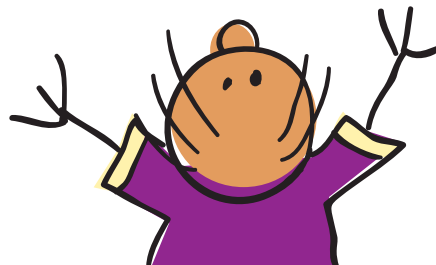


STORIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Series 3: Israel in Egypt

13 Different Lessons for 5 Students

Bible Stories for All Ages



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National Bible Reading Campaign

Have Fun Teaching Bible Histories for All Ages

Teaching the Bible should be a fun experience for both the teacher and students. The most effective teaching takes place when all those involved enjoy themselves. That is when the students learn best and when the teacher looks forward to teaching. The Bible Stories for All Ages have been prepared to help the teacher enjoy him or herself while teaching stories from Bible history and for the students to enjoy themselves while learning from them. These materials can be used with children of all ages as well as with youth and adults.

We recommend the following eleven steps for preparing and teaching these lessons:

Prepare to Teach

1. Carefully read the printed story, the questions and the memory verse.
2. Then, read the story in the Bible itself. Use a modern version that enables you to understand most clearly the details of the story.
3. Think carefully about the story and try to imagine that you were there in that situation and write all the unmentioned details that you imagine might have filled out the story.
4. On a sheet of paper, write the principle spiritual truths that you find in the story.

Teach

5. Give each student a copy of the lesson. (Please do not photocopy the lessons. In any case, they are less expensive in their published form)
6. Tell the group the name of the story and in a few words explain why the lesson is important to them.
7. (For groups with readers) Ask the members of the group to read aloud the printed story, each person, in turn, reading only one sentence. Ask that only those who wish to read do so.
8. Tell the story in the most dramatic manner possible. Use different voices for each person in the story and use gestures to dramatize the story.
9. Read aloud the questions and encourage the class to answer carefully and sincerely.
10. Help the class to memorize the memory verse, memorizing it at first by parts. Be patient in this activity and have students recite the verse individually as soon as they have learned it. Then, have the entire class give the verse together.
11. Lead the class to color the picture illustrating the story. The teacher should set the example in this. Chat with the class during this time talking about the important truths found in the lesson. Encourage young people and adults to color the pictures carefully and to save the stories so they can teach them to others as opportunities present themselves.

NATIONAL BIBLE READING CAMPAIGN

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① Joseph's Dreams Come True



Great Bible Truths:

1. God will fulfill the plans he has for our lives.
2. Bad actions bring bad results.

Genesis 42

When the time of hunger came to Egypt, it also came to Canaan where Joseph's family lived. Israel, Joseph's father, heard that they were selling food in Egypt. He sent all his sons to buy food except Benjamin, the youngest of them all because he feared something might happen to him.

Joseph's brothers arrived in Egypt and when they came before Joseph they bowed until their foreheads touched the floor. They didn't recognize him but Joseph immediately recognized them and he remembered the dreams he had when he was a boy in which he saw his brothers honoring him. He also remembered how angry they became on hearing his dreams. Joseph asked where they came from and they said, "We come from Canaan to buy wheat." Joseph acted as if he didn't know them and told them, "You are spies and you only come here to see how you could defeat us." They were frightened and told him that they were ten of twelve sons of Israel but the youngest one had stayed with their father and the other was dead. Joseph insisted that they were spies and sent them to jail.

Three days later, he told them that to believe what they had said, one must stay in Egypt while all the rest had to go and bring back the youngest brother. Only then would he believe they were all brothers. They knew that this was a consequence of what they did to Joseph and repented. Without the knowledge of his brothers, he recognized their sorrow and wept because of the sadness he felt. Then in front of his brothers, he ordered Simeon to be tied up and taken to prison. He gave them food to take and secretly ordered his servants to return and hide their money inside their bags of food.

When they arrived home, they told Israel all the things that had happened, and when they emptied their bags they found the money. This frightened them because they thought that the Egyptians would think that they had stolen the money. How could they return to Egypt and free Simeon?

Talk about the Story:

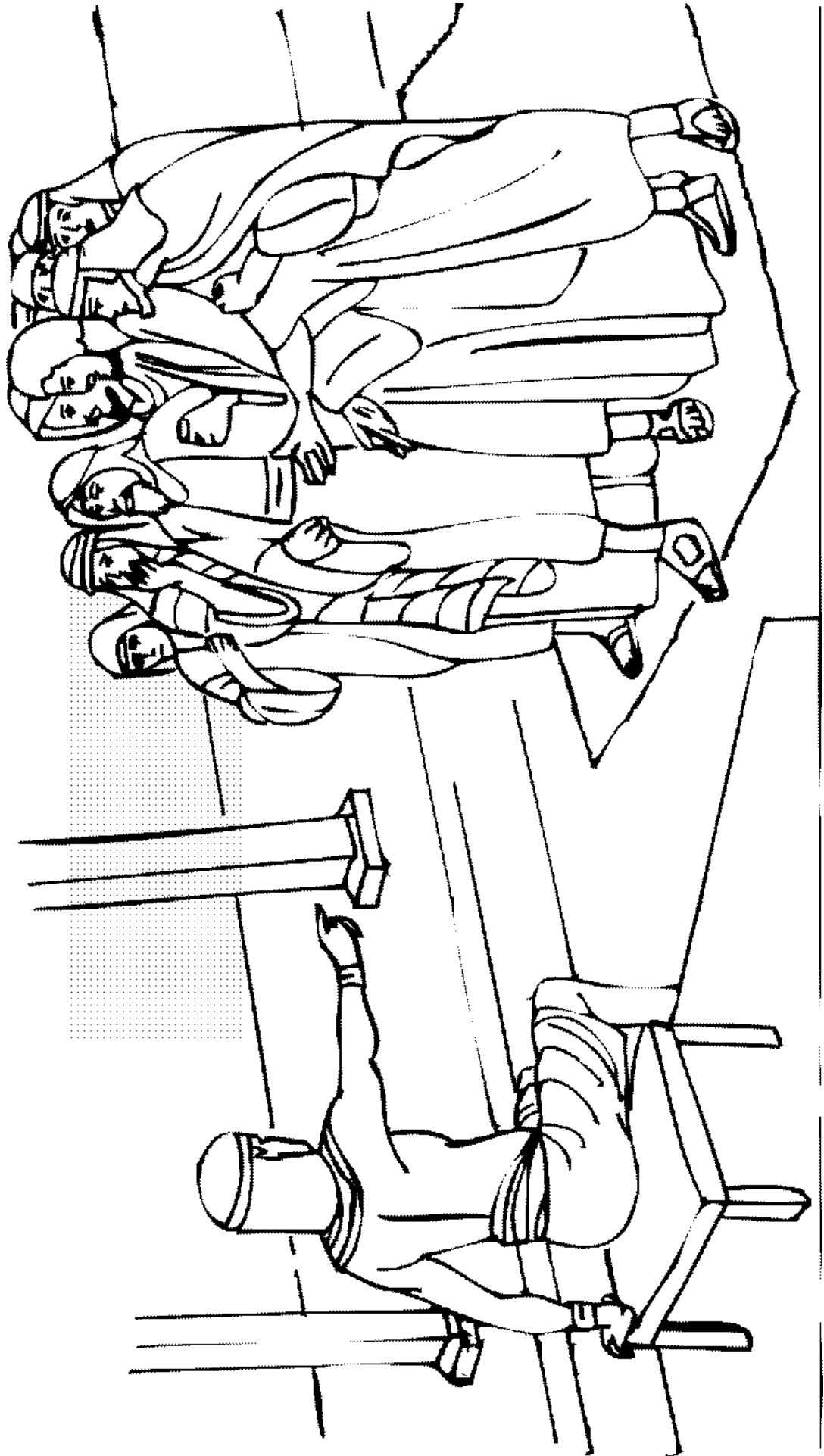
Where did Joseph's family live? Where did Joseph live? What did Joseph's brothers do when they saw him? What did Joseph do when he recognized his brothers? What was the reason the brothers thought was the cause of all their problems? What happened to Simeon? What did Joseph's brothers need to do to save Simeon?

