

WEEK 9

God's Providence Through Relationships

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

MEMORY VERSE:

Each week, cut apart the memory verses provided and tape them to bathroom mirrors, on the fridge, in the car, etc. If your child cannot read, instruct them to remind you to read it to them whenever they see the verse throughout the day. If your child is too young to memorize, have them keep you accountable to memorize the verse instead.

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone"

Romans 12:18

Each week your family memorizes the verse, we will have a prize for you back in LVKids! (one per family) This will be based on the honor system and at your discretion. Parents can pick up the prize from a box at the kids' gate when picking up the next week's family devotional guide.

(Note: This week's verse is shortened. For older kids and parents, consider memorizing all of Romans 12:17-18 from scripture.)

PARENTS SHARE:

Turn in your Bible to Genesis 42:18-38, showing your children this is where our story comes from. Share what you learned in church this Sunday as well as anything you would like to add from your growth group.

SAY:

Last week in Joseph's story we left off with his brothers in jail. Remember how they had come to Egypt looking for food, and they didn't recognize Joseph? Then Joseph told them he thought they were being sneaky spies, and he threw them in prison. Let's see what happens next...

On the third day, Joseph said to his brothers, "I will let you go home with food, but one of you must stay here. You must bring back your youngest brother here to me, to prove you are telling me the truth." You see, Joseph wanted to make sure they hadn't hurt his brother Benjamin just like they had hurt him. He wanted to see him to be sure he was okay.

So the brothers turned to each other and started talking. "This must be happening to us because of what we did to Joseph. We are being punished because of the horrible thing we did to him." Reuben said, "Didn't I say we should not harm the boy? And now look what is happening because of what we did!"

(continued on back)

His brothers didn't know it, but Joseph could hear and understand all that they were saying. He turned his back so they couldn't see him and started to cry, but then he came back and spoke to them again. He had Simeon taken from them to be kept with him, and he sent the rest of them home with sacks full of grain. He secretly put the money they used to pay for the grain back in their bags as well. When they got home they told their father, Jacob, all that had happened. They explained that the man who is in charge of all of Egypt said they must be spies and didn't trust them, and that he demanded they bring back Benjamin to him. They told their father that Simeon was being held captive until they brought Benjamin back. As they emptied their sacks they saw that their money pouches were there with the grain. Jacob was very upset! "Joseph is gone. Simeon is gone. And now you want to take Benjamin too? No!" But Reuben made a promise. "Let me go and take Benjamin. I will protect him. You can trust me." But Jacob refused, saying, "My son will not go down there with you..."

Older kids: Read Genesis 42:18-38

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

HOW DO WE SEE THAT GOD IS STILL WORKING IN THIS STORY?

WHY DO YOU THINK JOSEPH CRIED WHEN HE HEARD HIS BROTHERS TALKING?

WHO IN YOUR LIFE HELPS YOU TO LOVE AND FOLLOW JESUS?

Take some time to talk about relationships in your child's life at whatever level they have them depending on their age. Of course this is a good time to talk about their family, but also try to bring in friendships. Talk about your own friendships and your kids friends that build each other up, pray for each other, show love to each other, etc.

Older kids: This is also a great time to talk about how easily we are influenced by our friends, both positively and negatively. Share examples from your own life of times when friendships have built you up and times when friends have let you down or been a negative influence.



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