

WEEK 9: GOD CONTINUED TO WORK IN THE FAMILY OF JACOB
DAY 1: JOSEPH SHOWED LOVE AND KINDNESS TO HIS BROTHERS

Genesis 43:1-34

1. Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus. This week we will be seeing how Joseph, the man of God, treated his family. We will see how God continued His work in the family of Jacob.

In Joseph's life, how did God show that He does repay those who do evil?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Joseph's brothers bowed down to him. They asked Joseph for help. This first happened when Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy grain. But soon Jacob's family needed more grain. The famine was very hard in Canaan. So Jacob's sons had to go a second time for food. This time they went with Benjamin. Today we will see what Joseph showed to his brothers when they returned to Egypt with Benjamin.

Joseph showed them: (1) Love

(2) Kindness

Do you think it was easy for Jacob's sons to return to Egypt? _____

3. This must have been very hard. On the first visit only ten of the brothers went to Egypt. Benjamin stayed at home. Joseph's mother, Rachel, bore only two children, Joseph and Benjamin. On the first visit to Egypt Joseph tested his brothers.

Genesis 42:19-20:

If you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain in our prison, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, and bring your youngest brother to me; so your words will be verified (or shown to be true), and you shall not die.

Joseph kept Simeon in prison while nine brothers went home to Canaan. Whom did Joseph say they must bring with them when they returned to Egypt? _____

4. Joseph said that the youngest brother must come with them. If they did not bring Benjamin they would not get food. When old Jacob heard this he was sad and afraid. For many days he would not let Benjamin go. But Judah promised his father that he would care for Benjamin. Jacob agreed for him to go. Jacob prepared a present for his sons to take to the ruler in Egypt.

Genesis 43:15:

So the men took the present, and they took double the money with them, and Benjamin; and they arose and went down to Egypt, and stood before Joseph.

On this second visit to Egypt, who stood before Joseph? _____

5. Benjamin and nine other brothers stood before Joseph. Simeon had stayed in prison in Egypt. Joseph's brothers had showed hatred to him. They had been very cruel to him.

Read about the second visit to Egypt in Genesis 43:16 to 17. Who were treated with love and kindness by Joseph?

6. Joseph showed love and kindness to his brothers. Because of his love he did not keep thinking of all they had done to him. Joseph told his servant to kill an animal. He wanted to eat together with them. Joseph told his servant to care for these visitors from Canaan.

Here in Africa, visitors are welcomed with kindness in our homes. This is a good custom.

Now read Genesis 43:24 to 34. Were Joseph's brothers received with kindness in his home?

7. After a long, hot, dusty journey the cool water was good. Joseph's brothers were about to wash. They were ready to eat with the great ruler. Joseph's helper welcomed them kindly. He also cared for their donkeys by giving them food and water. The helper was kind to Joseph's brothers. They were not Egyptians. They were not important men.

What did Joseph's steward show to Joseph's brothers?

8. He showed them kindness. He also brought them their brother, Simeon. The brothers did not know why they had been invited to eat with Joseph. They were afraid. They remembered the money which had been returned in their bags.

Joseph arrived and greeted his brothers. He asked about their lives. He asked about their families and homes. He asked news of their old father. Joseph did not think how badly he had been treated.

By asking the news of Jacob's family, what did Joseph show to his brothers?

9. Joseph showed love. Joseph had the chance to show hatred to those who had shown him hatred. Hatred plans to bring evil and harm to others. Joseph was a great man with great power. When a man becomes great, he is often tempted to use his power in the wrong way. Joseph, the man of God, did not do this. Earlier he had told his brothers.

Genesis 42:18:

I fear God.

From this verse, why did Joseph show love and kindness to his brothers?

10. Joseph was a man of God. He wanted to please God. Joseph feared God. All these answers are right. Joseph was very pleased to see Benjamin. His first words were a prayer to God for this brother. Joseph was moved by deep love and went into his room and wept. Men do not often weep. But Joseph, the great ruler, was weeping. He had wept when his brothers came to Egypt the first time.

By weeping, what did Joseph show? _____

11. This showed his great love towards his brothers, especially Benjamin. But the men still did not know that Joseph was their brother. After Joseph washed his face they all sat down to a great feast. Joseph's brothers were surprised to find that they were seated in order, the oldest to the youngest. Preparing a meal and eating with others is another way we show love and kindness. Joseph sent food from his table to each of his brothers.

By making a feast and eating with them, what did Joseph show to his brothers?