What would you say?

Why do you think Israel was afraid for Benjamin to go with his brothers? Why do you think that Joseph's brothers didn't recognize him? What do you think about what Joseph did to his brothers? What would you have done if you had the opportunity to get even if someone had hurt you badly? Why do you think Joseph put the money back in their bags?

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***“He remembered the dreams he had dreamed about them
and said: “you are spies.” Genesis 42:9***



② Joseph's Brothers Return to Egypt



Great Bible Truths:

1. Brothers and sisters in a family should care for one another.
2. Family love brings joy to all its members.

Genesis 43

In order to rescue Simeon, his brothers had to take Benjamin to Egypt. But Jacob didn't want to lose Benjamin as had happened to Joseph and now with Simeon. Nevertheless, Canaan was still in famine and when Jacob and his sons ate all the food Jacob would have to send them again to Egypt. Judah, the oldest brother, told his father that if they didn't return with Benjamin they would all die anyway. At first Israel didn't want to do it but Judah offered to be responsible of Benjamin's life, promising his father that nothing bad would happen to him. Israel finally approved Benjamin's trip with his brothers to Egypt. He sent them not only money to buy food, he also sent an offering to the Egyptian governor along with the money that they discovered in their bags.

The sons of Jacob returned to Egypt with everything their father sent. When they arrived in Egypt, Joseph saw that Benjamin was with them. Immediately, Joseph invited the visitors to come to his home and eat with him. But the brothers were afraid that Joseph would take them as slaves because of the money they didn't pay the last time. So they told Joseph's steward what had happened the last time with the money and how they found it in their bags of food. The steward told them not to worry, and that God must have put the money in their bags. Afterwards, they took Simeon out of jail.

When Joseph arrived home, the brothers gave him the gifts they had brought and he asked how their father was doing. They said that he was still alive and that he was doing well. They introduced Benjamin, his brother by both his father and mother. When Joseph saw him, he wanted to cry and ran into his room and cried in secret. When he was able to stop crying, he washed his face, went out of his room and ordered his servants to serve the food. Joseph's brothers ate with him and they were all very happy.

Talk about the story:

Why did the brothers have to return to Egypt? What did they have to do so they could be able to go back to Egypt? Why didn't Jacob want Benjamin to go with his brothers? What did the brothers take to Egypt? What did Joseph do when he saw his brothers? What did the brothers think? Why did Joseph run away to his room?

What would you say?

How do you think Benjamin felt on his way to Egypt? How do you feel when you go to an unknown place or face a new challenge? Do you think Joseph had forgiven his brothers? What do you think about Joseph's attitude toward his brothers? Would you invite someone to lunch who has done mean things to you?

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“May Almighty God cause the man to have pity on you, so he will give Benjamin and your other brother back to you.”

Genesis 43:14



③

Joseph Fools His Brothers



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Great Bible Truths:

1. It is important for us to prove, many times, our love for the members of our family.
2. Family love encourages us to make sacrifices for one another.

Genesis 44:1-34

Joseph was really pleased to see his youngest brother, Benjamin. The others were only his half brothers, they had the same father as Joseph but different mothers. Joseph was really concerned that his half brothers might have the same hatred towards Benjamin as they had for him years earlier. So he decided to test them to find out what were their feelings towards Benjamin.

After inviting all his brothers to lunch, he sent them home. But without their knowing, he ordered one of his servants to put the money they had paid for the food inside their bags of food. Then, he told them to put his silver cup in Benjamin's bag. Before his brothers went very far they were stopped by some soldiers. Joseph's servant asked the brothers, "Why did you pay my master bad for good, stealing his special silver cup?" The brothers answered and said, "We haven't done such a thing! If your master's cup is in any of our bags, kill the owner of the bag and the rest of us shall be your slaves."

The soldiers started looking in the bags and all the brothers, including Benjamin, were really amazed when the soldiers found the cup in Benjamin's bag. Then the soldiers brought them back to Joseph. They said, "We can't explain how this happened, but you can make us your slaves." Joseph said, "I couldn't do that to all of you. Only the owner of the bag in which my cup was found will be punished. The rest of you can go back home in peace."

Judah spoke for all the brothers and said, "Our elderly father didn't want our younger brother to come, because his brother has died and our father feared that the same thing could happen to him. I promised my father that our brother was going to return home safely with us and we can't go back without him. So make me your slave and let my youngest brother go back home to his father. Don't let me go back home and see the look on my father's face when we tell him that he will never again see our youngest brother."

Joseph saw that Judah and all his brothers really loved his brother Benjamin and they didn't want to break his father's heart the same way they had done when Joseph didn't come home years before. When Joseph saw this, he started crying and ordered his servants to leave them alone.

Talk about the story:

Why did Joseph tell his servants to put his cup in Benjamin's bag of food? What did the brothers say that could happen if some of them had stolen the cup? How did Judah show that he and his brothers truly loved Benjamin?

