

Plymouth Congregational Church

CHILDREN'S BULLETIN



Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

August 16, 2020

Dear God,

Thanks for today, for this beautiful world, for the health and safety of my friends and family, and for all the things you have given us! Life is better with you and your LOVE!

Amen.

Plymouth Children's Prayer



A Surprise Visit

based on Genesis 45:1-15

If several children have not heard the first part of Joseph's story from the previous session, spend more time on it in the beginning of this story.

When the traders who had bought Joseph from his brothers arrived in Egypt, they sold Joseph to an officer of Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt. Joseph did well, but the officer's wife tricked Joseph and he ended up in jail. While he was there, he helped some prisoners understand their dreams. When Pharaoh had dreams he couldn't understand, one of the prisoners who was now free remembered how Joseph had helped him. Pharaoh sent for Joseph and told him his dreams. God was with Joseph and helped him explain them to Pharaoh.

"Your dreams mean that there will be seven years when there will be plenty of food. Then there will be seven years when no food will be grown." Pharaoh was impressed with Joseph and put him in charge of planning for the seven years without food.

During the seven years when there was lots of food, Joseph stored the extra grain so it would be ready when the years without food came.

At the end of the years with lots of food, a terrible famine came over all the land, even in Canaan where Joseph's family lived. Only in Egypt did

the people have food to eat, because Joseph had helped them. People from other places came to Egypt to buy food. They had to meet with Joseph first to get permission.

One day Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food. When they were brought to Joseph, they didn't know who he was. They only knew that this person in front of them had the power to say that they could buy grain or not.

Although Joseph recognized his brothers, he didn't tell them who he was. He wondered if they were sorry about what they had done to him. As Joseph talked with his brothers, he realized that they had changed. But he still didn't tell them who he was. However, they were allowed to buy grain to take back to Canaan.

The next time Joseph's brothers came to Egypt, Joseph sent everyone out of the room so he was alone with his brothers. When they were alone, Joseph said, "I am Joseph, your brother. Tell me about my father. Is he well?"

His brothers stared at Joseph. What will he do to us? they wondered. Will he refuse to give us more grain? Will he punish us?

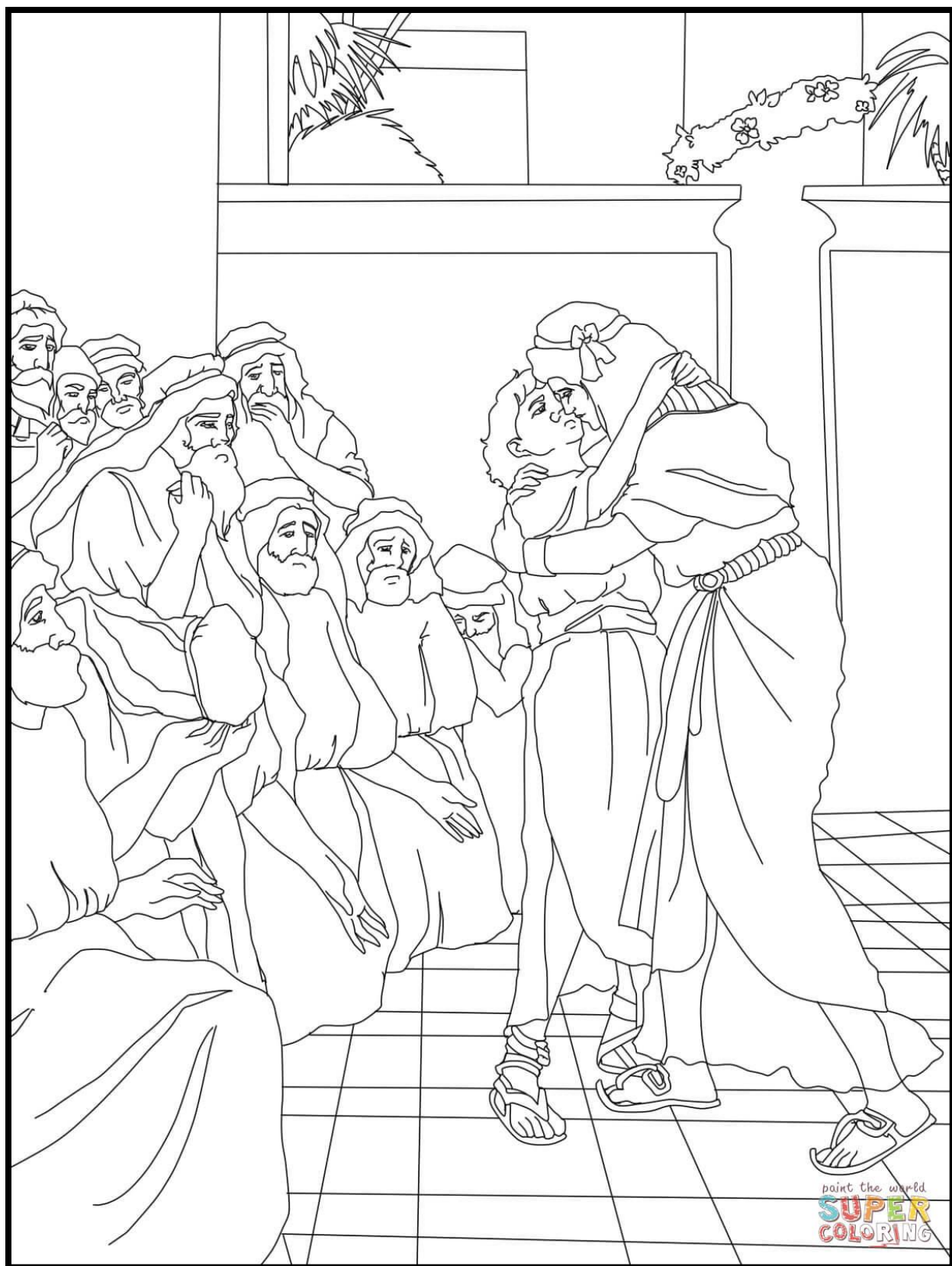
"Do not be afraid," said Joseph. "You treated me badly, but God has watched over me in Egypt. Everything has worked out."