(1) Love (2) _____

12. Joseph showed his kindness in different ways. He welcomed them. They and their donkeys were cared for. Joseph asked news of the family. He ate with them. What did Joseph show towards his brothers when they returned with Benjamin to Egypt?

(1) _____ (2) _____

13. Joseph showed them love and kindness.

Late one day we were on a long journey by car on a rough road. The rain began, and it was hard to see. There was mud everywhere and it began to get dark. We decided to sleep in the car at a little village. After a time a man and his wife came to greet us. They did not know us, but they loved the Lord Jesus. They took us to their home. They gave us warm water to wash our hands and gave us food. They talked and shared with us.

What did these two Christians show to strangers in trouble? _____

14. They showed us much kindness. Through their kindness they also showed love to strangers. But Joseph showed love and kindness to those who caused him much sorrow.

Kimaiyo is a pastor of a church. In his church there is division between the Christians. The division is between the tribes. One group says Kimaiyo loves one tribe more than the other. But Kimaiyo is happy with them all. He visits all of them. He receives all of them into his home. He tries to help each one. He tries to help them repent of their tribal feelings and find oneness in Jesus.

What does Kimaiyo show to all the people in his church?

(1) _____ (2) _____

15. This leader shows love and kindness to all. He shows this to those who trouble him and tell lies about him. Joseph showed love and kindness to his brothers. In one way they were his enemies. This is not easy. Read the words of Jesus to us.

Luke 6:27:

But I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.

From this verse, what does Jesus want you to do to your enemies to show your love?

What does God want a leader to do to those who bring trouble in his church?

16. We will talk about these things in class. We will also talk about these words of Paul.

1 Corinthians 13:4:

Love is patient and kind.

What did Joseph show towards his brothers when they returned with Benjamin to Egypt?

(1) _____ (2) _____

WEEK 9: GOD CONTINUED TO WORK IN THE FAMILY OF JACOB
DAY 2: JOSEPH TESTED HIS BROTHERS TO HELP THEM

Genesis 44:1-34

1. What did Joseph show towards his brothers when they returned with Benjamin to Egypt? (1) _____ (2) _____

2. Joseph showed love and kindness to his brothers. But because Joseph loved his brothers, he tested them. Today we will learn why Joseph tested his brothers:

(1) To help them.

(2) To see if they had changed.

Some of you have bicycles. Many times I have seen people mending punctures. After mending the tube, a man sometimes puts a little air in the tube. Then he puts the tube in water. In this way he can see if it is well mended.

By putting the tube in water, what does the man do to it? _____

3. He tests the tube. The test shows if the tube is well mended, or if it still has a hole. A man tests a car after it has been repaired. A woman tests potatoes with a knife to see if they are cooked. People also can be tested. Their lives can be tested in different ways. Joseph tested his brothers when they came to Egypt. He wanted to help them and to see if they had changed.

What kind of men had Joseph's brothers been?

4. There are many answers: Bad men, Cruel men. Men who lied. Men who were jealous. Men full of hatred. Men who sold their brother and deceived their father.

For 21 years Joseph did not see his brothers. On their first visit to Egypt, Joseph spoke roughly to them. It seemed as if he was being hard. But this was not so. In love, Joseph tested his brothers with these words:

Genesis 42:14:

It is as I said to you, you are spies.

When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt, what did he do to them to see if they had changed? _____

5. Joseph tested his brothers. They said they were not spies. They said they were honest men who had come to buy grain. Joseph then told them how their words would be tested to see if they were true.

Genesis 42:15-16:

By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain in prison, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you.

Why did Joseph's brothers have to bring Benjamin back to Egypt? _____

6. This would show that their words were true. Joseph put them all in prison for three days. Then he said that one brother must stay in prison. The others would go home to get Benjamin. Joseph's brothers were troubled. They talked together about why they were in this trouble.

Genesis 42:21-22:

Then they said to one another, "In truth we are guilty concerning our brother (Joseph), in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he besought us and we would not listen; therefore is this distress come upon us." And Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the lad? But you would not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood."

Who was helping his brothers by testing them? _____

7. Joseph was testing his brothers. Even though it was 21 years before, they remembered what they had done to Joseph. They said, "We are guilty." They were still carrying a big burden of guilt. Sin that is not confessed can be a long time in the past, but it can never be forgotten.

What did Joseph do which helped his brothers remember the evil they had done?

8. He tested them. They remembered what they had done to Joseph. Joseph knew that his brothers needed to confess their sin. Only then would they have peace. Only then would they be free of the big burden of guilt. There is no way to be free from guilt unless we confess our sins.

