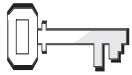


Together Again



References

Genesis 45:16–47:12;
50:15-21; *Patriarchs
and Prophets*, pp. 231–240



Memory Verse

“Let us do good to
all people, especially to
those who belong to
the family of believers”
(Galatians 6:10, NIV).

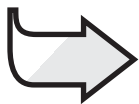


Objectives

The children will:
Know that God
helps us care
for our families.

Feel a sense of responsibility for the welfare of their family.

Respond by working with God to care for their home and church families.



The Message

God helps me care
for my family.

Monthly Theme

We learn Christian values.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Pharaoh hears about the arrival of Joseph’s brothers and joins Joseph in inviting the whole family to come to Egypt to live. The brothers return home with food, clothes, animals, and carts to carry them all back to Egypt. Seventy members of Joseph’s family come to live in the land of Goshen. Joseph meets his father and takes members of his family to meet Pharaoh. After Jacob dies, Joseph reassures his brothers that he will not hurt them. God had sent him on ahead to be able to take care of the whole family.

This is a lesson about community.

God made us to be part of a family. He wants us to help care for our home and church families in whatever way we can. He will help us do that.

Teacher Enrichment

“Parents should awaken to the fact that the most important lesson for their children to learn is that they must act their part in bearing the burdens of the home. . . . Parents should teach their children to take a common-sense view of life, to realize that they are to be useful in the world. . . .

“Help your children, parents, to do the will of God by being faithful in the performance of the duties which really belong to them as members of the family. . . . Patiently educate them to act their part in the family circle, to make a success of their efforts to share the burdens of father and mother and brothers and sisters. Thus they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are really useful” (*The Adventist Home*, pp. 285, 286).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 9.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Who Does What?</i> B. <i>Occupations Help</i>	variety of household objects, paper, pencil, Bibles occupation cards, Bibles
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering device prayer books from Lesson 11
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	writing board, marker or chalk Bible, empty food or beverage containers with flat sides (cereal boxes, milk cartons, etc.), two slips of paper for each word of the verse, marker, tape Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Scenario</i>	adhesive bandages, marker
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Caring for My Family</i>	paper, colored markers

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they're pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week's lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.

1

Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- variety of household objects
- paper
- pencil
- Bibles

A. Who Does What?

Beforehand, number and arrange a variety of objects such as a dust cloth, can of oil, dishwashing soap, small trash can, cooking pot, checkbook, etc., on a table.

Distribute paper and pencils. Say: **Look at each object. On your paper write down the number of the object and who in your house uses that object.**

Debriefing

When the children have finished, pick up each object and ask: **Who in your home uses this object?** (Allow responses.) **Does everyone in your family help each other with chores? Why? Is it fair for one or two people to do all the work? How is working around the house helping your family? Let's find and read Galatians 6:10.** Read aloud together. **God is happy when we help care for our family. Today we're going to learn that:**



GOD HELPS ME CARE FOR MY FAMILY.

Say that with me.

You Need:

- occupation cards
- Bibles

B. Occupations Help

Beforehand, prepare cards with either a picture representing an occupation or the occupation written on the card (secretary, farmer, doctor, teacher, preacher, tailor, gardener, auto mechanic, etc.).

Give one card to each child and ask them to act out how they would help their home or church family if they held the job on their card. Have other students guess what the occupation is.

Debriefing

Ask: **What occupation or job do you really want to have when you grow up?** (Accept responses.) **How would you be helpful to your family if you had that job?** (Accept responses.) **How can you be helpful to your family now?** (Accept responses.) **Let's read Galatians 6:10.** Read aloud together. **God is happy when we help care for our family. And that brings us to today's message:**



GOD HELPS ME CARE FOR MY FAMILY.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

- "Love at Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 137)
- "God Bless Families" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 138)
- "We Are the Church, Everyone" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 143)
- "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 139)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*.



Offering

Say: **God used Joseph to help meet the needs of many people. God can use your gifts to help care for your church family.**

You Need:

- offering device



Prayer

Distribute the prayer booklets. Have extras for visitors.

