

PRIMARY PALS



Joseph's Dreams

"Oh, Father!" Joseph exclaimed. "I have never seen a coat like this! How beautiful!" As Joseph took the coat in his hands, the many colors woven into it caught the gleam of the sun.

Jacob smiled at his son. "Joseph, you are very special to me. You have given me much joy in my old age. This coat is a gift to you. I want you to know how much I love you."

Joseph had ten brothers who were not happy when they saw the coat. They already thought that their father loved Joseph the most. This special gift made them sure. They became very angry. After that, they wouldn't even speak nicely to Joseph.

Soon after he received the beautiful coat, Joseph had a dream. This dream was from God.

When Joseph awoke he went to his brothers and told them all about the dream. "We were tying bunches of wheat together in the field to make sheaves," Joseph said. "All of a sudden each of your sheaves of wheat bowed down to my sheaf of wheat."

Oh, that made his brothers ever so angry! They said to Joseph, "Do you think we are going to bow down to you?" They hated him even more because of the dream he had told them!

A little later Joseph had another

dream. This one was also from God.

When he woke up, he again went to his brothers and his father. He told them that in this dream the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed to him.

Jacob did not like what Joseph told them. He asked, "What kind of a dream is this? Do you think your mother and brothers and I should bow down to you?" But even though he didn't understand Joseph's dream, Jacob kept thinking about it. He knew there must be a reason that God had

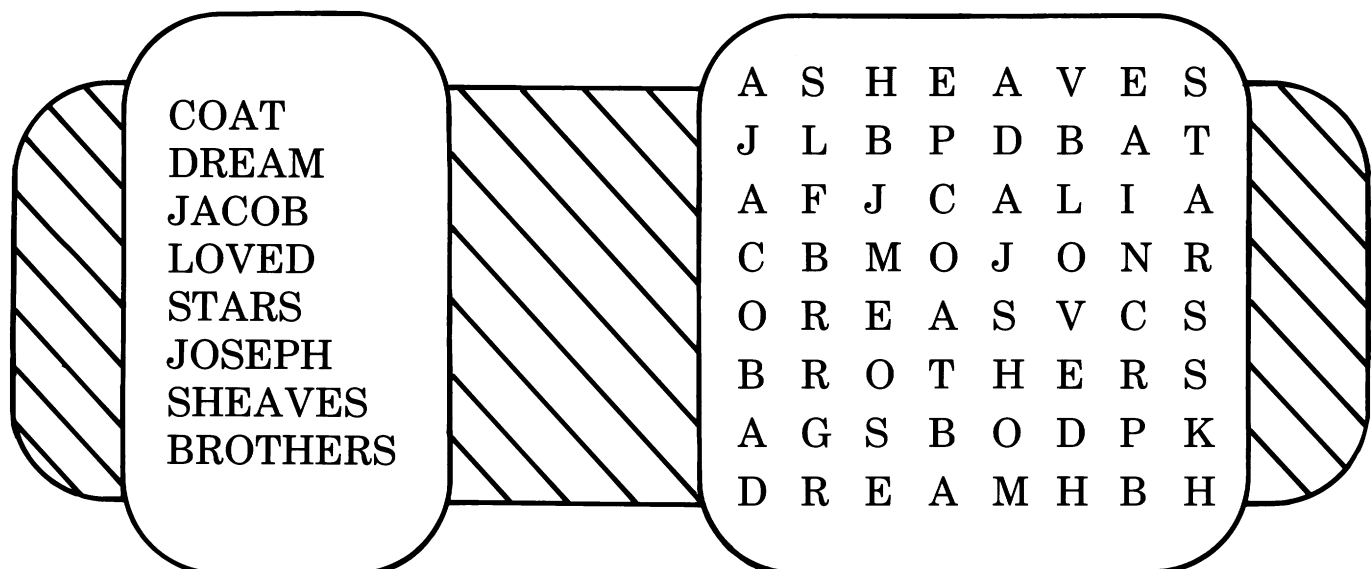
sent the dreams.

This second dream made Joseph's brothers even more angry. They were jealous of their younger brother. They did not know that someday they would no longer hate Joseph. Someday they would love him and be very thankful for him.

Joseph was only seventeen years old when God gave him these dreams. But God wanted to prepare Joseph for the special plan He had for his life. God's plan for Joseph was very real. And one day his dreams would come true.

Hidden Words

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle below.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This lesson begins a unit on the story of Joseph. It deals with Joseph's dreams, and the special coat that his father made for him.

Children are fascinated by dreams. Draw several simple speech-balloon shapes on paper. In two of the shapes, draw Joseph's dreams—the sheaves of grain bowing to his sheaf, and the sun, moon, and stars bowing to Joseph. Let your child illustrate a dream or two of his own in the remaining balloons. You may wish to explain to your child that all dreams do not have particular meanings. Joseph's dreams were special ones sent from God, and they gave a hint as to what was going to happen in the future.