What would you say?

How do you think Benjamin felt when the silver cup was found in his bag of food? Why do you think that the brothers were sorry about what they did to Joseph years ago?

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***"The greatest love a person can have for
his friends is to give his life for them."
John 15:13***



④ Joseph Tells His Brothers the Truth



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Great Bible Truths:

1. God uses hard experiences to prepare us to serve others better.
2. It is important to recognize God's purpose for our lives.

Genesis 45:1-38

Joseph accused Benjamin of stealing his silver cup and said that as punishment he would make him his slave. His brothers cruelly sold Joseph as a slave many years ago and he wanted to know what they would do about Benjamin. Soon he realized that his brothers were really sad just thinking about going back to their father without Benjamin. When Joseph saw this he wept. He told his servant to leave him alone with the men from Canaan. Nobody realized they were his brothers.

When they were alone, Joseph said to his brother, "I am Joseph! Does my father still live?" His brothers could only watch him and scarcely believe what they were hearing. Then they felt really afraid thinking that now Joseph would get even with them for the things they had done to him.

"Come close to me. I am your brother Joseph. I am the one you sold as a slave and was taken to Egypt. But don't be afraid and don't be angry with yourselves for doing what you did to me. God let me come ahead of you to Egypt to save your lives. For two years there has been a great famine and the next five years will be as bad as these. But God brought me to Egypt so I can save your families' lives and many more people. So You didn't send me here, God did. He has made me Pharaoh's best friend and the governor of Egypt. Go bring your families from Canaan and I will give you all Goshen for you and your families and animals. Take some wagons from Egypt so you can bring your families back. Leave everything else behind, because I will give you all the things that you need." Joseph gave them beautiful clothing and special gifts to Benjamin.

So the brothers went to Canaan and hurried to Jacob, their father, saying, "Joseph is still alive! He is the governor of Egypt!" Israel, before called Jacob, couldn't believe it. But when he saw all the wagons and the gifts that his sons had brought, he was joyful. "Now I believe it," he said. "My son Joseph is alive and I am going to see him now, while I'm still alive."

Talk about the story:

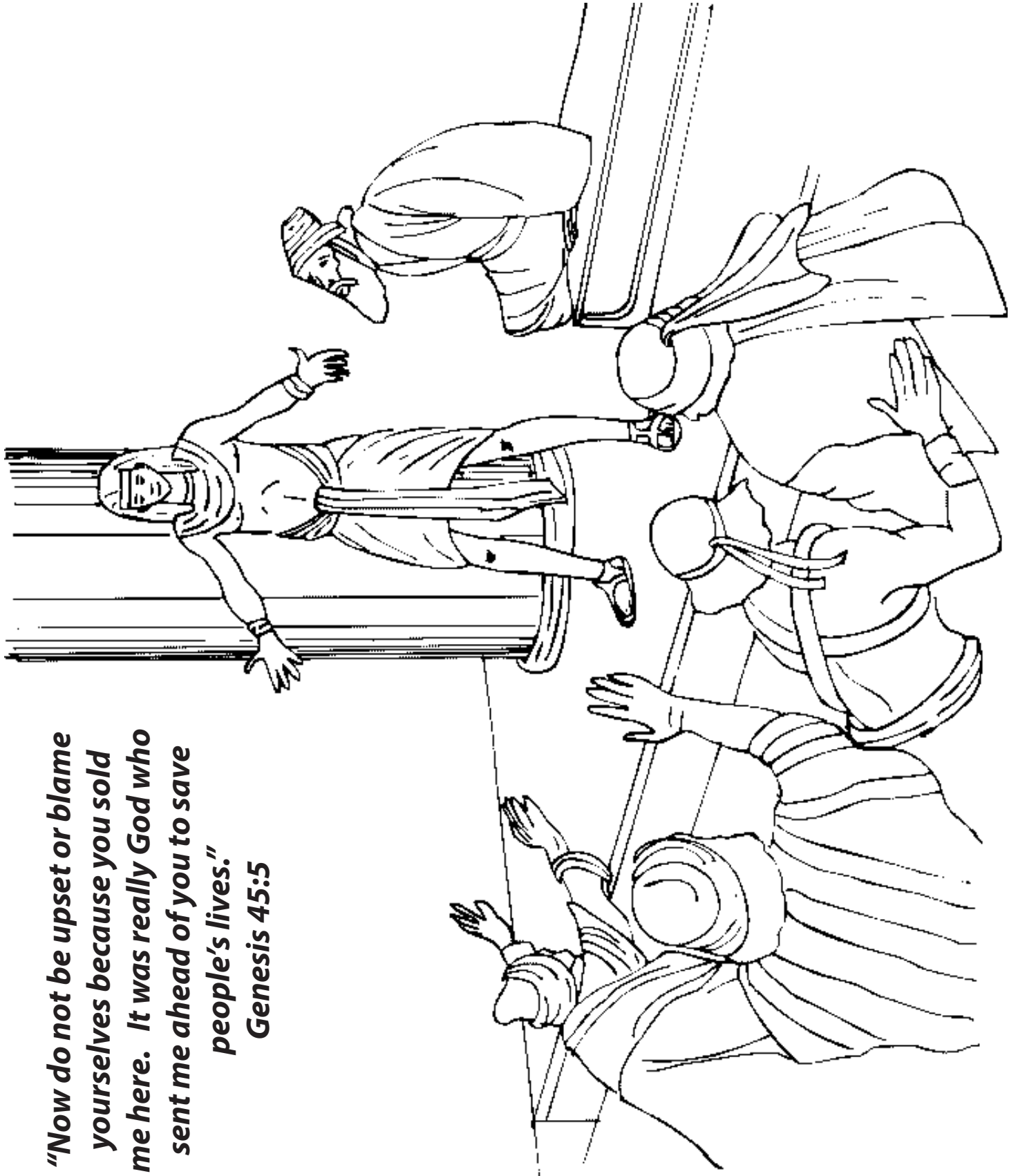
Why did Joseph unfairly accuse Benjamin for being a thief? How did Benjamin's brothers react when they heard that he had to stay in Egypt as a slave? Why were the brothers so afraid when Joseph confessed that he was their brother? Why did Joseph say that God sent him to Egypt and not his brothers? What was Jacob's reaction when his sons told him that Joseph was Egypt's governor?

What would you say?

What do you think was the thing that made Joseph cry so much? Do you believe that the brothers really loved Benjamin and couldn't leave him as a slave in Egypt? Why do you believe that? How do you think Jacob felt when they told him that his missing son was found alive and as Egypt's governor? How do you think God felt when he saw how Joseph's life ended up?