Today have the children write or draw one way they can care for their home family, and one way they can care for their church family.

Make a prayer circle. Invite volunteers to pray that God will help them to do the things they wrote or drew in their prayer booklets. End the activity with prayer by an adult.

You Need:

- prayer booklets made in Lesson 11

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- writing board
- marker or chalk

Experiencing the Story

Introduce the story by writing the names of Joseph's 11 brothers where all can see. Allow response time as you ask:

How many of you have brothers or sisters? How many do you have? Joseph grew up in a family with 11 brothers. Do you remember how these brothers sold Joseph to slave traders going to Egypt? Joseph easily could have been very angry with his brothers, but let's find out how Joseph treated his brothers years later. I'm going to read the Bible story. When I say "Joseph" I want you to put your palms together, touch your chest with your thumbs, and nod your head.

Read or tell the story.

Soon after their reunion with **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*), his brothers began the long trip home to Canaan. And what a grand trip it was! They had carts loaded with food. They had new clothes and money that **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*) had given them. They had many donkeys loaded with presents for their father. Plus, they had Pharaoh's special invitation to come and live in Egypt where they and their families would have food to eat during the rest of the famine.

When they got home, their father Jacob could not believe the news at first! His favorite son, **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*), was alive! Not dead, as he had believed all these years! "Are you sure?" he asked his sons over and over. "Are you sure **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*) is alive? And you say he is the governor of Egypt? Tell me again! Tell me again!"

Finally Jacob and his family set out for Egypt. Jacob, and his daughter, and his

sons' wives, and his little grandchildren rode comfortably in the carts that Pharaoh had provided for them. His sons rode beside them on Pharaoh's plump donkeys. It was a long journey, but they had plenty of food for the trip. And Jacob's heart sang the whole way! He was really, truly going to see his son **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*) once again!

Finally **Joseph's** (*Palms together, nod head.*) servants brought him the good news. "Your family is almost here," they announced.

"Hurry! Get my chariot ready!" **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*) ordered. He drove as fast as his horses could gallop to meet his father. **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*) leaped out of the chariot almost before it stopped. He ran to Jacob and hugged him, and cried for joy.

Soon after, **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*) took five of his brothers to the palace to meet Pharaoh. "What is your occupation?" Pharaoh asked them.

"We are shepherds," the brothers answered.

"Your brothers may live in Goshen," Pharaoh told **Joseph**. (*Palms together, nod head.*) "It is the best of my land. And I will also hire your brothers to take care of my cattle if they are able."

Joseph (*Palms together, nod head.*) took his father to meet Pharaoh too. And Jacob, the great man of God, blessed Pharaoh, the mighty king of Egypt.

Seventeen years after he and his family had moved to Egypt, father Jacob died. He was 147 years old. His sons began to worry. Now that their father was dead, maybe **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*) would finally get even with them for the terrible thing they had done. They decided to send **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*) a message. "Before our father died, he said he wanted you to forgive us for

the evil thing we did to you.”

“You meant to harm me,” **Joseph** (*Palms together, nod head.*) replied, “but God meant it for good. He made it possible for me to help all of you.”

You may never be an officer in your country’s government. Or save your family from starvation. But you are part of a family. What can you do now to protect, help, and show love to the people you live with?

Debriefing

Ask: **How would you feel toward your brothers if you were Joseph?** (Accept responses.) **How did Joseph feel when he saw his brothers again?** (He was glad to see them, but wanted to find out if they had changed for the better; he was happy about the way God had brought good out of a bad situation; he loved them in spite of what they had done.) **Why did he feel that way?** (He let God control his feelings.)

How can God help you have only loving feelings, thoughts, and actions for your family members? (Give my life to Jesus. Pray every day that He will control me and put His love in my heart.)

Let’s remember:



GOD HELPS ME CARE FOR MY FAMILY.

Memory Verse

Beforehand, make two sets (piles) of cartons with memory verse words. Write two of each word of the memory verse on slips of paper. Tape them onto flat sides of the containers. Place

You Need:

- Bible
- empty cardboard food or beverage containers with flat sides—two for each memory verse word
- two slips of paper for each word of the verse
- marker
- tape

each set of food containers in a random pile.