For an activity concerning the special coat, draw the outline of a coat and allow your child to color in stripes of various colors, or paste strips of colored material into the outlined shape.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Numbers 12:6

MONDAY: Genesis 37:5

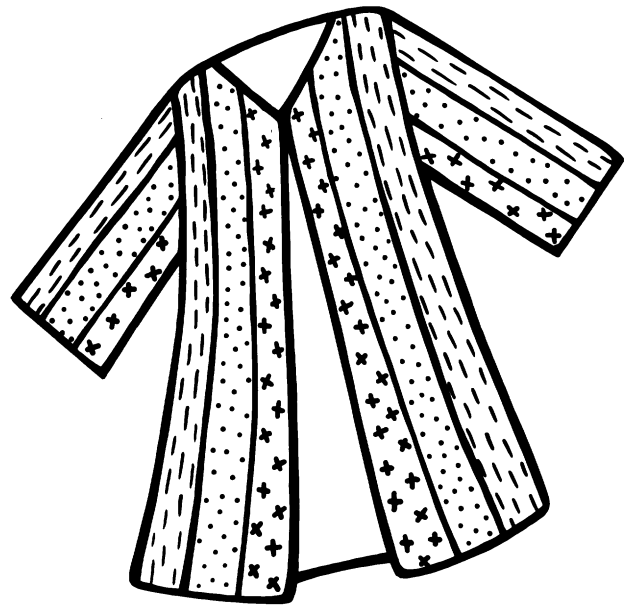
TUESDAY: Deuteronomy 4:35

WEDNESDAY: Daniel 2:22

THURSDAY: Jeremiah 23:28

FRIDAY: Deuteronomy 29:29

SATURDAY: Amos 3:7



Bible Text

Genesis 37:1-11

Memory Verse

I the LORD . . . will speak unto him in a dream. — Numbers 12:6

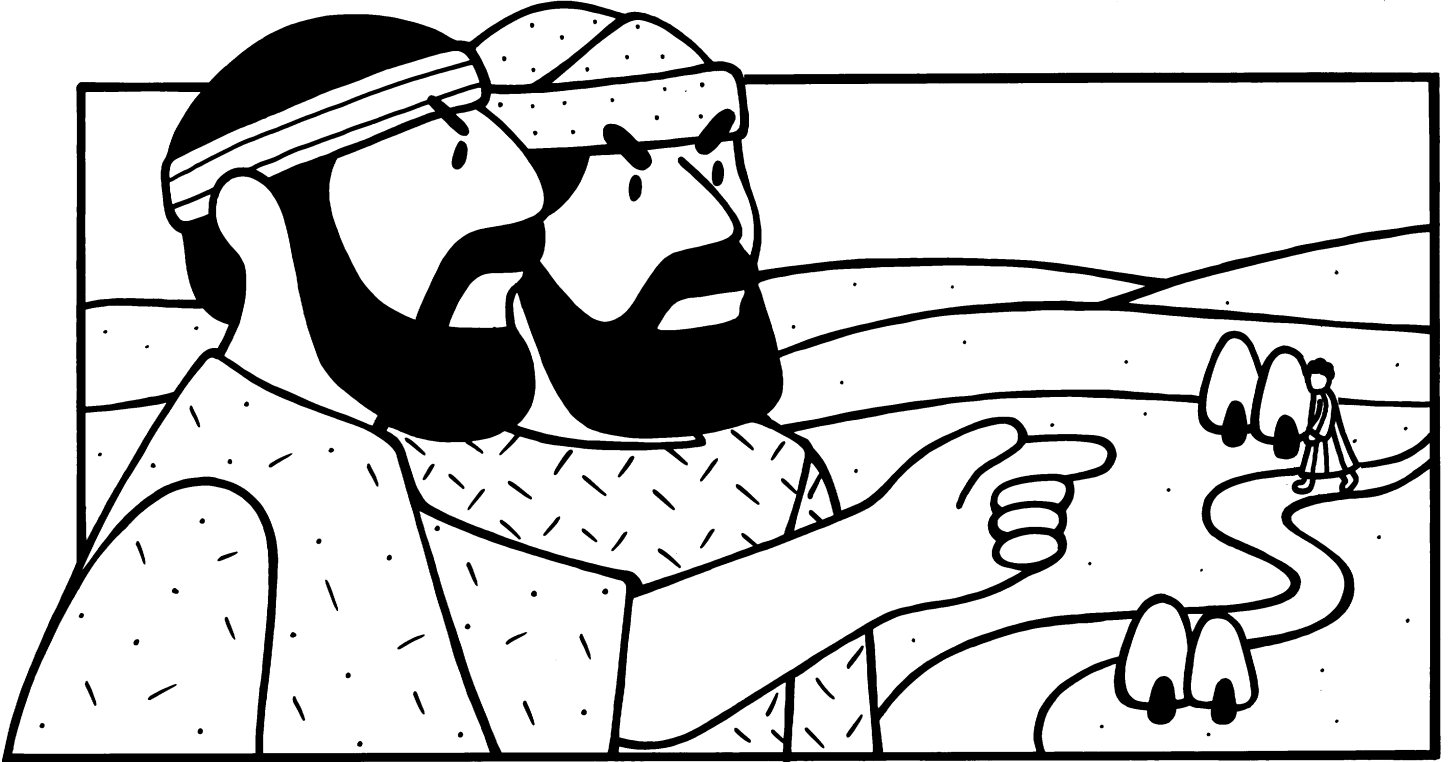
Joseph's Beautiful Coat

Color the picture below to show what colors you think were used in Joseph's coat of many colors.



Name: _____

PRIMARY PALS



Sold As a Slave!

Jacob's older sons had been gone for several days. They had taken the sheep and gone to a faraway place to find good grass for them to eat. One day Jacob asked Joseph to go and find his brothers. He said, "See how your brothers are doing. Ask them if everything is going well with the sheep. Then hurry home because I am anxious to hear about them." So Joseph started out.

Joseph's brothers saw him coming while he was still far down the road. They knew it was Joseph because of the coat of many colors that he was wearing. That reminded them of the

dreams he had told them about.

"Look, the dreamer is coming!" they said. They hated Joseph and wanted to put an end to him and his dreams once and for all. One of the brothers even said they should kill Joseph!

Reuben, the oldest brother, said, "Oh, no! Let's not kill him. Let's just throw him into this deep hole."

Joseph finally came to the place where his brothers were. Instead of receiving a friendly greeting, his brothers tore off his beautiful coat. Then they threw him into the hole!

After that the brothers sat down to eat their lunch. As they ate they

looked up and saw a group of men coming with camels. They were merchants who were taking spices and other things to sell in Egypt.