In your life, have you found it a great help to be free from guilt? _____

9. Let us talk about this in class. One of the great joys of being a child of God is to know peace. Peace comes when we do not have to carry a burden of guilt. Joseph knew that his brothers needed this peace too. For many years their sin had been hidden. All that time they had carried the burden of guilt for what they had done. Joseph wanted to help them in this matter.

Write the first reason why Joseph tested his brothers.

- (1) _____
(2) To see if they had changed.

10. Joseph tested his brothers to help them. He also wanted to see if they had changed. On their first visit to Egypt, Joseph had each man's money put back in his bag of grain. The brothers began their journey home. When they stopped, one brother went to give his donkey some food. He opened his bag and said:

Genesis 42:28:

"My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!" At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"

From this verse, whom did Joseph's brothers begin to think about? _____

11. They began to think about God. Joseph's brothers went home and told their father what had happened. All were afraid. They told Jacob that they must take Benjamin to Egypt. Judah promised to care for Benjamin, so Benjamin went with them.

Back in Egypt, Joseph's brothers talked to Joseph's helper. They told the truth about the money in their sacks. They wanted to give back the money. When Joseph heard this, I am sure he was glad. He saw a big change in his brothers. The test showed that his brothers told the truth.

By telling the truth about the money, what did the brothers show about their lives?

12. Joseph's test showed that his brothers had changed. This is the second reason why Joseph tested them. He wanted to see if they had changed. Joseph was planning an even greater test for his brothers.

Read Genesis 44:1 to 13. Was this a very hard test for Joseph's brothers? _____

13. What a hard test this was! Joseph's brothers agreed to look for the cup. If the cup was found in anyone's bag, that one would be a slave. The cup was found in Benjamin's bag. The others could go free. The brothers had the chance to save themselves. But they did not leave Benjamin.

They tore their clothes -- a sign of great sorrow. They all went back to the city. These men had been hard and cruel. But now they showed that they loved and cared for Benjamin.

What could Joseph see in the lives of his brothers? _____

14. Joseph could see that his brothers had changed. This testing was not easy for them. Often testing is very hard. Sometimes God tests us. When He does, we are sometimes like Joseph's brothers. We are troubled and worried. Read what they said.

Genesis 44:16:

God has found out the guilt of your servants; behold we are my lord's slaves, both we and he also in whose hand the cup has been found.

What was the second reason why Joseph tested his brothers.

(1) To help them.

(2) _____

15. Joseph tested his brothers to help them and to see if they had changed. Back in the city, Judah talked to Joseph. It was Judah who had told his brothers to sell Joseph. Now Judah told Joseph of his promise to care for Benjamin. Judah said that Jacob would die if Benjamin did not go home. Now read these good words of Judah.

Genesis 44:33:

Now therefore, let your servant, I pray you, remain instead of the lad as a slave to my lord; and let the lad go back with his brothers.

By this test what could Joseph see in Judah's life? _____

16. Judah had changed. He wanted to keep his promise to his father. Judah had helped to make Joseph a slave. Now Judah asked to be Joseph's slave in place of Benjamin. Instead of being hard and cruel, Judah was now faithful, kind and loving.

Why did Joseph test his brothers?

(1) _____

(2) _____

17. Joseph tested his brothers to help them and to see if they had changed. After this, Joseph was willing to tell them who he was. He could show them that he had forgiven them. We will read about this tomorrow.

Look carefully at this promise of God.

James 1:12:

Blessed is the man who endures trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life which God has promised to those who love him.

How has God tested you in your life? _____

Have you found that God's testing helps you? _____

18. Be ready to share these things in class.

Why did Joseph test his brothers?

(1) _____

(2) _____

WEEK 9: GOD CONTINUED TO WORK IN THE FAMILY OF JACOB
DAY 3: JOSEPH BELIEVED THAT GOD WAS IN CONTROL OF HIS LIFE

Genesis 45:1-28

1. Why did Joseph test his brothers?

(1) _____

(2) _____

2. Joseph tested his brothers to help them. He also did this to see if they had changed.

Today we will learn the great truth Joseph believed about his life.

(1) He believed that God was in control of his life.

(2) Because Joseph believed this, he was able to forgive his brothers.

To control something is to make it do as you plan. The driver of a train or tractor controls it. The driver of an ox team controls it. A teacher controls the children in his classroom.