“Now do not be upset or blame yourselves because you sold me here. It was really God who sent me ahead of you to save people’s lives.”

Genesis 45:5



⑤

Joseph Finds His Father



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Great Bible Truths:

1. God blesses families that really believe in him.
2. It gives joy and pleasure to provide for the family.

Genesis 46, 47:1-12; 50:1-14

Joseph's brothers returned to their father, Jacob, and told him that they had found Joseph and that he wanted them to come and live near him. Right away, Jacob ordered all the family to pack up everything to go to Egypt where Joseph was. Israel, who before was called Jacob, was overjoyed because he would soon see his son whom he thought was dead.

The whole family headed to Egypt with all their possessions and the animals they had in Canaan. There were a total of 76 people. When they got near, Jacob sent Judah ahead to ask Joseph to meet the family in the part of Egypt called Goshen; land that Joseph would give to his family. When Joseph knew his family was coming near to Goshen, he ordered his servants to prepare for him a carriage to go to meet his father. When Joseph saw his father, he hugged him and began to cry with joy. Then he told his father that he had told the Pharaoh that his family's work was to raise animals. The Pharaoh permitted them to stay in Goshen, a land of many pastures. The Pharaoh also asked Joseph's family to take care of his animals as well.

Jacob was 130 years old when he got to Egypt. Joseph provided his father and brothers and their families with food, work, clothes and everything they needed. After he lived in Egypt for 17 years, Jacob knew that his time to die was close. He made Joseph promise to bury him in the place where Abraham and Sarah, his grandparents, and Isaac and Rebekah, his parents, were already buried. So, when he died, Joseph buried him in Canaan. Then, Joseph and his brothers and families went back to live in Egypt.

Talk About the Story:

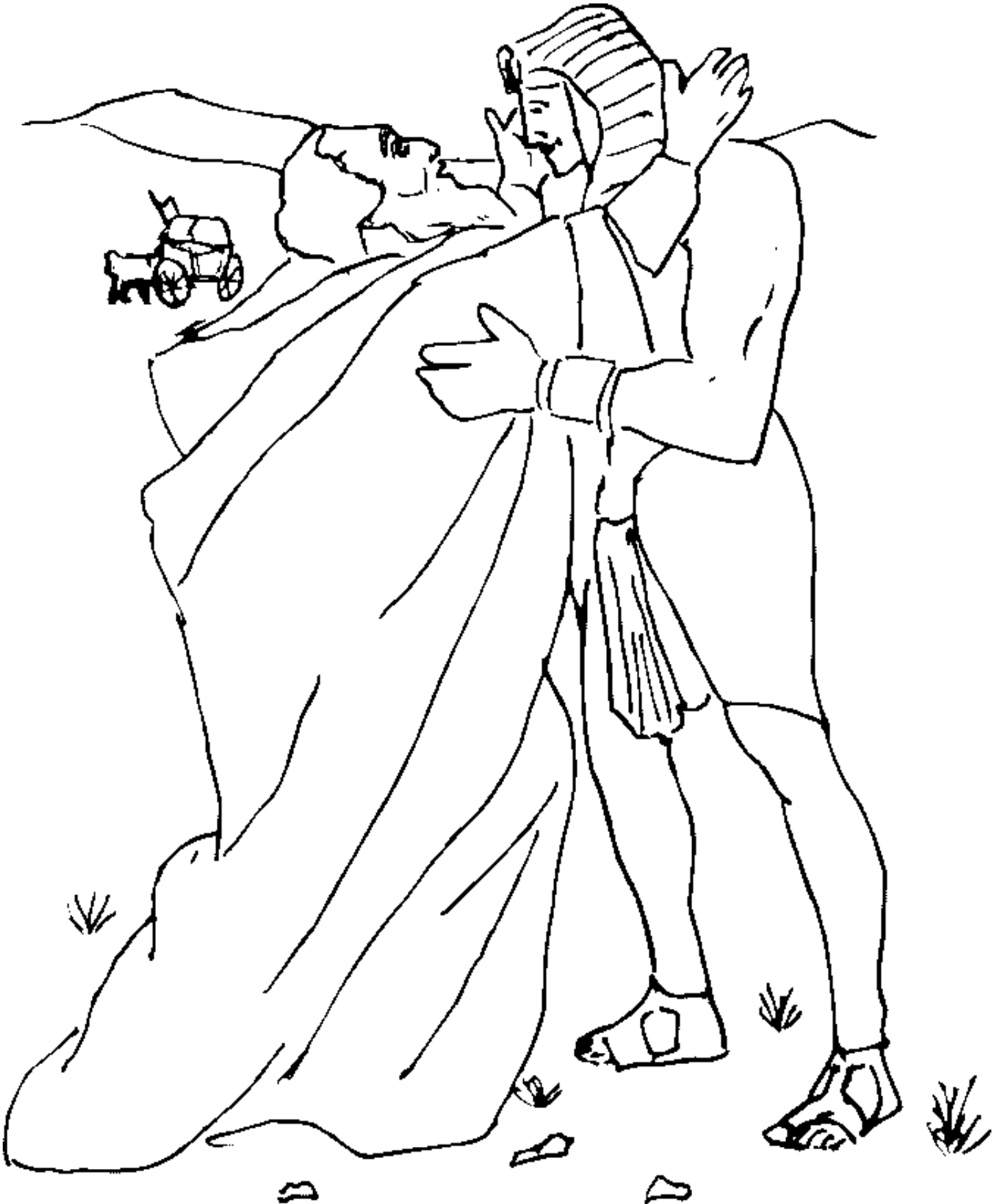
Whom did Jacob send to tell Joseph that the family was getting close to Egypt? What was the name of the land Joseph and the Pharaoh would give to the family? How old was Jacob when he got to Egypt and how many years did he live in Egypt before he died? Where did they bury Jacob?

What Do You Say?

What was the biggest blessing you have ever received from God? Why do you think Joseph gave his brothers everything they needed in spite of the bad things they had done to him?

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***"If your brother sins, rebuke him,
and if he repents, forgive him."
Luke 17:3***



⑥ Joseph's Brothers Fear the Worst



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Great Bible Truths:

1. Real pardon brings peace and happiness to everybody.
2. God uses even our bad experiences for good results.

Genesis 50:15-26

When Jacob found out that his son, Joseph, lived and that he invited him to move into Egypt, he immediately told his sons and grandchildren to pack. When they arrived in Egypt, Joseph and Jacob hugged and cried because they were so happy. Pharaoh welcomed Jacob and gave him and his family the land of Goshen. Jacob lived in Egypt for seventeen years before he died. During this time, Joseph helped his brothers and families in many ways, by giving them both food and money. But when Jacob died, the brothers were afraid that Joseph would take revenge on them for what they did to him as a child. So they made up a story and sent it to Joseph.

