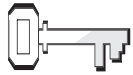


# Together Again



### 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).

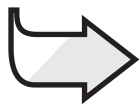


### Objectives

The children will:  
**Know** that God helps us serve our families.

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

**Respond** by helping to care for their home and church families.



### The Message

God helps me serve 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 service.

God made us to be part of a family. He wants us to serve in our home and church families by caring for others. He will help us find ways to 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

For the bulletin board under a caption "Serve One Another," place pictures or felts of families helping each other. You may also place pictures of other people in our community who serve. For example, firefighters, doctors, police, repair persons, teachers, taxi drivers, etc. Include any or all who are applicable to your area. Set up a small section of the room to be Pharaoh's throne room by decorating a large chair and placing some special fabric on the floor. You may also put a crown on the chair.

## Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
<b>1</b> 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
<b>Any Time</b> Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> offering device paper, pencils
<b>2</b> Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story  Memory Verse  Bible Study	writing board, marker or chalk, Bible-times costumes 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
<b>3</b> Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Scenario</i>	washcloths or six-square-inch (15-square-centimeter) pieces of fabric to represent a washcloth
<b>4</b> 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.



## Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

### You Need:

- variety of household objects
- paper
- pencil
- Bibles

### A. Who Does What?

Beforehand, 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. Number the objects on the table by writing the number (big enough to be seen easily) on a sheet of paper and placing it beside each object.

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 serve our family. Today we're going to learn that:**



**GOD HELPS ME SERVE 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 serve our family. And that brings us to today's message:**



**GOD HELPS ME SERVE MY FAMILY.**

Say that with me.

# Prayer and Praise

Any  
Time



## 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 paper and pencil to the class. Include visitors.  
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. End the activity with prayer by an adult.

**You Need:**  
• paper  
• pencils

## Bible Lesson

### You Need:

- writing board
- marker or chalk
- Bible-times costumes (see Experiencing the Story)

Choose children to play Joseph, five of his brothers, Jacob, and Pharaoh. At the appropriate place in the story have them act out those roles.

### 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. Joseph was second to the youngest and his father's favorite. This caused the 10 older brothers to be jealous of and hate Joseph. One day they decided to sell him 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, touching 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! **Joseph** (*palms together, nod head*) was 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. Jacob's heart sang the whole way! He was really, truly going to see his son **Joseph** (*palms together, nod head*) once again!

In **Joseph's** home, his (*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. When he got to where he was, Joseph 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. (*Have the children you've chosen come forward and act out the part of the five brothers, Joseph, and Pharaoh as you continue telling the story. Have them repeat the dialogue after you say it. Or you may wish to write out the parts ahead of time and have the children read them.*) "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. (*Have "Joseph" get the child that you have chosen to play Jacob.*) 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 you may never have to 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 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 SERVE MY FAMILY.**

### Memory Verse

Beforehand, make two sets (piles) of containers. Write each word of the memory verse on separate slips of paper. Include the reference. Tape each word onto one of the flat sides of the containers in one set. Do the same for the

#### You Need:

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

other set of containers. Mix up the containers within each 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. 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 bottom to top. 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. He tried to serve his brother by giving him company for his journey [Genesis 33:15]) **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 serve these people whom God has given us?** **Let's say our message again:**



**GOD HELPS ME SERVE MY FAMILY.**

#### You Need:

- Bibles

### 3

## Applying the Lesson

#### You Need:

- washcloths or six-square-inch (15-square-centimeter) pieces of fabric to represent a washcloth (one for each child)

#### Scenario

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 serve your family?** (Accept responses.) **What are some ways that you can serve them?** Allow response time.

Give each child a small piece of fabric representing a towel or a washcloth. Ask: **How can we use a towel to serve others?** (clean face, clean hands or feet; clean an area in your house; dry dishes; help to wash the car; make a cool cloth for someone with a fever). **Look for ways to serve your family this week using a towel or look for any other way you can serve. God will help you. Let's say today's message together.**



**GOD HELPS ME SERVE 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 can serve 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 serve 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 SERVE 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

**NOTE: PLAN AHEAD FOR READINESS ACTIVITY B IN NEXT WEEK'S LESSON BY ASKING THE CHILDREN TO BRING A BABY PICTURE OF THEMSELVES TO CLASS NEXT WEEK.**



## 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 serve my family.

*When his parents were sick, Ethan stepped up and took care of his little brother so his parents could rest awhile. Ethan served meals to his little brother and helped him clean up. Do you help to serve others in your family? Today’s story is about what Joseph did for his family.*

After being away for many years, Father Jacob had returned to Canaan with his wives and 12 sons. Joseph was the second-youngest and his father’s favorite. Because of this, his older brothers hated him and decided to sell him to slave traders going to Egypt.

In Egypt, Joseph had remained faithful to God even when bad things had happened to him. Eventually, God had helped him to become the governor.

When a famine came on all the land, Jacob sent his 10 sons to Egypt for food. Joseph was in charge of the food. Joseph’s brothers did not know who he was, but Joseph knew them, and finally he made himself known. He told them that he had forgiven them for selling him into slavery. He promised to take care of the entire family, and now the brothers were on their way back to Canaan with the good news.

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! Joseph was not dead, as he had believed all those 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 children, his in-laws, and his 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. Jacob’s heart sang the whole way! He was really, truly going to see his son Joseph once again!

In Joseph’s home his 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. When he got to where he was, Joseph 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.

After that, Jacob lived with his family in Egypt for 17 years, and then he 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 serve your family? You may never be an officer in your country's government. You may never have to 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 serve your church family also?

## 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.
- 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. 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. Have you ever met a government officer or anyone with a job in government or a member of the royal family?

- Write your memory verse on paper. Attach it to a cereal box or other food container you use often. (Don't forget the reference.) 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 serve 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

- Read Romans 12:13 together. If possible, plan to invite someone to Sabbath dinner tomorrow.
- Say your memory verse for your family, then have them say it with you. Sing happy family songs before prayer. Then thank God for a new Sabbath.