What did Joseph believe God was in control of? _____

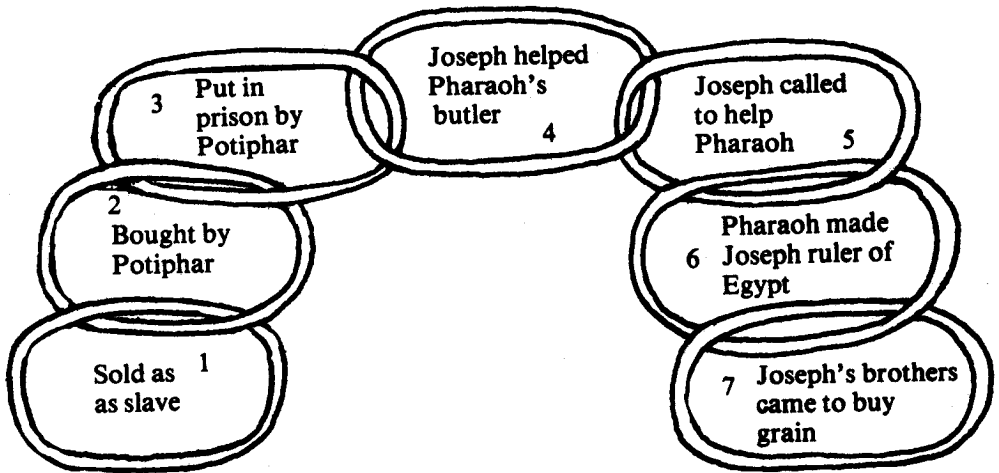
3. As Joseph looked back in his life, he could see that God was in control of it. God was working out His plan in Joseph's life.

When he was a slave, God made him prosper in Potiphar's house. When he was in prison, the Lord made the keeper like him. He learned many things to help him later when he was ruler in Egypt. God helped Joseph tell Pharaoh's butler the meaning of his dream. Because of this Joseph was called to help Pharaoh. Pharaoh then made Joseph ruler in Egypt.

Men did things, but God was in control. God used the things men did to work out His plan.

Of whose life was God in control? _____

4. God was in control of Joseph's life. In some ways Joseph's life was like a chain with many parts. Each part joined up with the next. But it was God who put the parts together.



In Egypt, Joseph's life had been hard. But Joseph believed that God was in control of his life.

What do you think this control of God brought to his life? _____

5. I hope you wrote what you think before going on. Maybe you said it brought peace, comfort, or hope to Joseph. Maybe you said that Joseph did not have to worry about the future. Believing that God was in control of his life brought blessings. One of the blessings was that Joseph was able to forgive his brothers.

Read Genes: 15:1 to 11. Keep your Bible open until the end of the lesson.

6. At last Joseph was able to tell his brothers who he was. They could not even speak. They were afraid. But Joseph called his brothers to him. He talked with them.

Read Genesis 45:5 again. Whom did Joseph believe had sent him to Egypt to save life? _____

7. These are wonderful words of Joseph: "You sold me ... God sent me." The big thing for Joseph was that God had sent him. So Joseph shared with his brothers a great truth. It was the truth he believed about his life -- that God was in control.

Read Genesis 45:5 to 8 again. How many times in these verses did Joseph say that God sent him to Egypt? _____

8. Did you count three times? In verses 5, 7 and 8, Joseph told his brothers that God sent him to Egypt. In verse 7, Joseph told them why God had sent him. God wanted to use Joseph to save lives.

Some of you have studied the book "Looking at the Old Testament, Part 1." You remember that God sent Joseph to Egypt to save life. God wanted to save Jacob's family. This was important in God's plan. He planned to bring blessing to all the earth through Jacob's family.

Who did Joseph believe was in control of his life? _____

9. He believed that God was in control. Joseph could see how God worked. He could also see why God worked.

So often we can only see the things that men do. We cannot see what God is doing. This is especially true when there are hard things in our lives. But Joseph could see all that God had done.

What great truth did Joseph believe about his life? _____

10. Joseph believed that God was in control of his life. The first words he had for his father were about God. Joseph sent this message to his father: "God has made me lord of all Egypt." So Joseph shared with his father what he believed. God was in control of his life.

In Africa today, many people believe that ancestors or spirits are in control of their lives. What do you think this brings to their lives?

Other people, especially young people, believe that no one is in control of their lives. What do you think this brings to them?

11. Be ready to talk about your answers in class.

Daniel 2:21:

God ... changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings.

Daniel 4:17:

The most High rules the kingdom of men.

Psalms 31:14-15:

But I trust in thee, O Lord, I say, "Thou art my God." My times are in thy hand.

The Bible teaches that God is in control. Some Christians know this truth. But they do not truly believe it. They worry about the future. They are afraid of all the changes about them.