One of the brothers said, "I know what we should do! Let's sell Joseph to those men. That way we won't be guilty of killing our brother, and we will still be rid of him."

The men bought Joseph for twenty pieces of silver. Then they took Joseph with them to Egypt where, later, they would sell him as a slave.

After Joseph was gone, the brothers thought about their father. They knew he would be waiting at home for Joseph's return. What were they going to tell him? They were afraid to tell him the truth, so they thought of a plan. They killed a young goat and put

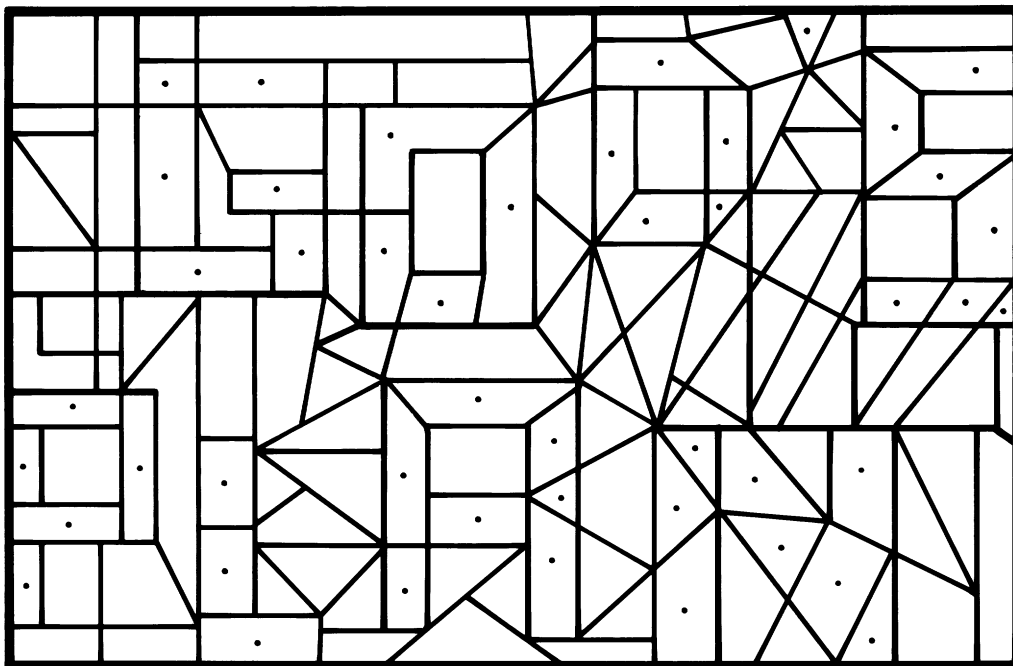
its blood all over Joseph's beautiful coat. Then they took the coat home to their father.

When Jacob saw the coat he said, "That is Joseph's coat. A wild animal must have killed him." Oh, Jacob was so sad. He cried and cried for his son. He thought Joseph was dead and he would never see him again.

The brothers had not only sold Joseph, but they had lied to their father! They were sure Jacob would never know the truth about their wicked deed. They thought they were rid of their brother forever. They were sure that would be the last they heard of Joseph's dreams. But they didn't know that God was watching over Joseph. This was all a part of God's plan for him.

Color the Dots

Color all the spaces that have a dot in them. Find out why Joseph was sold by his brothers.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

In this lesson, your child will see that some difficult places came into Joseph's life. He was sold by his brothers and taken to Egypt as a slave. It is important to emphasize to your child that God had a plan in all of this.

On several sheets of colored construction paper draw circles, squares, triangles, and rectangles of various sizes. Let your child cut these out. The shapes can then be arranged in many ways to represent scenes from the lesson text.

Reminder: Help your child read the story in each of his Primary Pals handouts, as it reviews the actual Bible story, or presents a current story reinforcing the main thought.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Genesis 39:21