Read the memory verse aloud from the Bible. Have the children repeat the verse several times. Be sure they understand the words.

Divide the class into two teams. Have them line up evenly. At your signal, each team is to go to one of the piles of containers and stack them so that the words of the memory verse are in order from top to bottom. Repeat the activity until the children can say the verse from memory.

Bible Study

Say: **The Bible tells of two other brothers—Jacob (Joseph’s father) and Esau—who met after being apart for many years. When they parted, Esau was angry with Jacob for tricking him out of his birthright. So Jacob was afraid to see Esau because he thought Esau would want revenge. Let’s find out what happened when they met again.** Help the children find Genesis 33:4-11. Allow volunteers to take turns reading the verses. Adults assist as needed.

Debriefing

Ask: **How was Esau like Joseph?** **Read Genesis 50:15-21 together.** (He forgave his brother even after his brother had done something mean to him.) **How do you treat your brothers or sisters or friends after they’ve done something that upsets you?** (Allow time for each child to think about his/her answer to this and the following questions.)

Have you ever thought about the fact that you will know your brother or sister all your life? How can we show that we care about these people whom God has given us? Let’s say our message again:



GOD HELPS ME CARE FOR MY FAMILY.

You Need:

- Bibles

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- adhesive bandages
- marker

Scenario

In advance, gather regular-size adhesive bandages (one per child) and print today's message on each. Read the following scenario to the children:

Bradley isn't always the nicest big brother. He loves to tease his two younger sisters. He isn't very sorry when he does something to make them upset or angry. But one day the three children are playing with some neighbors their age. A neighbor intentionally pushes one of Bradley's little sisters from behind, making her fall and scrape her knees.

Debriefing

Ask: **What should Bradley do to care for his little sister?** (help her up, clean her wounds, encourage her, etc.) **What could he do to be a better brother?** (not tease, be a better friend to them, etc.)

Have you ever thought that God gave you the ability to help your family? (Accept responses.) **What special thing can you do to help your family?**
Allow response time.

Give each child an adhesive bandage and stick it on their hand. Say: **This bandage reminds us that we can care for others in our family even though we are young. God will help us. Let's say today's message together.**



GOD HELPS ME CARE FOR MY FAMILY.

4

Sharing the Lesson

Caring for My Family

Ask the children to draw a picture of all the people (and pets) in their family (including themselves). Help them write above the picture, "I care for my family."

Below the picture have them write the memory verse. Or if you prefer write it on each paper before distributing the papers to the children.

Optional: If there is time, suggest that they draw another picture of their church family—at least a few of the members.

Debriefing

Say: **Take this picture home and share it with your family. When you think of your family, how do you feel?** Accept responses.

Tell me how you are going to care for your family this week. Accept responses. **Let's say our memory verse together again. Let's say the message one more time:**



GOD HELPS ME CARE FOR MY FAMILY.

Closing

Close with prayer, asking God to help the children know their family's needs and their own abilities to help.

You Need:

- paper
- colored markers

Together Again

References

Genesis
45:16–47:12;
50:15–21; *Patriarchs
and Prophets*,
pp. 231–240

Memory Verse

“Let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers” (Galatians 6:10, NIV).

The Message

God helps me care for my family.

Do you help care for the needs of others in your family? Joseph did. Let’s read how he showed his love and care.

Soon after their reunion with Joseph, his brothers began the long trip home to Canaan. And what a grand trip it was! They had carts loaded with food. They had new clothes and money that Joseph had given them. They had many donkeys loaded with presents for their father. And they had Pharaoh’s special invitation to come and live in Egypt. He had promised that their families would have food to eat during the rest of the famine.

When they got home, their father Jacob could not believe the news! His favorite son Joseph was alive! Not dead, as he had believed all these years! “Are you sure?” he asked his sons over and over. “Are you sure Joseph is alive? And you say he is the governor of Egypt? Tell me again! Tell me again!”