There is a difference between knowing something and really believing it. Which is more important -- to know a great truth, or to believe it? _____

12. It is more important to believe. Blessing comes through believing. When we believe a truth it bears fruit in our lives.

Why could Joseph say that it was not his brothers who had sent him, but God?

13. Joseph did not only know this great truth. He believed that God was in control of his life. Believing this great truth brought blessing to Joseph and to his brothers. Joseph was able to forgive them for all they had done.

Read Genesis 45:4 to 5 again. Did Joseph accuse and blame his brothers? _____

14. Joseph wept. He called his brothers to him. He did not accuse or blame them. He was not angry with them. He did not remind them of all their cruel words and deeds. In these ways Joseph showed that he was able to forgive them.

Joseph believed that God was in control of his life. This is why he could say, "It is not you who sent me, but God." So Joseph did not need to repay them. Joseph held no anger for all the evil they had done to him.

Instead of accusing and blaming his brothers, what did Joseph do? _____

15. Joseph forgave them. He was able to forgive those who had done him so much evil. Forgiveness is a great blessing. Forgiveness brings peace, healing and oneness. The person who forgives is blessed. Those forgiven are blessed.

Genesis 45:15:

And he (Joseph) kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Whom did Joseph forgive? _____

16. He did this to his brothers. Sometimes it is very hard to forgive another person. This is hard if we keep on thinking of all the evil done. It is very hard if we keep on thinking of the way we have been hurt.

Joseph did not keep on thinking of what his brothers had done. He did not think of the hurt in his life. Joseph kept thinking of God and His ways. Joseph believed a great truth about his life.

Because Joseph believed that God was in control of his life, what was he able to do to his brothers? _____

17. Joseph was able to forgive his brothers.

Do you believe that God is in control of your life? _____

What blessings have you seen in your life because you believe this? _____

18. We will share these things in class.

What great truth did Joseph believe about his life? _____

Because Joseph believed this great truth, what was he able to do to his brothers?

WEEK 9: GOD CONTINUED TO WORK IN THE FAMILY OF JACOB

DAY 4: JACOB WAS HELPED TO KNOW GOD'S WILL

Genesis 46:1-34

1. What great truth did Joseph believe about his life? _____

Because he believed this, what was he able to do to his brothers? _____

2. Joseph believed that God was in control of his life. Because of this he was able to forgive his brothers. In today's lesson we will not be thinking of Joseph. We will think about his father, Jacob.

When Jacob's sons went home to Canaan, Jacob heard that Joseph was alive. Joseph was in Egypt. He wanted his father to come to him. Today we will learn three things that helped Jacob know God's will about going to Egypt.

- (1) The things happening in his life. (2) Jacob's own desire. (3) God's Word.

What land had God promised to give to Jacob and his descendants?

3. He had promised him the land of Canaan. Now Jacob had to decide whether to go to Egypt or stay in Canaan. Pharaoh and Joseph both sent a message to Jacob. They said that Jacob and all his family should go to Egypt. But years before, God had spoken to Jacob at Bethel. God had promised to give to Jacob and his family the land of Canaan. Jacob had to decide what to do. Jacob had a big decision to make.

What big decision did Jacob have to make? _____

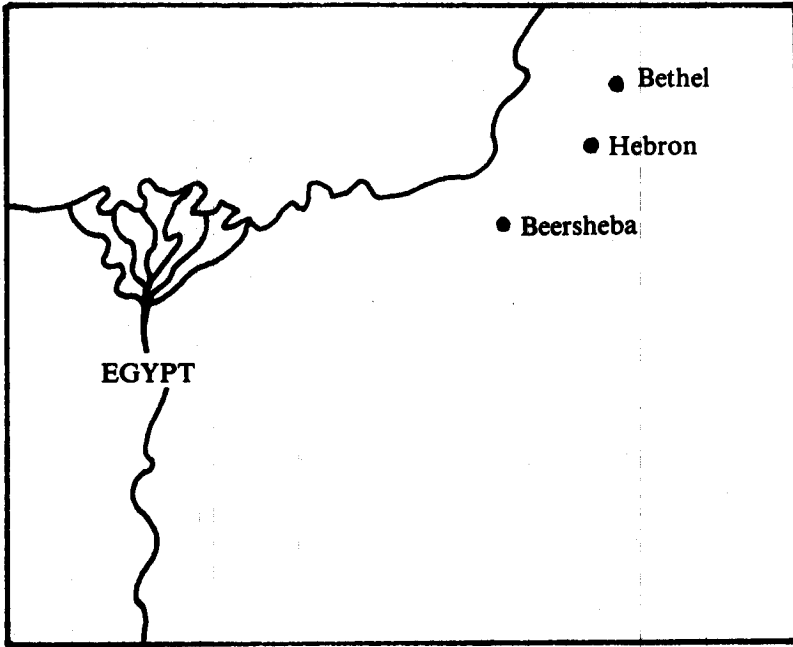
4. Jacob had to decide if he should go to Egypt, or if he should stay in Canaan. Jacob did not want to disobey God. Jacob wanted to know God's will. He wanted to know God's plan in this matter.