MONDAY: Psalm 56:1

TUESDAY: Psalm 30:10

WEDNESDAY: Deuteronomy 4:31

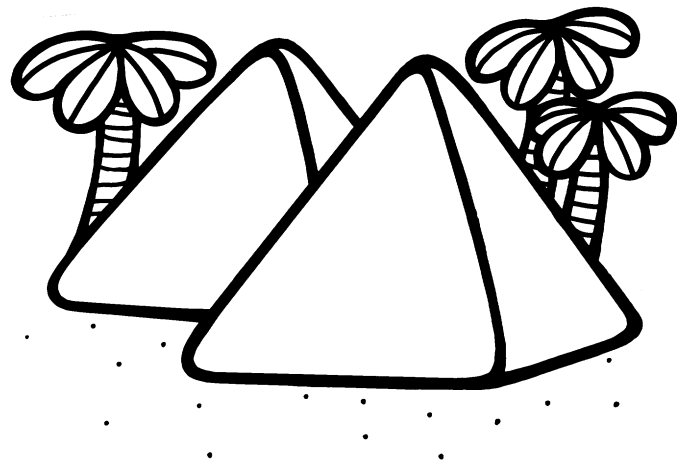
THURSDAY: Acts 7:9,10

FRIDAY: Isaiah 41:10

SATURDAY: Proverbs 3:5,6

Bible Text

Genesis 37:12-28

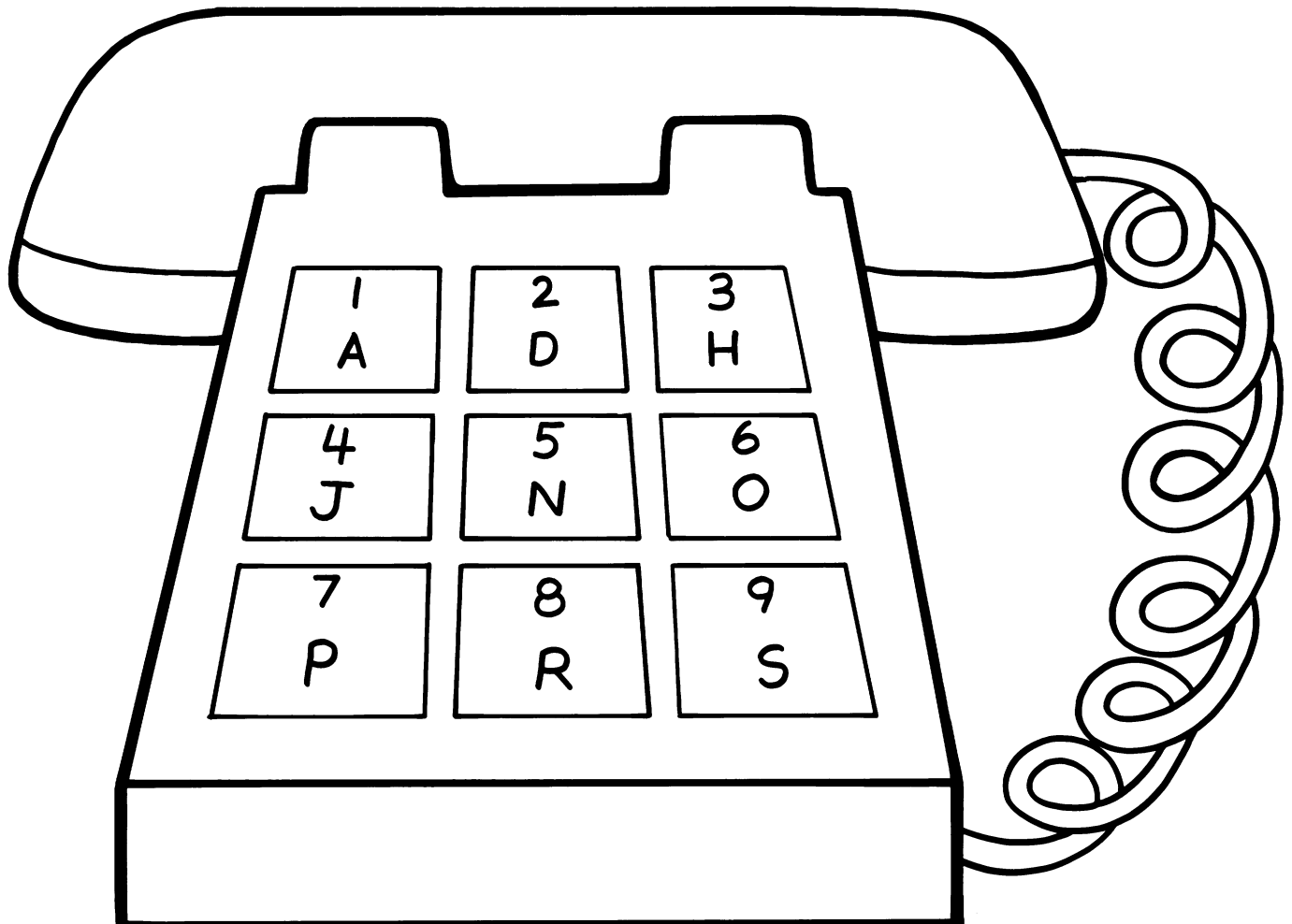


Memory Verse

The LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy. — Genesis 39:21

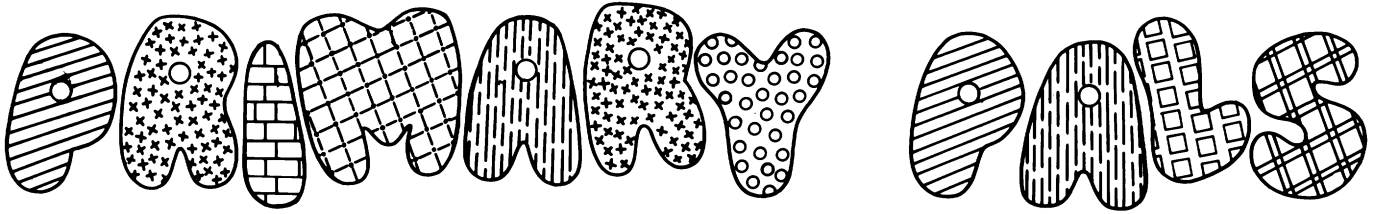
Why Did He Go?

Use the push-button phone code to find out why Joseph went to Egypt. Write the correct letters on the lines in the box below.



G	6	2	3	1	2	1	7	L	1	5
F	6	8	4	6	9	E	7	3		

Name: _____



Trouble for Joseph

Not everyone was happy to see the pyramids of Egypt as they came into view. Joseph was now far away from his home. He knew that when they reached the marketplaces in Egypt he would be sold as a slave. Sadness filled his heart when he thought about what his brothers had done to him. Oh, how they must have hated him to sell their very own brother as a slave! He wondered what his father Jacob was feeling. He had loved Joseph as a favorite son. What story had his brothers told their father? Surely not the truth!

When they finally arrived in the land of Egypt, Joseph was sold as a

slave. The man who bought him was named Potiphar. Potiphar was a very important man. He was the captain of the guards for the king of Egypt. There was much work to be done and Potiphar needed a person to help him.

Joseph was a good helper for Potiphar. He was faithful and honest. Everything he did turned out well. Potiphar liked Joseph very much. He could see that God blessed Joseph, so he made him the head man in his home. Potiphar was very happy that he had bought Joseph.

