

D6 EveryDay™ Parent Page

Date | **February 28, 2021** Family Theme | **God Provides for His People** Study Text | **Genesis 45:1-28**

Objective: Children understand that God can go to any lengths necessary to provide for His people. We can trust God to provide what we need to follow Him.

How This Lesson Fits in the Story of the Bible: This lesson is set several years after Joseph was sold into slavery in Egypt. The famine Joseph predicted had forced Israel (Jacob) to send his sons to Egypt to try to purchase food. Joseph, knowing God sent him to Egypt for this purpose, revealed his identity to his brothers and provided what the family needed. God preserved the people He would make into a great nation.

Bible Basics: Review 2 Timothy 3:16 and Ephesians 2:8-9 this week and work with family members to do so as well.

Read the Word: Genesis 45:1-28

Disciple Your Kids

Help your children and grandchildren understand that God can use any circumstances for our good, provide for our needs in any situation, and help us make things right with other people. God is the sovereign Lord of all.

 **Key Truth: God Can Use the Worst of Circumstances to Accomplish His Purposes (Genesis 45:1-7)**

After many years, the brothers did not recognize that they were dealing with Joseph. Joseph could hide it no more. He announced to his brothers who he was. The brothers had sold Joseph into slavery, where he should have died — end of story. But Joseph understood the story better. He did not avoid what they had done. Yet, he looked past their actions to see that God used even their treacherous behavior to accomplish His purposes. In Joseph's eyes, God had sent him ahead, so that Egypt and all of Joseph's family would not perish. God is in control in every circumstance. Trust Him to accomplish His will.

 **Key Truth: God Can Provide for Our Needs in Any Situation (Genesis 45:8-13)**

Joseph continued to attribute his presence there in Egypt to God. Indeed, God had made him not just survive, but also to thrive. He had become ruler of the land, and one whose wisdom and advice Pharaoh treasured as that from a father. Joseph understood his brothers and their families needed refuge from the famine, or they would perish. The brothers were to tell Jacob all that had happened, and to bring him and their families down to Egypt. Joseph saw God's hand at work, even in actions that hurt him deeply, and he held no grudge. The children of Israel survived in Egypt and thrived. They grew into the great nation God had promised. We can look to God to sustain us through difficult times.

 **Key Truth: God Can Restore Broken Relationships (Genesis 45:14-28)**

The tearful reunion continued. After so much hatred, so much sorrow, and so many years, the brothers were talking again. Joseph gave new clothing to each of them. For his younger brother Benjamin he provided five sets of clothes and a small fortune in silver. To his father Jacob he sent donkeys loaded with fine Egyptian

goods, grain, and bread for the journey. The relationship between Joseph and his brothers was restored. Soon, father and son would be restored after such a long separation. God restores us to Himself through Christ and helps us restore other relationships as well.

Discussion Starters

Use one or more of the following questions as discussion starters with your kids this week.

- In what ways does God provide for His people?
- How did God provide for His people when the famine came to Canaan?
- What does it take for people to be restored in their relationship with God?
- What does it take for people to be restored in their relationships with one another?
- With whom do you need to seek restoration this week?
- **For Elementary:** How did God provide for Joseph? How did God provide for Joseph's family?
- **For Elementary:** How does God provide for you?

Everyday Extras

Surprise endings – don't you love them? Together, read David Wood's picture book, *Under the Bed* (even if your children are older!), for a good surprise. Or plan another surprise ending. A parent might collaborate with a child in advance, then take the family to dinner. When the check comes, and Dad suddenly can't find his wallet, John can offer to pay (since Dad gave him money ahead of time). You could plan a surprise outing for the family – to a local park or zoo or museum – or invite a surprise guest to your home. Remind your family that God always knows what is ahead; He is never caught by surprise. He uses our circumstances to work everything out according to His plan. Even things we don't understand will ultimately be opportunities for God's plan to work out.

Preschool Highlights for SQUARE 1 & ROUND 2

Today your child learned Joseph's father sent his brothers to the king for food. They did not recognize Joseph, but he recognized them. Joseph trusted God and forgave his brothers. He was reunited with his father and brothers and they came to live with Joseph. **I Can Trust God** and His plan like Joseph did.