Often we have to make big decisions in our lives. They are decisions like: the right person to marry, matters about our work, and where we should live. We must decide matters about our money and matters about our children. All of these are big decisions. They change our lives very much. As Christians we want to follow God's will. We want His plan for our lives.

Do you always find it easy to know God's will? _____

5. Sometimes it is easy to know what you ought to do. But sometimes it is very hard to know God's will. It was hard for Jacob to know if he should go to Egypt. It was hard to know if God wanted him to leave Canaan at this time.

Look at the map. (1) Draw a line under Hebron. This is the place where Jacob lived in Canaan.



(2) Now draw a circle around EGYPT like this: **EGYPT**

Egypt was the land where Joseph was. Later in this lesson we will read how Jacob worshipped the Lord of Beersheba.

6. Jacob needed to know God's will about going to Egypt. Three things helped him to know God's will. The first was: The things happening in his life. Think about the things happening in Canaan at this time. For two years there had been famine. There was no rain. Jacob and his family had large herds of cattle, sheep, and goats. There was little grass and water for the animals. Jacob's sons had to make long hard journeys to Egypt to buy food.

At this time what kind of things were happening in Jacob's life? Were they hard things, or easy things?

7. They were hard things. Jacob needed help. When Pharaoh heard that Joseph's brothers had come, he sent them a message.

Genesis 45:17, 18, 20:

Do this: load your beasts and go back to the land of Canaan; and take your father and your households, and come to me, and I will give you the best of the land of Egypt, and you shall eat the fat of the land ... Give no thought to your goods, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.

If Jacob went to live in Egypt, what kind of things could happen to him there? _____

8. In Egypt, Pharaoh promised Jacob the best of the land. Good things could happen to him there. Pharaoh also promised to give them food. Life would be much easier in Egypt. God does not always lead us to take the easy way. But sometimes he opens the doors for us to do this.

Joseph sent his father ten donkeys loaded with good things. He also sent wagons for Jacob to use for his journey to Egypt. In the wagons, Joseph sent all that the family would need for their journey.

From the things which were happening in his life, did it seem right for Jacob to go to Egypt? _____

9. From the things happening in his life, it did seem right. There was famine in Canaan, but plenty in Egypt. Jacob had all that he needed for the journey. His family too would be cared for.

What was the first thing that helped Jacob know God's will about going to Egypt?

- (1) _____
- (2) Jacob's own desire.
- (3) God's Word.

10. The first way: The things happening in his life. We can find help in knowing God's will. We can look at the things happening in our lives. It was a wonderful day when Jacob heard that Joseph was alive! Then Jacob had a very strong desire. There was something he wanted to do very much.

Take your Bible now and read Genesis 45:25 to 28. When Jacob heard that Joseph was alive, what great desire did he have before he died? _____

11. Jacob wanted to go and see Joseph. Hearing that his son was alive brought new life and strength to the old man.

Because of his desire to see Joseph, where would Jacob have to go? _____

12. Jacob would have to go to Egypt. Sometimes God gives us a desire to do a certain thing. Many people think that God's will is always the thing they do not want to do. This is not true. God often gives us a desire for something that is part of His will. But we must be careful. Sometimes our desires are selfish and wrong.

What is the second thing that helped Jacob know God's will about going to Egypt?

(1) The things happening in his life.

(2) _____

(3) God's Word.

13. These two things in Jacob's life agreed. The things that were happening and Jacob's own desire agreed. But these two things are not enough to know God's will. There is a third big matter. God's Word must also agree.

Read Genesis 46:1 to 7. To whom did God speak His word by name? _____

14. You could write Jacob, or his other name, Israel. Jacob set out from Hebron with his family. He went about 50 kilometres to Beersheba, a place in Canaan. Jacob went there to offer sacrifices and to worship. Both Abraham and Isaac had also worshipped there. Jacob needed to talk with God. He was not sure if it was God's will for him to leave Canaan.

Before leaving Canaan what did Jacob seek to know about Egypt?

