

Bible in 52 Weeks—Joseph Story #5



Joseph was given a special coat to wear. Find a gift or something special you have been given. Share why this item is important to you, who gave it to you, why you think they picked it out for you.



Read Genesis 37-50
Read about Joseph in children's Bible
Jesus Storybook Bible "The Forgiving Prince"

Conversation Starters:

For Children:

1. How does Joseph act/feel about his coat? How do his brothers act/feel?
2. How do you feel when you are treated as special?
3. How do you feel when your sibling or friend is treated as special?
4. Joseph has dreams that help to know what things are happening and he can help others understand their dreams. What kind of dreams do you have?
5. How do you hear God's promise in this story?

For adults/youth:

1. What is a gift that is special to you? How did receiving the gift make you feel?
2. Have you ever given such a special gift? To whom and why?
3. What are dreams you have for yourself? How do you pursue them?
4. Tell of an event in your life that seemed dire but turned out ok. It's difficult to see in dark days how things might be different in a year, two years or five. How do you see God at work in your life in both dark days and good times?
5. How was forgiveness and hard conversations handled in your family of origin? Do you handle that differently now?
6. What would you like your "last words" to be to your family? (Genesis 49) Write them down and share them today!

Activity suggestions:

- * Joseph forgives his brothers and his brothers come to live in his land. What are times you need forgiveness? What are times you give forgiveness? Try in your family a response of forgiveness when someone says "I am sorry"— instead of saying "it's ok" or "no problem", try responding "You are forgiven." Practice now with some pretend scenarios. **Adults:** consider how you respond to everyday indiscretions with co-workers or family.
- * Look up places in the world or in our country where people need food and clean water or have a famine happening. Write or say prayers for them and/or find a way to help either financially or by volunteering. www.waterfortheworld.net is a good resource as well as elca.org

- * Hygiene Kits—Water for the World needs hygiene kits for when they go and help communities create water filters so they can have clean water. Local organizations may also need these for helping those in need. Toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, washcloth, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, comb, lotion, socks, underwear
- * Go to the altar space you have created and write or draw a picture or story of a time that you needed forgiveness or a time you gave forgiveness. Have this on your altar for the week.
- * Go to the grocery store and pick out items for the food bank or a family in need. Find pictures of food for young children to engage at the grocery store, so that they can find the item more easily.



Pray together—bring your special item or drawing to the prayer time. Offer prayers of thankfulness for times we are special and for helping us to forgive and be forgiven.

Loving God, thank you that we are all your children. Help us to live together well and care for another. Be with those in need of food, water, and homes. Open our eyes to know how to serve. Amen (be sure to leave room for your own personal prayers too!)



Bless one another with the sign of the cross:

+May you know the forgiveness and love of God today and always+