"Before he died", they said, "our father asked us to say to you, 'Please forgive your brothers for all the bad things that they did to you as a child.' So please, forgive us for what we've done years ago." When Joseph heard this, he started to cry, when he realized how afraid his brothers were of him.

Afterwards, his brothers came to see him. They kneeled before him and said, "We are all your slaves." Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid of me. I'm not God to judge you. You agreed to hurt me, but God changed all that for good, to save the lives of many. You don't have to be afraid of me. I will take care of you while I live." Joseph encouraged them and, at last they realized that he had forgiven them for what they did and their hearts were full of joy.

Joseph stayed in Egypt with his family until he was 110 years old, when he died. Before he died, he told his brothers, "I'm about to die, but God will take care of you and he will lead our descendants to the land he promised to Abraham, Isaac and our father Jacob. Promise me in the name of our family that my body will be taken to the land God has promised us."

His brothers promised to do as Joseph asked. When Joseph died, they embalmed his body and put him in a coffin that his descendants would take out of Egypt many years later, while they went to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It is the land we now call "The land of Israel."

Comment about the story:

What did Joseph's brothers fear when their father died? What story did they make up and send to Joseph? What did Joseph say when they offered themselves as his slaves? What promise did Joseph ask of his brothers to do after he died?

What would you say?

Why do you think that Joseph cried when he received the message that was made up by his brothers? What makes you think that Joseph truly forgave his brothers?

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“You plotted evil against me, but God turned it into good, in order to preserve the lives of many people.”

Genesis 50:20



7

Baby Moses Is Saved



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Great Bible Truths:

1. God saves children for them to grow and serve him and his people.
2. God has great plans for even the little babies.

Exodus 1:1 - 2:10

Jacob's descendants, called "the children of Israel", lived in Egypt for about 400 years. For many years, the kings of Egypt, called Pharaohs, were friendly with them, but as the years passed by, Israel's descendants, now called Hebrews, grew in number and the Egyptians feared that the Hebrews might become a stronger nation than they. So the Egyptians turned all the Hebrews into slaves. Despite the Egyptians' cruelty, Hebrew families kept growing in number and size. It was then that the Egyptian ruler decided they should start killing all Hebrew baby boys and it seemed like there was no way to save them.

When a baby boy was born in a certain family of the tribe of Levi, his mother thought of a way to save her son. When the baby was three months old, she couldn't keep him in her home because the Egyptians could find him. So she wove bulrushes to make a big basket and plastered it with tar so it could float and stay dry inside. She put the baby in the basket and carried it to the river among the tall reeds at the water's edge. She asked her daughter, Miriam, to stay at the riverbank and see that the basket stayed in the right place.

One day, Pharaoh's daughter went to the river to bathe. When she was in the water, she heard a baby crying in the tall reeds. She sent her servants to where they found the basket. They brought it to the shore and the princess opened the basket and saw a beautiful baby. She said, "It's one of the Hebrew babies! We can't let our soldiers kill him. Instead, we'll take him to the palace and I will raise him as my own son."

The princess said, "We will call the baby 'Moses', that means 'Drawn Out' because she drew him out of the water." Miriam ran to the princess and asked her, "Do you want me to find a Hebrew woman that can feed and take care of the baby?" The princess thought that it was a great idea, so Miriam ran and brought back her mother. This way, God saved Moses from death and made it possible for his own mother to take care of him. Moses received the same education as the other princes of Egypt. Nobody knew in that moment, but God was preparing a man who would become the leader and savior of his nation.

Talk About The Story:

What did the Egyptians do to control the Hebrews? Why did they start killing all Hebrew baby boys? How did Moses' mother and sister save him? What happened to Moses at the end?

What would you say?

Can you imagine how you could save a baby brother from the Egyptians? What would you do?

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***She said to herself, "I pulled him out of the water, and so I name him Moses"
Exodus 2:10***



8

Run Away Prince



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Great Bible Truths:

1. God's man defends the weak from those who are evil.
2. Serving others is the best way to earn their trust and confidence.

Exodus 2:11-25

Moses was raised as a prince at Pharaoh's palace. But he knew that he was a Hebrew and never forgot it. When he was a man, he went out to see how Hebrews were treated. He saw an Egyptian guard hitting some Hebrews. Moses looked around and when he thought no one was paying any attention, he killed the Egyptian and buried him in the sand. The next day, he returned and saw two Hebrew men fighting. "Why are you fighting against each other? You are both Hebrews!" One of the men said, "Who are you to tell us what to do? Are you thinking of killing me as you did the Egyptian guard?" When Moses heard this he knew that some people saw him kill the Egyptian and that soon he would be arrested. Moses packed some food and water and ran away into the desert. Pharaoh heard what Moses did and he sent some soldiers to look for him, but Moses escaped. He walked a long distance and he arrived into the land of Median.

There was a priest in Median who had seven daughters that took care of his flocks. These daughters took the flocks to a deep well; they were pouring out some water into some buckets for the sheep. But some men who were also shepherds came with their sheep and tried to drive the other sheep away. Moses came and defended the girls, the men ran off and Moses helped them to water their sheep.

When his daughters came back home, they told their father what happened and he asked, "Why didn't you bring him home with you?" The daughters ran back, found Moses and brought him home with them. Moses agreed to stay and help the priest, and some time later, he married one of his daughters, Zippora. Moses lived there for many years, taking care of the sheep, and he had two sons Gershom that means "I am a foreigner in this land" and Eliezer that means "God is my helper."

Time passed, and Pharaoh died and his son took his place. All this time, Egyptians treated Hebrews cruelly as slaves. God watched and saw all the mean things they were suffering and remembered the covenant he made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Talk about the Story:

Why did Moses run away so suddenly from Egypt? Who did he find in Median? How did he become friend with the priest's daughters? Who was Zippora? What were the names of Moses sons and what did their names mean?

What would you say?

What makes you think that Moses was a strong man? How do you think Moses' life was when he lived at the palace? How was his life when he took care of the sheep in the desert? Which kind of life would you rather have?