15. Jacob wanted to know God's will about going to Egypt. From the things that were happening, it seemed right to go. Jacob had a desire to go. But he needed to hear God's Word on the matter.

Genesis 46:2-3:

And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night, and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt; for I will there make of you a great nation."

God always wants to show His will to those who ask. God may not speak to us in visions as he did to Jacob. God told Jacob not to be afraid to go. God promised to be with him. He would bring him out again.

Read the verses again. What did Jacob hear that helped him to know God's will?

16. Jacob heard God's Word or God's voice. Jacob had no Bible to read. So God spoke to him in a vision. Today we have God's Word. It helps us know God's will for our lives. God's will always agrees with His Word.

Write the third thing that helped Jacob know God's will about going to Egypt.

(1) The things happening in his life.

(2) Jacob's own desire.

(3) _____

17. God's Word helped him to know God's will. When Jacob knew God's will, he set out on his long journey to Egypt. So there were three things that agreed together in Jacob's life. They helped him know God's will. These same three things can help you to know God's will.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

18. Did you write: The things happening in my life, my own desire, and God's word? God wants to guide us in all the matters of our lives. They can be big matters or little matters. It is a great blessing to seek God's will and follow it.

What do you do in your life? Do you seek God's will, or do you make your own plans and ask God to bless them? _____

What does your church do? Does it ask God's will, or does it make its own plans and then pray about them? _____

19. Be ready to talk about these things in class.

What three things helped Jacob to know God's will about going to Egypt?

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

WEEK 9: GOD CONTINUED TO WORK IN THE FAMILY OF JACOB

DAY 5: JOSEPH CARED FOR JACOB AND HIS FAMILY

Genesis 47:1-31

1. Write three things that helped Jacob to know God's will about going to Egypt.

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

2. The things which helped Jacob were: The things happening in his life, Jacob's own desire, and God's Word. When Jacob knew God's will, he set out on his journey. All his family went with him to Egypt. In Genesis 46 we read the names of all who went with Jacob. There were 70 of them.

Among the sons of Isaac, whose family was important in God's plan? _____

What did God want to bring to the world through Jacob's family?

3. God gives us the story of Jacob's family. This is because it was important in God's plan. God planned to bring blessing to all the world through this family. In today's lesson we will see how God continued His plan. We will learn of an important time for this family. The whole family left Canaan. They went to join Joseph in Egypt. Today we will learn:

Joseph cared for Jacob and his family in Egypt.

What great truth did Joseph believe about his life? _____

4. He believed that God was in control of his life. Now God would use him to help his family. Joseph went out to meet his father and all the rest. There was great joy as Jacob met with Joseph again. Joseph talked with the family about the future. He cared for the family by giving them this wise advice.

Genesis 46:33-34:

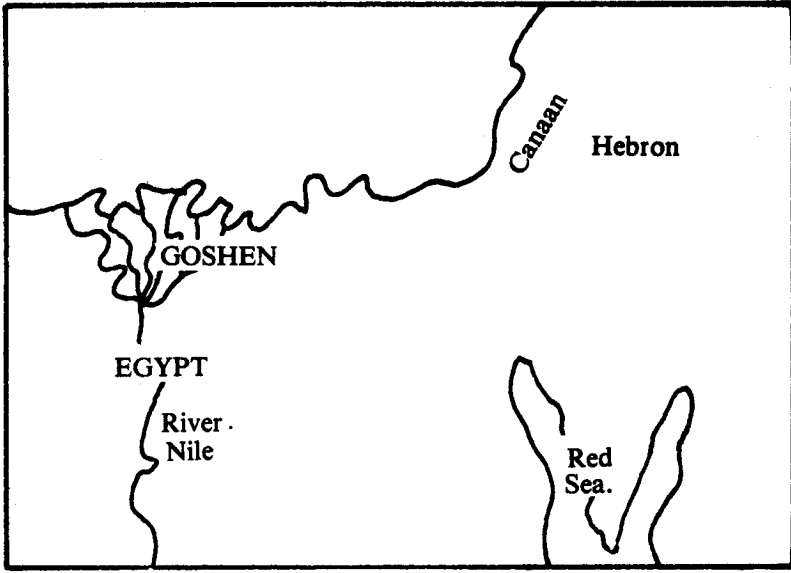
When Pharaoh calls you, and says, "What is your occupation (or work)?" you shall say, "Your servants have been keepers of cattle from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers," in order that you may dwell in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is an abomination (or a thing not liked) to the Egyptians.

