph Jacob Moves to Egypt Respect Your Parents

Lesson Text: Genesis 46—50

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 (12)** 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 (5)**, and he 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 (1)** and thirty years."

The Bible says that Joseph nourished (14) 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. When his time came to die, **Jacob (6)** requested that his body be returned to the place where Abraham and Isaac had been buried. **Joseph (8)** swore to his **father (9)** that he would follow his wishes.

Memory Verse

And Joseph fell upon his father's face, and wept upon him, and kissed him.
Genesis 50:1

Key Thought

No matter your age or success, you ought to show respect for your parents, for God has put them in a position of authority.

Lesson Discussion

- What was the name of the land where Jacob's family settled?
- How old was Jacob when he reunited with Joseph?
- In what ways did Joseph show respect to his father?
- Discuss ways you

can show respect to your father and mother.

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."

It is clear as you read through Joseph's story that his father favored him highly. But how did Joseph treat Jacob? There is not much recorded about their relationship before Joseph was sold into **slavery (11)**, but after he was reunited with his family, Joseph's respect and admiration for his father is abundantly clear.

Upon first seeing him in Egypt, Joseph fell on Jacob's neck and wept for an extended period of time. He took the time and trouble of presenting his father, no doubt with much pride, to Pharaoh. He went to a great amount of effort to ensure that Jacob's family was cared and provided for in the land of Goshen. In one instance, Joseph bowed himself before his father, displaying love and **respect (2)** beyond words. When Jacob was on his deathbed, Joseph made a promise to bury his father in the manner which he desired.

As children and teenagers, we are subject to our parent's **decisions (3)** and leading. The fifth commandment is to "honor your father and **mother (13)**," but that is not always the easiest thing to do. Oftentimes, their decisions cross what we want to do, or the guidelines they set seem too overbearing. Developing an attitude of resentment is such an easy thing to do, and it is a tool the enemy uses against us. However,

God desires that our hearts remain soft and receptive (4) to the leadership of our parents.

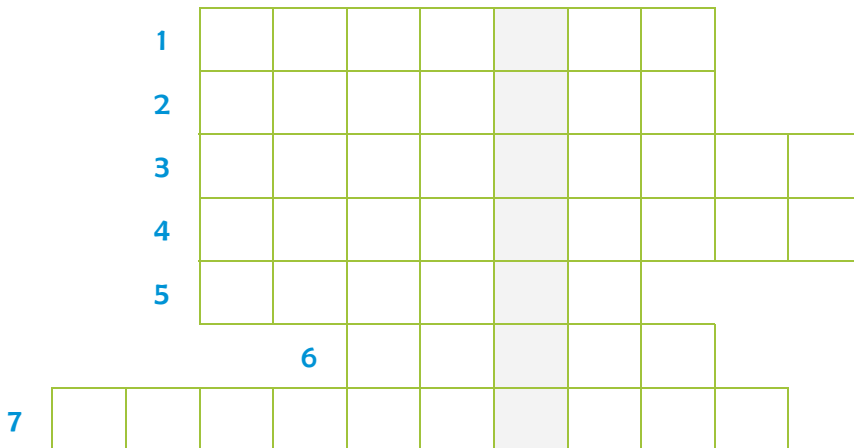
Like Joseph, there may come a time when you are highly successful or come into a position of leadership. Despite his power, Joseph showed immense respect for his father. That is how we should always treat our parents—with a deep **honor (10)** and due respect for the sacrifices they made to raise us. Circumstances of life change. You will not always be subject to your parents, but how you treat them should remain **consistent (7)**. Do as Joseph and display a heartfelt and unmoving love and respect for your parents until their last day on Earth. ■

Circle of Safety

Needed: Large hula hoop or rope that can be shaped into a circle, spray bottle filled with water

Directions: Lay the hula hoop out on the floor (or create a circle with the rope) and explain that this is a circle of safety. Have a volunteer stand in the circle and read today's memory verse aloud. Instruct him/her to step out of the circle as soon as they're finished reading. When they step out, spray them with the water bottle. It starts to become obvious what can happen when you step out of the circle of safety God has set up around us.

God has promised to protect and watch over us if we obey and respect our parents/guardians. In fact, Deuteronomy 5:16 says, "Honor thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." These are the blessings that God gives us when we respect our parents, just like Joseph did in Egypt!

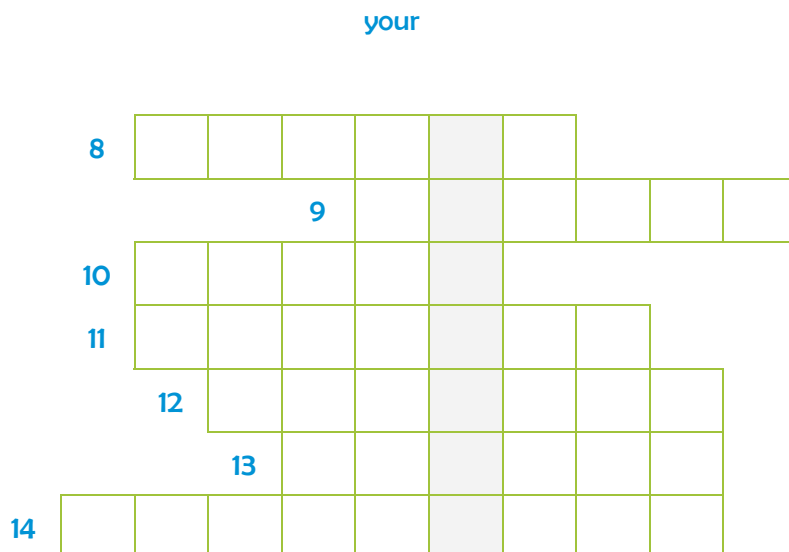


Directions:

Go back through the lesson and find the words that are bolded with a number next to them:

Example (1)

Write each word into the corresponding space in the puzzle to find out how you should behave!



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