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***He preferred to suffer with God's people rather than
to enjoy sin for a little while.
Hebrews 11:25***





Great Bible Truths:

1. God personally calls us for special jobs.
2. When God calls us for something, he provides what we need to do the job.

Exodus 3:1 - 4:17

A shepherd was all by himself in the desert with a big herd of sheep. And all the sudden the shepherd, Moses, saw something he couldn't believe. Not far from where he stood, a flame of fire sprang out of a bush, but the flame didn't turn the bush into ashes. Moses moved closer to the bush when suddenly he heard a voice that said, "Moses, Moses!" "Here I am", Moses answered. "Take off your shoes, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he covered his face because he was afraid to see God.

God said, "I've heard my people mourning in Egypt because of the suffering that the Egyptians give them. I have come to save them and take them to a big and beautiful land where milk and honey flow as rivers. Get up and go, because you must go to Pharaoh and take my people out of Egypt." Moses answered, "Who am I to go to Pharaoh and free the Israelites?" God told him, "I will be with you and you will see. Some day you'll bring Israel to this mountain and you will adore me. Tell the Israelites that 'I Am' sent you."

God showed Moses what he had to say and do when he arrived to Egypt. As a sign, God showed him that when he threw his rod on the ground it would become a snake, and when he held his tail it would become a rod again. Moses could also put his hand on his chest under his cloak and have a white leprous hand when he took it out, then he could do it again and have a completely normal hand again. But Moses was so scared that he asked God to send someone else. He told God that he wasn't good at speaking so he wouldn't be able to do what God wanted. God grew angry and told him that he was going to send Moses' brother, Aaron, to speak for him also.

God spoke with Aaron and sent him to meet Moses when he arrived in Egypt. Moses told Aaron everything God ordered him to say and do. Then they went to meet some Israelites leaders and say to them that God was going to free the nation from Egypt's slavery. The Israelites leaders kneeled and worshiped God.

Talk about the story:

What caught Moses attention in the desert? Why did God speak to Moses? What were the two signs that God gave to Moses to prove that God was sending him? What excuse did Moses give to God for Him to send someone else? Why did God said that Aaron, Moses brother, would help him?

What would you say?

How would you feel if you were Moses and God called you like that? What would you do if God called you to be His special servant? Do you think this can happen?

**God Said, "Do not come any closer.
Take off your sandals, because you
are standing on holy ground".
Exodus 3:5**



Pharaoh Says No



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Great Bible Truths:

1. Pride keeps people from doing God's will.
2. God always achieves what he wants to do in spite of everything.

Exodus 5:1 - 6:12

After talking to the leaders of Israel and telling them how the Lord was going to free the Hebrews from slavery and take them into a beautiful land, Moses and Aaron went to speak to the pharaoh. They said to him, "This is what the Lord of Israel says, 'Let my nation go to worship me in the desert.'"

Pharaoh answered, "Who is the Lord for me to obey? I don't know him and I won't let Israel go. Why does he want to keep the people from their work?" The same day, Pharaoh told the slave drivers that the Israelites were lazy and that they just wanted a vacation. Until that day Egyptians used to give the Israelites the necessary straw to make the bricks. Now, he told the slave drivers the Hebrews should look for their own straw and make as many bricks as they used to or else they'll be punished severely.

The slave drivers told the Hebrews what Pharaoh said, and that the punishment was given to them because Moses asked him to let them go out to the desert and worship the Lord. "You are lazy people, now you have more work to do. And if you don't do it, we'll whip every leader." When they heard this, Israel leaders went to Moses and Aaron to tell them, "May God judge you. You have just made Pharaoh mad and now they gave us more work than we can do, so surely they will kill us."

Moses went to the Lord and complained, "Oh Lord, why have you done this to me? Instead of letting the people leave, Pharaoh will only punish them more."

God answered Moses, "Now you'll see what I'm going to do to Pharaoh. Because of all the terrible things that I will do to him and to the Egyptians, he will tell the Israelites to leave Egypt. But before that, I will make his heart hard while I do terrible things to the Egyptians so he won't let my people go. By all these things, the Egyptians will know that I am truly the Lord. Finally I will raise my hand and I will do such terrible things to them that Pharaoh and all his people will ask you to leave Egypt."

Talk about the Story:

What was Pharaoh's answer when Moses asked him to let the Hebrews go to the desert and worship the Lord? What did Pharaoh order the slave drivers to do to the Hebrews to make them sorry that Moses' decision to speak for them? What did Israel's leaders say to Moses and Aaron? Why did Moses complain to God? What was God's answer?

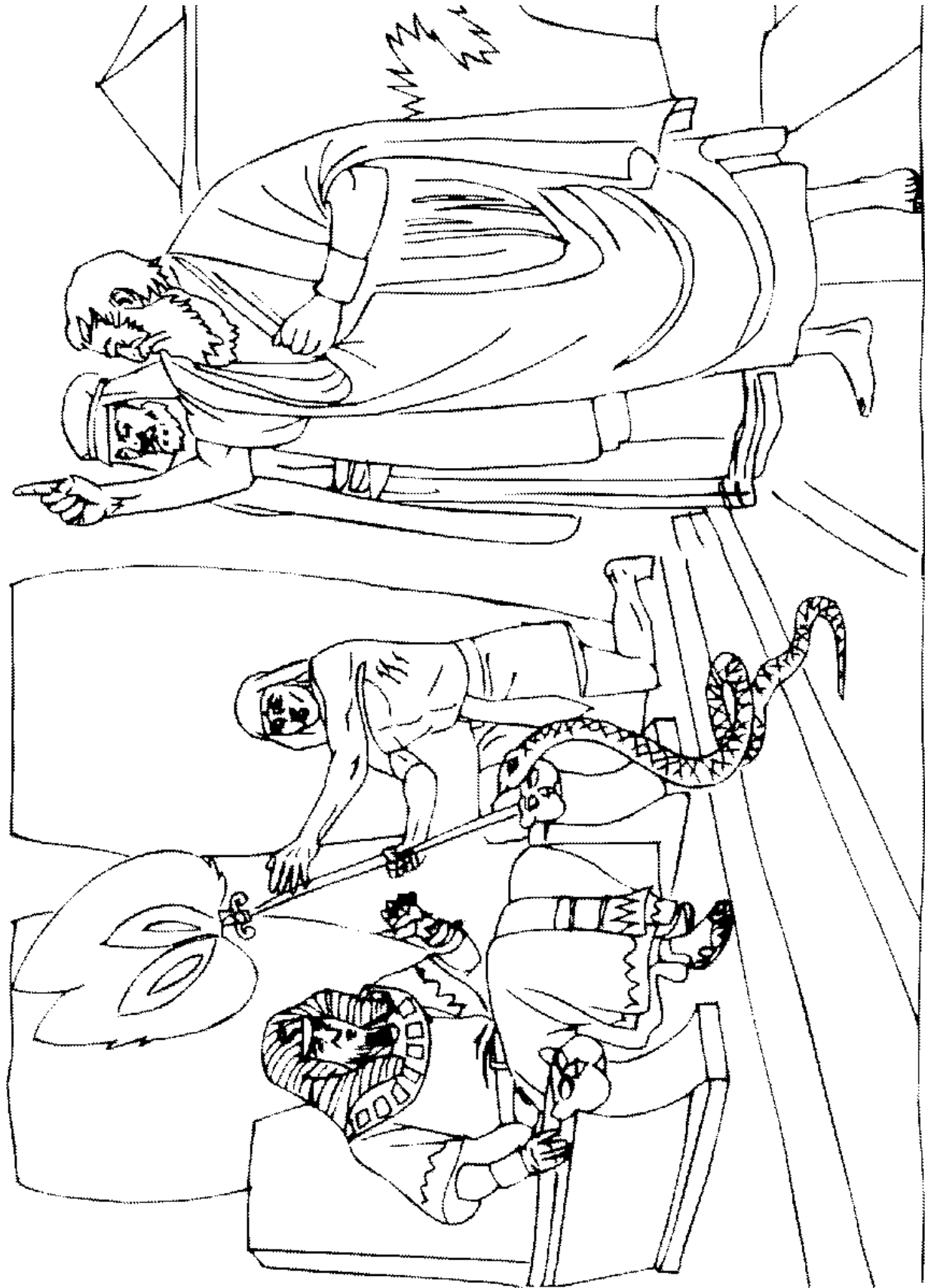
What would you say?

