**Sunday School from Home**

**October 11, 2020**

This week we read the conclusion to the story of Joseph in Egypt, in which Joseph is reunited with his family.

* Read the story in Genesis, chapters 42 through 46. This is a longer narrative, so for younger children you may want to read it ahead of time and paraphrase it. Consider telling the story by using dolls or stuffed animals to act out the story.
* A video that helps to summarize the story can be found [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZDqDaN58s0)
* Have your child cut out and decorate the attached picture of Joseph. Then tape it to a craft stick or a pencil to make it into a puppet. Point out that Joseph is wearing Egyptian clothing consistent with his position with Pharaoh. This would have been quite different from the clothing of shepherds like his family wore, and might be part of the reason his brothers did not recognize him.
* Use the puppet and other dolls or toys you have at home to encourage children to reenact the story so that you can assess their understanding. You can also use the attached script.
* A staple food in Egypt and Canaan was wheat. One advantage of wheat over other foods such as vegetables and meat was that it could be stored for future use. Meats and vegetables could not be canned or frozen like we can do today. The people had little to eat during the years of famine, but the wheat would keep them from starving to death. For older kids, research online the areas/climates around the world where wheat is grown, and what it is used to make besides bread as we know it.
* Use some wheat (real or artificial – this time of year artificial wheat can be found at craft stores) to explore painting with a different texture. Dip the wheat into some paint and gently dab it onto paper. See what different patterns you can create.
* Joseph had reason to be angry with his brothers after what they did to him, but he chose to forgive them and invited them to live with him in Egypt so they would never be hungry. Perhaps Joseph also realized how arrogant he had been towards his brothers, which contributed to their jealousy. Use a balloon to demonstrate how anger can build up inside of us. Ask your children to name a time someone made them angry – for each example, blow a little more air into the balloon. Continue to take turns giving examples until the balloon is filled with air. Ask the children to imagine having all that air pressure inside of themselves, the way we often do when we are angry. Next, ask for examples of times when we forgave others or when we asked for forgiveness for our own wrongdoings. For each example, let out a little more air from the balloon until all the air has been released. Compare the feeling of all the air pressure being released to the feeling of pressure building up inside of us. Which one feels better? Why does God want us to forgive others who have hurt us? What other Bible stories demonstrate the importance of forgiveness?
* For older kids and adults, note that the twelve sons of Jacob become the leaders of the twelve tribes of Israel. These tribes are referred to frequently throughout the Bible so it is helpful to know from where they originate. Use a map in your Bible or online tools to discover the location of the lands each tribe inherited, and when they inherited them. One tribe had a very different role – find out which one it was and what special job they inherited.