Who planned for Jacob and his family to live in Goshen? _____

5. There were good reasons for Jacob and his family to settle in Goshen. Joseph had chosen well.

- (1) On the map, draw a circle around the part of Egypt which is called
- (2) Now draw a line under Hebron, where Jacob had lived in Canaan.

Goshen.



6. You see that Goshen is the part of Egypt nearest to Canaan. Goshen is on the eastern side of Egypt. Joseph knew that one day the family would go back to Canaan. That was the land God had promised to give them. From Goshen it would be easier to go back to Canaan. Joseph did not want Jacob's family to forget God's promises. He did not want the family to forget it had been chosen by God.

Who cared for Jacob and his family in Egypt? _____

7. Joseph cared for them. He knew that the place where a family lives is important. At that time not many Egyptians lived in Goshen. This was good because Joseph did not want the family to follow the ways of Egypt. He did not want Jacob's family to worship the gods of Egypt. Joseph did not want the family to forget the true God. So he chose Goshen for them, a place apart. There they could stay together. Joseph was caring for the spiritual life of Jacob's family.

By telling them what to say to Pharaoh and by choosing Goshen for them, what was Joseph doing for Jacob's family? _____

8. He was caring for them.

Read Genesis 47:1 to 12. Keep your Bible open until the end of the lesson.

9. Joseph took five of his brothers with him to talk to Pharaoh. The brothers did as Joseph told them to do. They asked Pharaoh if they could settle in Goshen. Joseph was careful that his family did not offend Pharaoh. Jacob's family were guests in Egypt. Joseph did not want his family to make the Egyptians angry by what they did.

Who was wise in his care of Jacob and his family? _____

10. Joseph, the man of God, showed much wisdom. He showed it in the way he cared for Jacob and his family.

Joseph took the head of the family to meet and greet Pharaoh. Jacob was only an old shepherd used to living in a tent. But Joseph was not ashamed to take him to meet Pharaoh in his great house. Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Then Jacob went to live in Goshen.

Whom did Joseph care for in Egypt? _____

11. Joseph cared for Jacob and his family. He cared well for his father and all his brothers. He settled them in Goshen, which is sometimes called the land of Rameses. This was a very good land for the people and the flocks and herds. Joseph made sure that they had a good place to live.

Read Genesis 47:12 again. From this verse, in what other way did Joseph care for Jacob and his family? _____

12. It was a large family of 70 people plus servants to care for. But Joseph gave food to them all. Joseph cared for the physical lives of Jacob and his family. As well, he cared for their spiritual lives.

What did Joseph do for Jacob and his family in Egypt? _____

13. Joseph cared for them. God planned for us to live in families. God has put you in your family. There is much teaching in the Bible to guide us in family living.

1 Timothy 5:8:

If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his own family he has disowned the family, and is worse than an unbeliever.

In this verse, what does Paul say about the Christian who does not care for his family? _____

14. These are hard words. Paul says he has disowned or denied the faith. He is worse than someone who does not believe in Jesus. Jesus said some hard words to the Pharisees. They made excuses for not caring for their parents. But it is God's will for us to care for our children and our parents.

Here in East Africa, Christian parents care much about the physical needs of their children. They give them good food, clean clothes, and a clean home. They try hard to give them much time in school. All this is good.

Is this all that is needed? _____

15. Let us think about the way Joseph cared for Jacob and his family. He cared for their physical needs and their spiritual needs. I know Christian parents who give little spiritual care to their families. Christian parents are busy and often do not spend time with their families. These same parents are very sad later. Some of their children do not want to follow the Lord.

In your family, why do the parents give spiritual care to the children?

16. Johana is a Christian who owns a shop in a village centre. It takes an hour to walk to the piece of land where his wife and children lived. Johana decided to bring his children to live at the village centre. There they could go to a better school. They could go to the clinic if they were sick. But when the children came to live behind Johana's shop, he began to be worried. There was a bar beside his shop. His children heard what the people said and sang as they drank. They saw the women who stayed there to tempt the men. After a time Johana sent his children to their farm.

What do you think about the way Johana cared for his family? _____

17. I know a Christian family. The mother loves the Lord and goes to many places telling people of Jesus. She is often away from home for many days. One of her sons, Peter, was unhappy. He did not like his mother being away. As a young man Peter did not follow Jesus. But later Peter came to love Jesus and became a missionary. The day came for Peter to leave home and go to a new country. But his mother did not go to farewell him. She was at a meeting. Even now, this son feels he is not loved by his mother.

What do you think about the way this mother cares for her family? _____

18. Be ready to talk about the last three questions in class.

What did Joseph do for Jacob and his family in Egypt? _____
