

Story and activities for the very young to use in church or at home.

## Together and Blessed

A story based on Genesis 45:1–15

Long ago, Joseph and his family lived in a land that was mostly desert. Joseph and his brothers didn't get along. One day, Joseph's brothers were so angry they sold Joseph to traders (traders are people who buy and sell things). Those traders took Joseph far, far away. Joseph was taken to Egypt. He must have been very sad. But even though Joseph was far from home, God was with him. Joseph did well in Egypt. Joseph had a very important job – making sure that all the people in Egypt had enough food to eat. And the people did have plenty to eat. Then Joseph saved the extra food for later.

Joseph's brothers and their families did not do well. There was no rain, and no food was growing where they lived. They were very, very hungry. What would they do? The brothers heard that they could buy grain in Egypt. Grain was just what they needed to make bread and other good foods.

So the brothers travelled to Egypt to find the food they needed. The trip across the desert was long. The sun made the land hot and dry. Everyone was hungry. They hoped that someone would be kind to them and help them.

When the brothers arrived in Egypt, guess who they met? Joseph! At first, the brothers didn't recognize him. When Joseph told them who he was, the brothers were surprised... and then they were afraid. They thought Joseph would be angry with them for selling him to traders. But even before the brothers had a chance to say, "I'm sorry," Joseph gave them a hug that said, "I forgive you. I know you have changed and are caring and loving to one another." Joseph was so happy to see his brothers again. He told them to go back home, bring all their families and animals, and come to live in Egypt with him. All the brothers must have been glad to be together again! Joseph showed God's love to his family.

Long ago, a wise person wrote, "How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony" (Psalm 133:1).

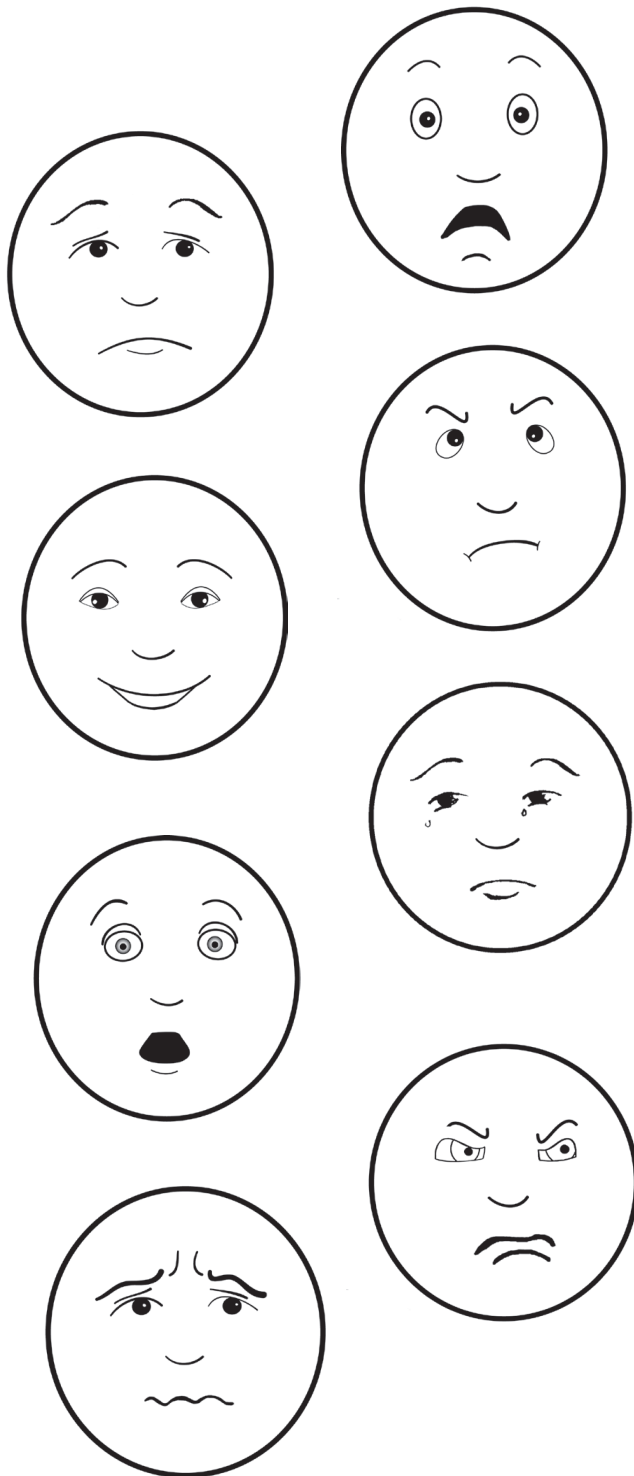


- Decorate the figures.
- Is there someone who wants to be a friend?
- Draw them into the circle.



Joseph met up with his brothers many years after they had treated him badly. They wondered if they should be afraid of him. They were so surprised! Joseph was so happy to see them that he cried. Joseph forgave his brothers for what they had done to him.

With a grownup's help, draw lines to connect the emotions on the faces with the words. What emotions do you think the brothers felt when they met Joseph unexpectedly?



surprised

happy

sad

afraid

angry

confused

crying

worried