Why do you think that Pharaoh was so cruel to the Hebrews? How would you have felt if you were Moses and instead of making things better for the Hebrews, your message to Pharaoh only made things worst?

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“So tell the Israelites that I say to them, ‘I am the Lord; I will rescue you and set you free from your slavery to the Egyptians.’”

Exodus 6:6





Great Bible Truths:

1. It is a dangerous thing to oppose God.
2. Sometimes, hard experiences make people's hearts only harder instead of bringing them to change their ways.

Exodus 7:1-10:29

Pharaoh was a very proud man and he didn't believe that Moses or Moses' God was able to free the Hebrews. As a result, a terrible struggle began between God and the Pharaoh. This struggle began when Moses and Aaron visited Pharaoh for the second time and Pharaoh asked them to prove with miracles that God really sent them. Aaron threw his rod in front of the Pharaoh and the rod became a serpent. Then Pharaoh called his wizards and they brought their rods and did the same miracle. Even so, Aaron's snake swallowed the wizard's snakes. But the heart of the Pharaoh was really hard so he ordered his servants to throw Moses and Aaron out of the palace.

Obedying God's orders, Moses told the Pharaoh to go to the riverside and see that the Lord is really God. Pharaoh went, and when Moses touched the water with his rod the water became blood. Once again Pharaoh called his wizards and apparently they did the same miracle with the water, so Pharaoh didn't listen to Moses and Aaron.

One week later, Moses warned the Pharaoh, that unless he freed the Hebrews, God would fill all Egypt with frogs. When this happened, Pharaoh called Moses and told him that if he got rid of the frogs, he would let the Israelites go to the desert and worship their Lord. The next morning, all the frogs died, but Pharaoh changed his mind, and once again he didn't let the Israelites go.

God sent one plague after another, and every time Pharaoh's heart became harder and harder. God covered the earth with lice, then with flies. Then all the Egyptians' cattle died, but the Israelites' cattle stayed well. After this, all the Egyptians had painful boils on their skin. After this, a hailstorm fell in Egypt and destroyed all their crops. But still Pharaoh's heart was hard, so God covered the earth with darkness that was even darker than night. It lasted for three days and three nights, except where the Hebrews lived. But Pharaoh still wouldn't let the Israelites go. God said that he would send now a last terrible plague and because of this Pharaoh and all the Egyptians would ask the Hebrews to leave.

Talk About the Story:

What were the nine terrible things that happened to the Egyptians because of the hardness of Pharaoh's heart?

What would you say?

Do you think that the Egyptians agreed with the Pharaoh in not letting the Hebrews go and suffer more plagues because of it? Do you think that the Egyptians and the Pharaoh started believing in God?



The Egyptians will then know that I am the Lord, when I raise my hand against them and bring the Israelites out of their country.

Exodus 7:5



Great Bible Truths:

1. God always achieves what he wants to do.
2. Just as the Hebrew families were saved from death by the blood of lambs put on their doors, we are saved from our sins by the blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

Exodus 11:1 - 12:42

God punished the Egyptians with plagues of insects, diseases and natural disasters. Even so, the heart of Pharaoh was so hardened that he wouldn't let the Israelites leave Egypt. Then God spoke to Moses and his brother Aaron telling them that he was going to send a plague that would be so terrible that, finally, Pharaoh would set them free.

God told them, "At midnight I will pass through all of Egypt and will let every oldest son of each family die, from Pharaoh's oldest son to the oldest son of the slave that works in the mill. The same thing will happen to the offspring of the cattle. In all Egypt there will be mourning as they never have had before and will never have again." He ordered the Israelites to prepare their things to be able go out from Egypt as soon as the Pharaoh should tell them to go.

Then God said, "This will be the most important month of the year for you. It will be the first month of your new calendar. Each family will kill a lamb or a goat that is one year old with no defects and you must eat it all. You will sprinkle the blood of the animal on the outside doorframes. The blood will be a sign and when I see it I will not hurt those who are inside. Every year, in this month, you will do this thing to remember that I delivered you from the Egyptians."