Then troubles began. One day Potiphar's wife got upset with Joseph. She told some lies about him to

Potiphar to get Joseph into trouble. Potiphar believed his wife's story, and he became very angry with Joseph. He forgot all about what a good person Joseph was. Instead of listening to Joseph, he ordered him to be put into prison!

Joseph probably wondered why this had happened to him. But he knew God would take care of him. He hadn't done anything wrong. He had been a faithful servant and Potiphar should have believed him. But even though he was in prison he did not become mean and hateful. And even though he had been treated badly he still did what he knew was right. Joseph knew

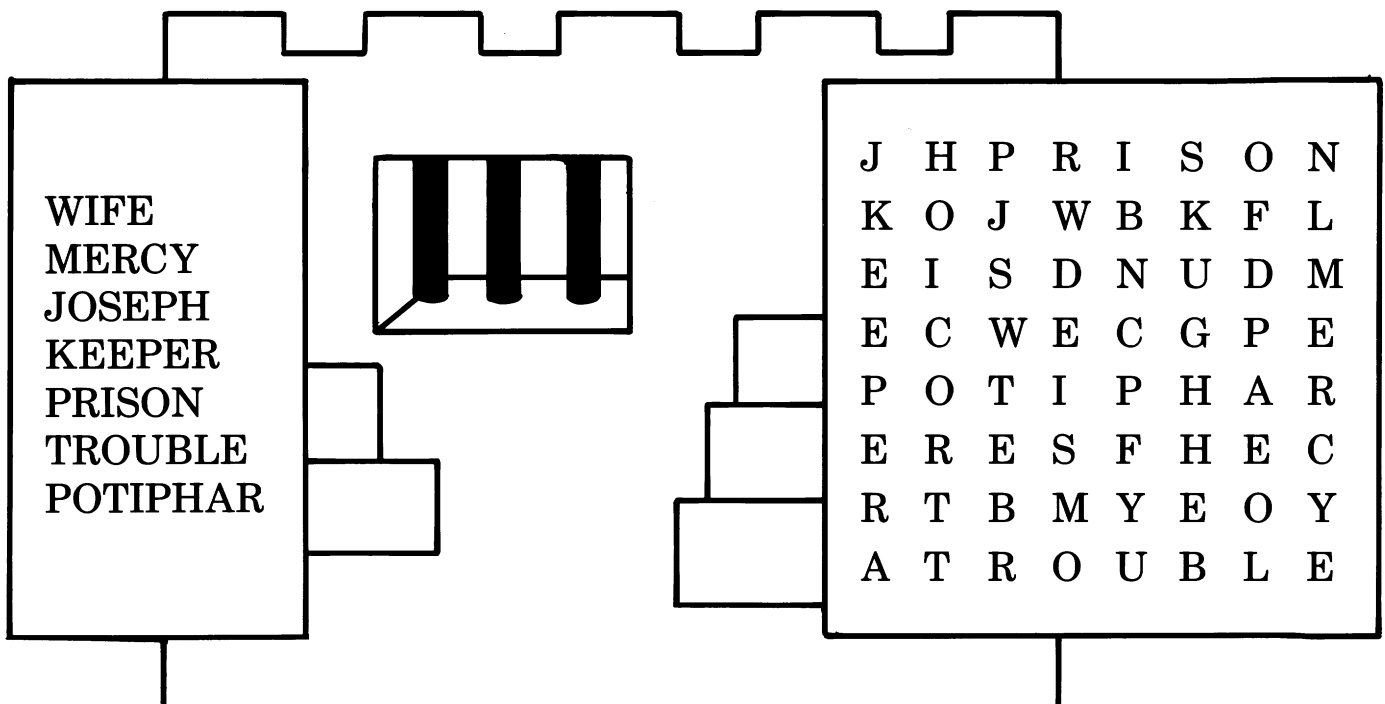
that God loved him and would always be with him.

While he was in prison, Joseph was good and helpful. The head jailer liked him and put him in charge of the other prisoners! They all did whatever Joseph told them to do. And everything they did turned out well. All of this happened because God was with Joseph.

Potiphar and his wife had tried to punish Joseph for something he didn't do. Sometimes Joseph must have wondered what would happen to him. But Joseph knew that God still loved him. He knew that God's plan was still working. God had not forgotten him. Someday Joseph would be free again.

In Prison

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle below.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

In this lesson, we find Joseph working in Potiphar's house in Egypt. Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph and caused him to be put into prison. The important point to focus on with your child is that God was always with Joseph, even in all of these troubles.

What we want your child to realize is that God loves us, too, and will always watch over us if our trust is in Him. To reinforce this thought, cut a large double heart from a folded sheet of construction paper. When the two are folded together they make one heart hinged on the left.

Have your child print his own name on the front heart. Inside help him paste a picture or sticker of Jesus. Underneath he may print the words, "Jesus Is Always With Me."

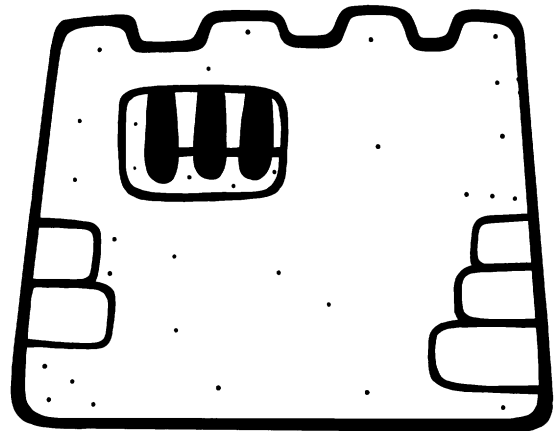
Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Isaiah 43:5
MONDAY: Psalm 91:15
TUESDAY: Isaiah 41:13
WEDNESDAY: James 1:12
THURSDAY: Psalm 57:3
FRIDAY: Psalm 89:24
SATURDAY: Matthew 5:11

Bible Text

Genesis 39:1-6,19-23



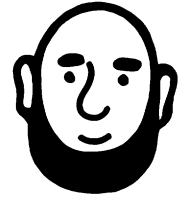
Memory Verse

Fear not: for I am with thee. — Isaiah 43:5

God Was with Joseph

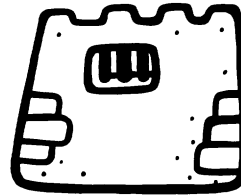
Read each question and draw a line to the picture that shows the correct answer.

