

Week 1: Joseph and His (Very Bad) Brothers

What's the Story? Joseph's family didn't get along! Joseph's father, Jacob, had 12 sons but he loved Joseph the most. He even gave Joseph a special coat to show that he was his favorite son.

When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him and couldn't even talk nicely to him.
(Genesis 37:4, CEB)

When Joseph worked with his brothers out in the fields, he would tattletale on them, telling his father everything they did wrong. Joseph had dreams that made him think he was the best. When he told his brothers about his dreams, they hated him even more!

One day, Joseph's father sent him out into the fields to check on his brothers who were watching their sheep. His brothers were so angry with Joseph that they pulled off his special coat and threw him into the bottom of a pit. But, Joseph's troubles didn't end there. He was sold into slavery, taken to Egypt and sold again, wrongly accused of a crime he didn't commit and thrown into jail. But God used all of his hardships for good. Joseph gained a reputation for interpreting dreams and was eventually made governor of Egypt. He warned the king of a famine that was coming so that grain could be stored. Many lives were saved and Joseph was even able to help and forgive his brothers.

Moment of Weakness: I hurt others and they hurt me.

Like Joseph, sometimes we don't get along with our families. Sometimes we fight with people we love or they attack us unfairly and it can feel like we're in the bottom of a pit with no way out. But God used that pit to get Joseph to where he needed to go so that God could use him to save many lives. He even helped Joseph make peace with his family.

Prayer: God, Forgive us when we hurt each other. Help us to forgive others when they hurt us. Amen.

You can read the whole story of Joseph and his brothers in Genesis 37-50

Table Talk:

From the story:

What do you love most about your family?
When are you most likely to fight? What do you fight about?
Do you think it's easy or hard to apologize? To forgive? Why?

Just for fun:

What are your best and worst personality traits?
What is your favorite thing to do with your family?
What is the best job in the world and why? What job is the worst?
Which of your relatives should get the drama king or queen award?
What is the first thing you think about when you wake up in the morning?

Family Challenge: Cookie Face

The Goal: Move a cookie from your forehead to your mouth using only your "face muscles" (no hands!)

The Rules:

- Cookie must be placed in the middle of your forehead.
- You can tilt your head and move your face, but you cannot touch the cookie with your hands.
- If a cookie falls before reaching your mouth, you must start over with a fresh cookie.

Tips:

- Use repetitive motions with your face muscles to slowly but steadily move the cookie along.
- When you get the cookie close to your mouth, slowly and gently tilt your head to get it to its final destination.
- Your tongue is also a great cookie grabber!

Step it Up: Use a timer and race each other to see who can catch their cookie the fastest or who can catch the most cookies in a set period of time.

Don't forget!

Send pictures and/or video to Jennifer to be included in our Summer Scrapbook!