Finally Jacob and his family set out for Egypt. Jacob, his daughter, his sons’ wives, and his little

grandchildren—everybody went! Some rode comfortably in the carts that Pharaoh had provided for them. Jacob’s sons rode beside the carts on Pharaoh’s plump donkeys. It was a long journey, but they had plenty of food for the trip. And Jacob’s heart sang the whole way! He was really, truly going to see his son Joseph once again!

Finally Joseph’s servants brought him the good news. “Your family is almost here,” they announced.

“Hurry! Get my chariot ready!” Joseph ordered. He drove as fast as his horses could gallop to meet his father. Joseph leaped out of the chariot almost before it stopped. He ran to Jacob and hugged him. Together they cried for joy.

Soon after, Joseph took five of his brothers to the palace to meet Pharaoh. “What is your occupation?” Pharaoh asked them.

“We are shepherds,” the brothers answered.

“Your brothers may live in Goshen,” Pharaoh told Joseph. “It is the best of my land. And I will also hire your brothers to take care of my cattle, if they wish.”

Joseph took his father to meet Pharaoh too. And Jacob, the great man of God, blessed Pharaoh, the mighty king of Egypt.

Seventeen years after he and his family had moved to Egypt, father Jacob died. He was 147 years old.

Joseph’s brothers began to worry. Now that their father was dead, what would Joseph do? Would he finally get even with them for the terrible thing they had done? They decided to send Joseph a message. “Before our father died, he said he wanted you to forgive us for the evil thing we did to you.”

“You meant to harm me,” Joseph replied. “But God meant it for good. He made it possible for me to help



all of you.”

How has God made it possible for you to care for your family? You may never be an officer in your country’s government. You may never save your family from starvation. But you are part of a family. What can you do now to help and show love to the people you live with? What can you do to show your church family that you care?

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- With your family take a walk near a field of grain or grass. Think about how some creatures need grain or grass to live.
- Find a place to sit and read the Bible lesson story. Read Galatians 6:10 and tell what it means.
- Sing “A Happy Home” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 136). Then thank God for your family.

Sunday

- During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 45:16-28. Draw a picture of Joseph’s brothers showing their father the carts, donkeys, food, and other gifts. Put it in your *Story of Joseph* book.
- Why do you think Joseph gave his brother Benjamin more clothes than he gave his other brothers? Why did Joseph tell his brothers not to quarrel on the way? What kinds of gifts do you give your family?
- Write your memory verse on gift wrap paper. Cut out each word, mix them up, then put the verse in the right order.
- Thank God for the greatest gift of all—Jesus.

Monday

- Together with your family, read Genesis 46. Draw a picture of Joseph meeting his father. Put it in your *Story of Joseph* book. How do you think Jacob and Joseph felt when they saw each other again? How would you have felt?
- Look on a Bible map and find Canaan, Egypt, and Goshen. About how far did Joseph’s family travel to move to Egypt? If you could travel that far from home, where would you go?
- Pray for people who are traveling today.

Tuesday

- For family worship, read and discuss Genesis 47:1-12. Draw a picture of Joseph’s father meeting Pharaoh. Put it in your *Story of Joseph* book.
- Write your memory verse on paper. Attach it to a cereal box or other food container you use often. (Don’t forget the text.) Each time you see it this week, say the verse.

Wednesday

- During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 50:15-21. Why were Joseph’s brothers worried when their father died? Why do you think Joseph cried?
- What kind of grain did you eat today? Was it bread? Cereal? Look at your memory verse food container and say the verse. Look in your food cupboard. How many things are made of grain or corn? Thank God for food.
- Think about how you really care for your family as you sing together “Love at Home” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 137).

Thursday

- With your family, read Genesis 47:1-12 again. How did Joseph care for his family?
- List the five most important things you would do to care for a pet. Now think how much more your family does for you. Thank them for it.

Friday

- For worship today use your *Story of Joseph* book to review Joseph’s story. Begin with his childhood dreams. Review the memory verses that go with each part of the story (Lessons 9-13). You may want to act out certain parts.
- Read Romans 12:13 together. If possible, plan to invite someone to Sabbath dinner tomorrow.
- Sing happy family songs before prayer. Then thank God for a new Sabbath.