To what country did the merchants take Joseph?



Potiphar

Who bought Joseph for a servant?



Prison

Who told a lie about Joseph?



Egypt

Where did they put Joseph for something he did not do?

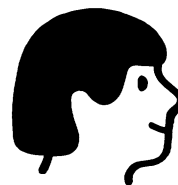


Potiphar's Wife

In whose sight did Joseph find favor?



Who was put in charge of all the prisoners?



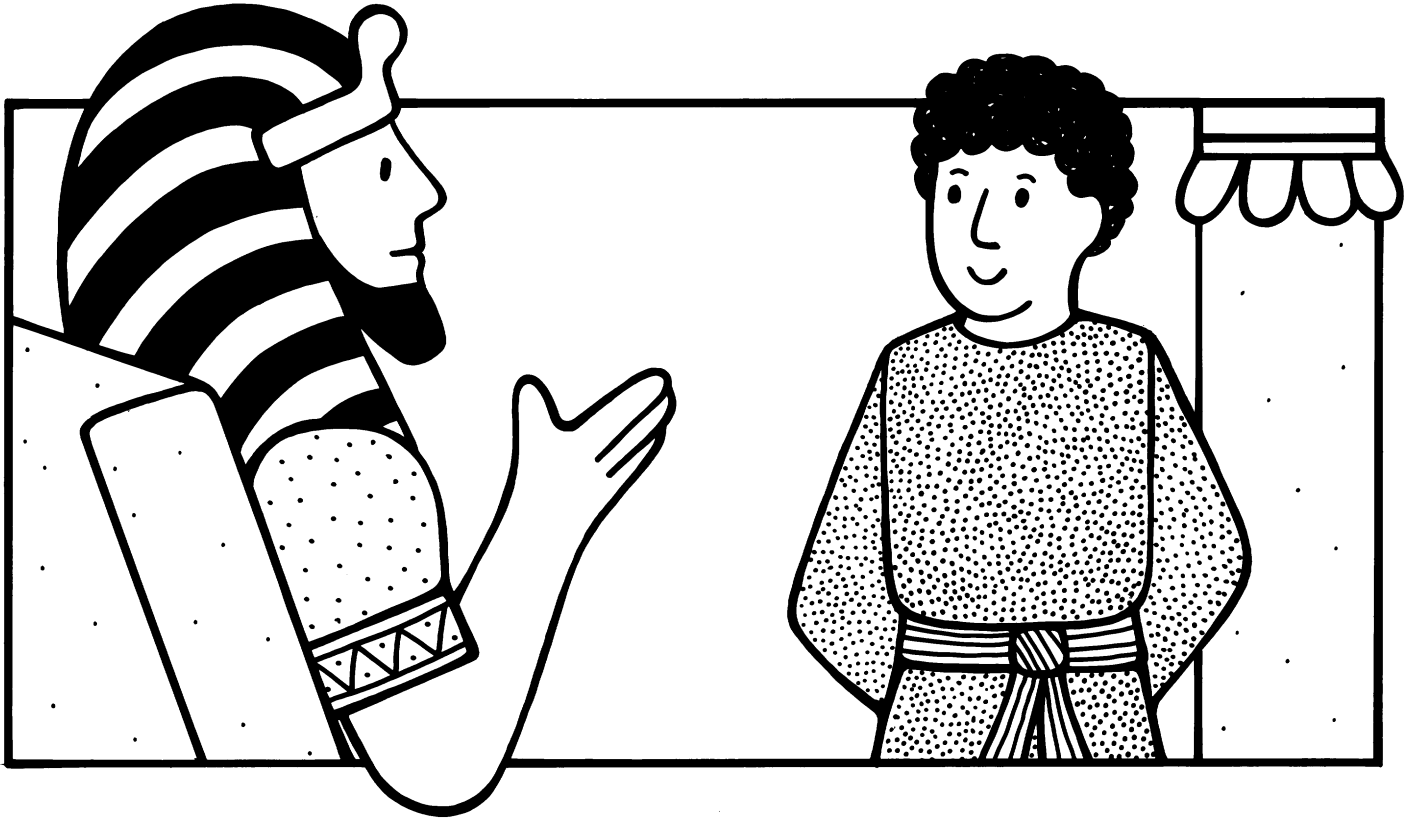
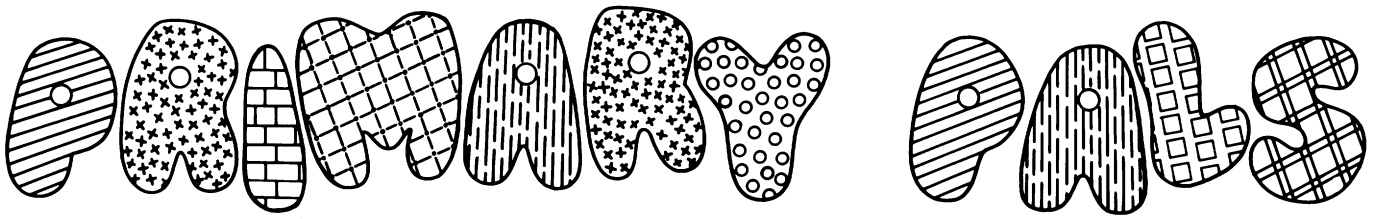
Prison Keeper

Who showed mercy to Joseph and caused all he did to prosper?