With joy, Joseph and his brothers kissed and hugged each other.

"Go back to Canaan," Joseph told them. "Bring my father and all your families to live here in Egypt. You will have plenty of food and a place to live and fields for your flocks of animals."

Creation Corner

Joseph Forgives His Brothers



"I Am Your Brother"

Find the words on the list in the word search. Words can be spelled forwards, backwards, upwards, downwards, and diagonally.

N	P	S	E	A	R	B	B	W	V	S	N	P	T	Q
P	J	O	D	U	K	J	F	R	S	R	O	H	E	E
S	U	D	T	J	C	G	N	E	I	C	S	A	G	S
S	H	F	U	I	O	S	N	Z	O	J	I	R	R	H
L	S	O	B	R	P	E	V	Y	R	Q	R	A	A	W
I	E	F	X	B	V	H	W	R	D	A	P	O	I	L
Z	F	U	I	I	Z	S	A	F	J	C	Y	H	N	B
S	Z	W	G	V	Y	W	M	R	E	N	I	M	A	F
D	N	R	P	L	E	N	T	Y	P	H	F	I	N	M
Z	O	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S	J	I	A	Q	U
F	P	E	B	F	I	R	F	S	O	M	A	B	W	N
I	N	O	G	G	W	D	B	S	C	N	A	P	X	J
P	G	X	R	Y	Y	Q	E	O	A	J	K	E	E	Q
N	V	F	Q	I	P	P	D	C	E	F	K	X	R	M
Z	K	E	V	M	H	T	G	U	Y	O	A	P	F	D

BROTHERS

EGYPT

GRAIN

PLENTY

CANAAN

FAMINE

JOSEPH

POTIPHAR

DREAMS

FORGIVENESS

PHARAOH

PRISON



Joseph's Story

based on selections from Genesis 39–45

One: Joseph was sold to Potiphar, the captain of Pharaoh's army. (*drum beat*)

All: But God was with Joseph and blessed him.

Two: How?

One: Joseph worked hard and Potiphar was pleased with him. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole household, and eventually over everything he owned. But then Potiphar's wife falsely accused Joseph and Joseph was thrown into prison. (*drum beat*)

All: But God was with Joseph and blessed him.

Three: How?

One: Joseph worked hard and was trustworthy. The jailer was pleased with him and put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. In prison Joseph interpreted the dreams of some of the prisoners. When the pharaoh heard that Joseph could interpret dreams, he sent for him.

Pharaoh: I dreamed I was standing on the bank of the Nile River. I saw seven fat, healthy cows come up out of the river. They began feeding on the grass. Next, seven skinny, bony cows came up out of the river. The skinny cows ate the fat ones, but it made no difference for they were just as skinny as they were before. I also dreamed that I saw seven heads of grain growing on one stalk. The heads were full and ripe. Then seven other heads of grain came up. They were thin and scorched. These heads of grain swallowed the full ones. What does this mean?

Joseph: Your Majesty, both of your dreams mean the same thing. God has shown you what is

going to happen. For seven years Egypt will have more than enough grain, but that will be followed by seven years when there won't be enough. The good years of plenty will be forgotten, and everywhere people will be starving. The famine will be so bad that no one will remember that once there had been more than enough. (*drum beat*)

All: But God was with Joseph and blessed him.

Four: How?

One: The pharaoh made Joseph governor over Egypt. He put him in charge, placed the royal seal on his finger, dressed him in fine linen robes, and placed a gold chain around his neck. During the seven years of plenty, Joseph went all around the country, helping cities store their extra grain. Then the famine came. (*drum beat*)

All: But God was with Joseph and blessed him.

Five: How?

One: Egypt was the only country that had food. People from all over came to Egypt to buy grain so they wouldn't starve. One day Joseph's brothers came to Egypt. When they were brought to Joseph, they did not recognize him. However, they knew that this man had the power to give them food or not. They bowed before him. Joseph recognized them and began to test them to see if they had changed their ways or not. Finally, the time came for Joseph to confront his brothers. (*drum beat*)

All: But God was with Joseph and blessed him.

Six: How?

One: And that is where we pick up the story for today.



Puzzle Pieces



Greetings friends,

During these days of uncertainty, as followers of Jesus, let us remember that we are a HOPE-giving people. Remembering the words of Jesus, "do not be afraid, for I am with you always," we put our trust in the Lord, and in that we find comfort. You are all in my prayers.

If there is anything that I can do for you, please contact me via email at andrea@plymouthmiami.org.

Blessings,

Andrea Burt
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