

## BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of October 1, 2017

**Timeless Truth:** God chooses unlikely and imperfect people to make His covenant, to fulfill His promises and to build our faith so that He gets the credit.

**Bible Basis:** Genesis 37, 39; 41-48; 50

***The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:***

Chapter 3 – Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh

**Memory Verse:** Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. Joseph had been born to him when he was old. Israel made him a beautiful robe. Genesis 37:3



### TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

- How did Joseph's brothers feel about him? Why did they feel that way?
- What happened to Joseph after he was sold into slavery?
- How was God faithful to Joseph throughout this story? How do we see Joseph being faithful to God?
- What does the word REDEEM mean?
- In what ways do we see God's redeeming power in this week's story?

### EXTRA MILE

- Talk about the famine that happened in Egypt. Discuss how God allowed Joseph to foresee it and how Joseph and the Egyptians were able to prepare for it. Then, as a family, use our church website or other online resources to educate yourselves about community partnerships such as Ladle Fellowship, Presbyterian Urban Ministries (PUM), or others, to see how you might participate in helping feed hungry neighbors right here in our community today.

### PRAYER TIME

Dear God, You are a gracious God! Thank you for always being with us. Thank you for loving us. Help us to trust you in everything we do and to love our neighbors as you love us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



# The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

## DAY 1

**Reading:** Choose God, pg 19 - bottom of page 22 (blue – pg 29- last full paragraph on pg 32) (5 mins)

This reading covers: Genesis 37-41

**Summary:** I can choose to follow God no matter what.

**Do together:** Blindfold two family members and have the older lead the younger around the house (sighted people watching out for impending danger). Now have the leader take off the blindfold and lead the blindfolded person for another minute. Afterwards talk about which was easier, to lead blindfolded or sighted. Talk about which seemed safer and more secure.

**Think about:** God's eyes can always see. He is never unsure of where he is going. He never trips and falls, he never bumps into anything. He is never confused or disoriented. He never takes us somewhere and lets us go so that we are by ourselves to find our own way. If we want God to be our leader, what does that mean we have to do?

**Prayer:** Thank you, God, that you are the only leader we could ever have that will not let go of our hand, no matter what. We know we can always trust you because you see everything. Help us to trust your direction everyday. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## DAY 2

**Reading:** God's Care, pg 22- break on page 24 (blue- bottom of pg 32- 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph on pg 35) (3 min)

This reading covers: Genesis 42-49

**Summary:** God is taking care of me, even when I don't know it.

**Do together:** Play the game "Guess Who." With each question the child answers with one or more of the following people: MOM, DAD, TEACHER, DOCTOR, GOD.

1. Who makes sure you have shoes to wear?
2. Who makes sure you are learning what you need to learn?
3. Who makes sure you get the right medicine when you're sick?
4. Who makes sure you have surprises sometimes?
5. Who takes care of all of the people who take care you?

**Think about:** God takes care of all of us, even though we cannot see him or hear him. He takes care of the people who take care of us. So really, it is God who makes sure we have all that we need. Let's thank him.

**Prayer:** Lord, Thank you for taking care of us. Help us to remember that everything you do is for our good. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## DAY 3

**Reading:** God's Plan – Break on pg 24 - end of chapter (blue- 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph on pg 35 - end of chapt) (3 mins)

This reading covers: Genesis 50

**Summary:** God is working, even when I don't see him.

**Do together:** Prior to the activity plan a special surprise for the family (buy a special dessert or plan a special outing). When it's time, bring out the dessert (or announce the outing) and tell the family that you've been planning this special time, even though no one knew about it.

**Think about:** What kind of surprise did Joseph's brothers have in our story? They found out that Pharaoh's helper was the brother they had mistreated. As you enjoy your treat, tell the children that God is always behind the scenes planning special things for their lives. In the story, God was working out the plan for Joseph and his brothers to be together again. And none of them knew it!

**Prayer:** God, we know you have a special plan for each of us. Even when we can't see or understand your plan, help us to trust in you. In Jesus' name, Amen.