Joseph

Name: _____



A Dream Come True

“Joseph!” said the prison keeper. “The king wants to see you! News has reached him that you can tell the meanings of dreams.”

Quickly, Joseph was taken from the jail. He shaved and changed his clothes. Then he was taken to see the king.

“I had a dream,” the king said to Joseph. “But no one is able to tell me what it means. Then someone said that you are able to tell the meanings of dreams. I want you to tell me about my dream,” the king urged.

Joseph said, “I am not the one who knows the meanings of dreams. It is

God who will give me the answer to tell you.”

So, the king told Joseph all about his dream. And God did give Joseph the answer!

“For the next seven years there will be plenty of food to eat in Egypt,” Joseph said to the king. “But then there will be seven more years when none of the crops will grow.” Joseph told the king to find a man who was very wise and give him charge over all of Egypt. This man would have the people of Egypt gather food during the first seven years. That food would be put into storage. Then there would be

food for all the people of Egypt during the years when no crops would grow.

The king was pleased with Joseph's answer. He thought that was a very good idea. He said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all of this, you must be the wisest man in Egypt. I will appoint you to rule over my house and my people."

Joseph was a good ruler. He planned ahead for the seven hard years. When that time finally came, many people traveled to Egypt for food.

One day a group of men came to Joseph to ask for food. They were Joseph's brothers! They didn't know that he was the brother they had sold to be a slave many years before. They bowed down in front of him. Joseph knew this was his very own dreams

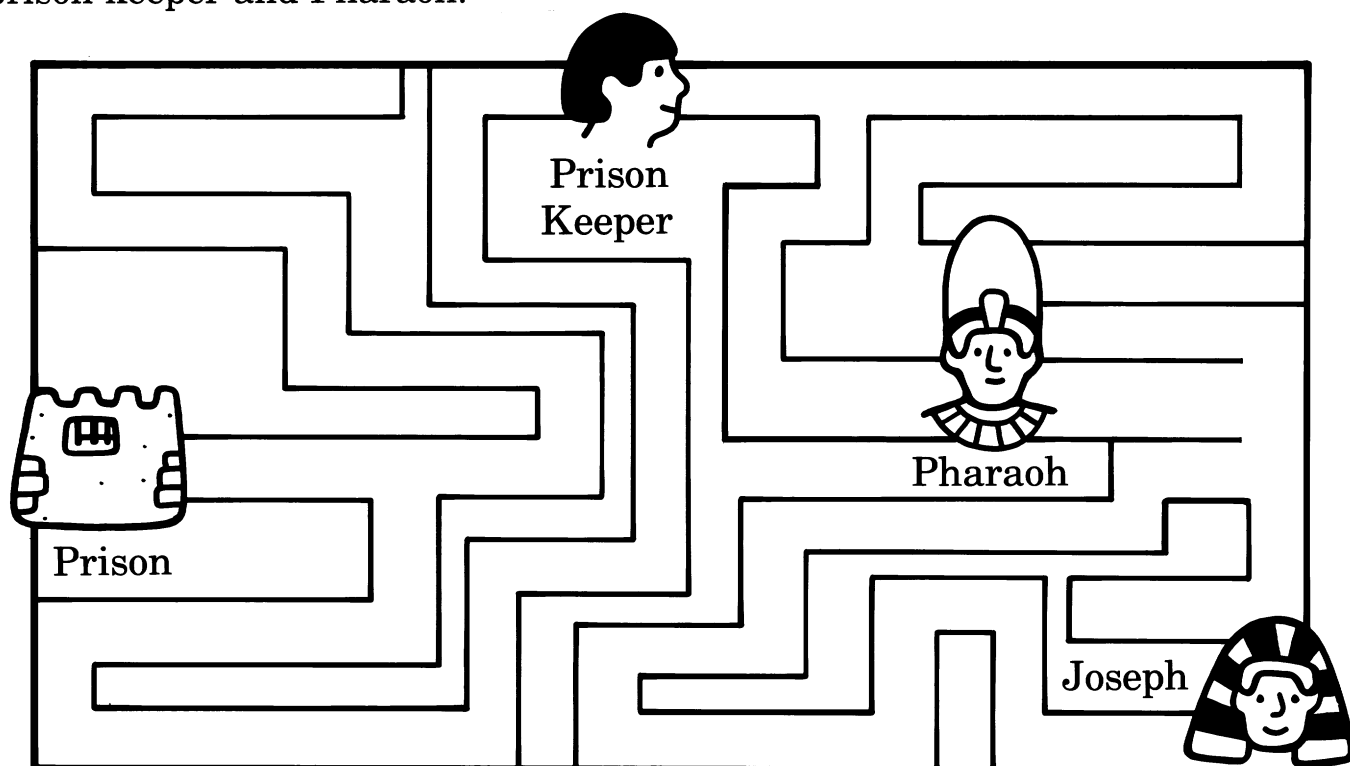
coming true. This was just like the dreams he had dreamed as a boy.

He gave his brothers the food they asked for, but he didn't tell them he was their brother Joseph. He waited until they came to Egypt a second time and brought their younger brother with them. Then he told them who he really was. At first they were afraid he would punish them. But Joseph told them that it had been God's plan for him to be sent to Egypt. God did that so their lives would be saved. Joseph's father and all his family were invited to live in Egypt.

God's plan for Joseph had come to pass. Joseph, who had been sold as a slave and made a prisoner, was now ruler over Egypt! How wonderfully God's plan had worked out!