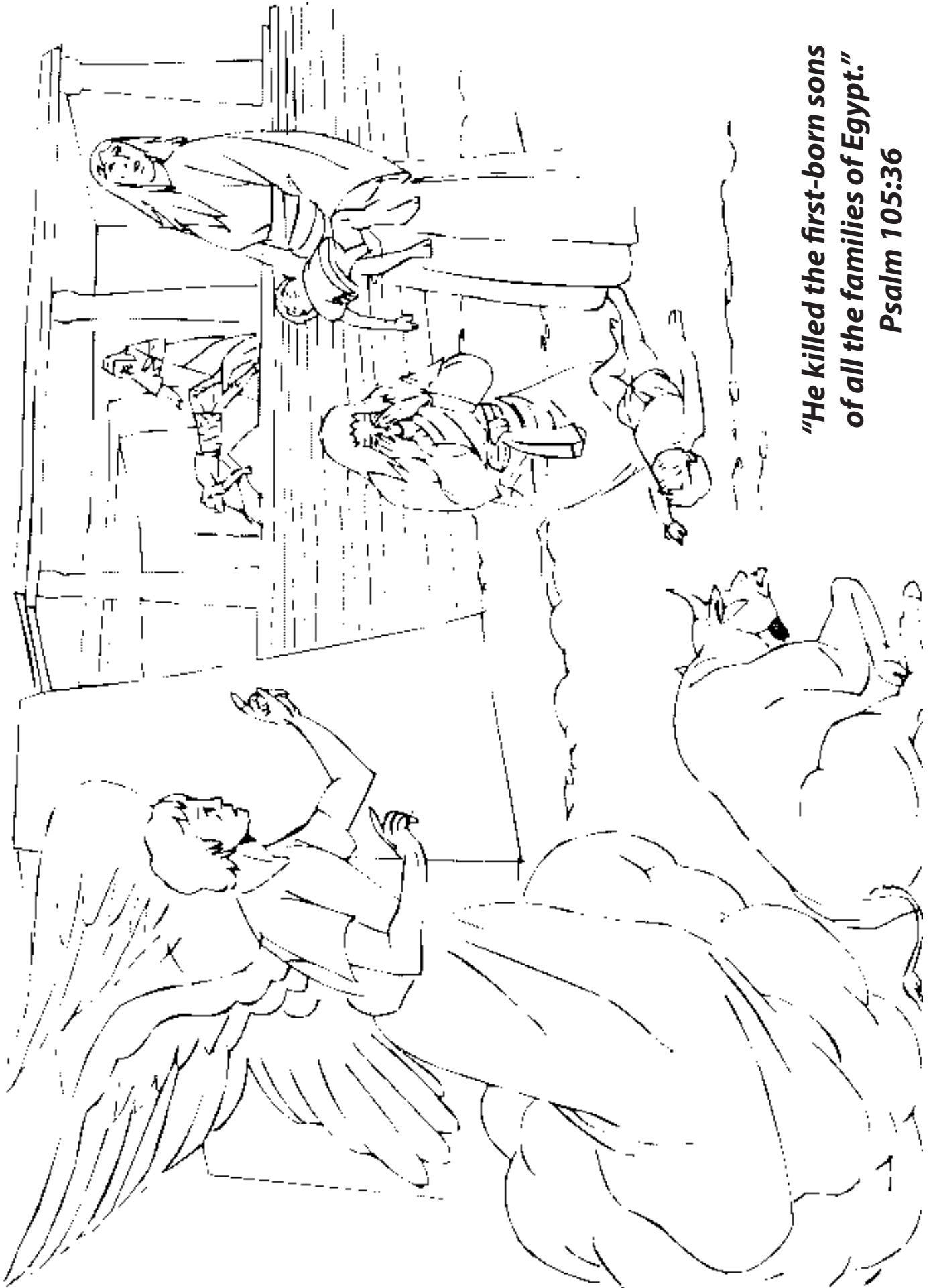
At midnight, the Lord acted as he had said. Everyone in Egypt woke up that night, including the Pharaoh, and there was great sorrow in the country. There was no Egyptian house that didn't have at least one dead person. That same night, Pharaoh called Moses and Aaron, and ordered them to go out from Egypt right away to worship the Lord in the desert. He also said that they should take all their herds and cattle. And so they went out from Egypt, about six hundred thousand men with their women, children and animals, after living there four hundred and thirty years

Talk about the story:

Why did God sent another plague? What was this last plague? What did the Israelites have to do so the last plague would not affect them? What did Pharaoh do after the death of all first-born sons of the Egyptians?

What would you say?

Why hadn't Pharaoh listened to Moses, even though he and his people suffered so many plagues? How do you feel Moses felt when he did so many miracles and Pharaoh wouldn't agree to let them go? If you were an Egyptian, what would you think about Pharaoh's attitude? How would you think that the Israelites felt as they were finally leaving Egypt?



***"He killed the first-born sons
of all the families of Egypt."
Psalm 105:36***



Great Bible Truths:

1. God defends his people from dangers and enemies.
2. God leads his people on unknown pathways.

Exodus 13:17 - 15:21

When the Pharaoh let the Israelites go, God didn't take them through the shortest way, because Philistia was there and He thought, "If they have to fight a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt." Therefore, He took them through the desert toward the Red Sea. During the day, the Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud to show them the way, and during the night he went in front of them in a pillar of fire to give them light, and so they could travel by night as well as by day.

God spoke to Moses and said, "Camp here between the desert and the sea. This will make Pharaoh think that you are lost and trapped. I will harden his heart for him to follow you. Egyptians will know that I am the Lord!" Moses obeyed and they camped where the Lord had ordered.

The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart, who thought, "How could we let the Israelites go and leave us without slaves?" Then all Pharaoh's army, horses, chariots, and drivers chased them and caught up with them where they were camped by the Red Sea.

When the Israelites saw the Egyptian army approaching, they were very frightened and cried out to the Lord for help. Then they went to Moses and told him, "Why did you take us out of Egypt? We should have died in Egypt and they would have buried us peacefully." Moses told them not to worry and to stay still, because God would save them.

God placed the cloud of fire that guided the Israelites behind them, protecting them from the Egyptian army during the night. Then he ordered Moses to point his staff towards the Red Sea and so he did. A strong wind blew all night and made a dry path through the sea, and the Israelites went through it. Then, God made the cloud disappear and the Egyptians chased the Israelites through the sea. When the Egyptians were in the middle of the sea, God stuck their chariot's wheels. At that moment, Moses extended his staff toward the open sea and it closed up over all of Pharaoh's army, drowning them all. When the Israelites saw this they believed in the Lord and in Moses. All the nation sang to God with joy that day.

Talk about the story:

Why didn't God take the Israelites by the shortest route to their land? How did the Israelites see God's presence while they traveled? Why did the Pharaoh repent of letting the Israelites go? What did the Israelites do when they saw the Egyptian army approaching them? How did the Israelites manage to cross the sea? What finally happened to the Egyptian army?

What would you say?

What do you think the Israelites would do if they knew there was a shorter way? Would you have obeyed God if he told you, "Camp here and I will bring an army that will try to attack you?" What do you do when you see "an enemy army" (trouble) coming? Do you think that God can use you to be a leader as he did with Moses?

“But when the Egyptians chariots with their horses and drivers went into the sea, the Lord brought the water back, and it covered them.”

Exodus 15:19