God Planned It

Help Joseph find his way from prison to ruler of Egypt. He must first pass the prison keeper and Pharaoh.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This lesson shows how God brought Joseph through his troubles. In our text, we find how his God-given ability to interpret dreams caused him to be released from prison and established as ruler in Egypt. In being reunited with his family, we can see the fulfillment of Joseph's dreams.

To represent Joseph's position, help your child make a crown. Measure his head and cut a strip of paper that length, plus an inch or two so it can be taped together. The crown can be cut from gold paper or it can be colored with crayons. Scraps of foil can be cut into "jewels" and glued on. Sequins, beads, bits of lace, or other trim can be added. Help your child see that this end result in Joseph's life was also part of God's plan for him.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Genesis 41:41

MONDAY: Psalm 91:14

TUESDAY: I Samuel 2:7

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 58:14

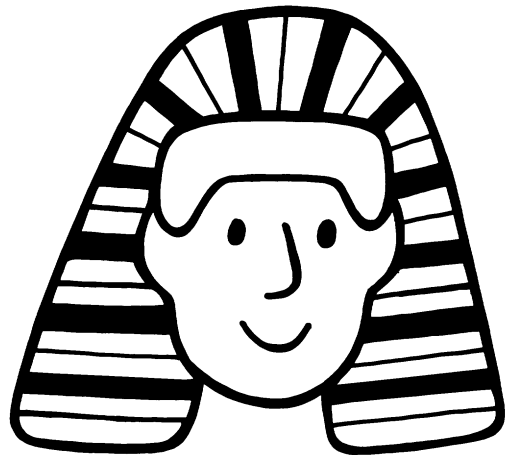
THURSDAY: Psalm 105:17-21

FRIDAY: Matthew 25:23

SATURDAY: Psalm 75:6,7

Bible Text

Genesis 41:14-16,28-43;
42:5,6; 45:4,7,8

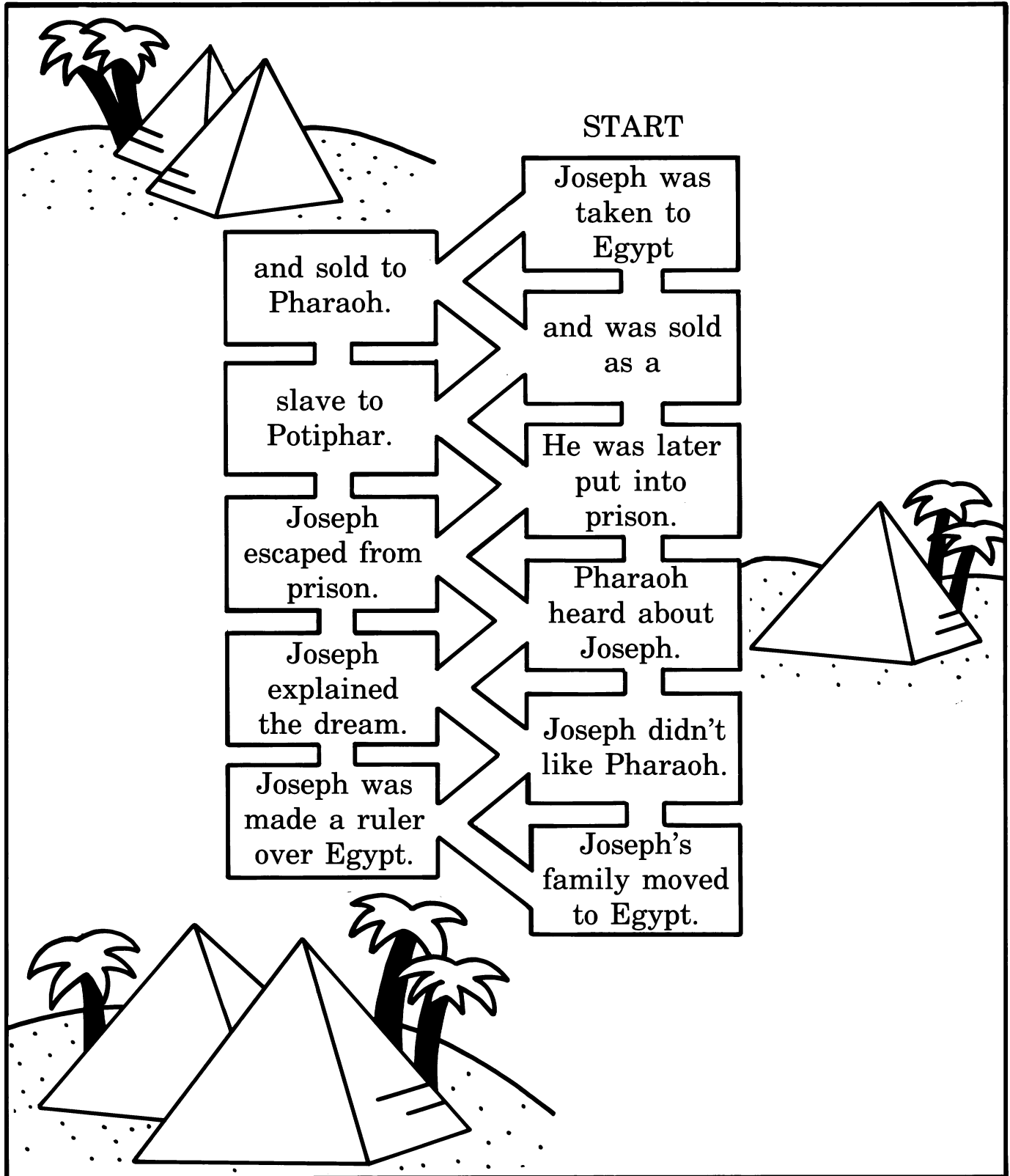


Memory Verse

See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. — Genesis 41:41

God's Plan Worked!

Begin at START and choose the right path to help Joseph complete his journey.



Name: _____