

WEEK 11

God Provides in Ways We Don't See

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.

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us..."
Ephesians 3:20

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.

PARENTS SHARE:

Turn in your Bible to Genesis 43:19-34, 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. *Note that Joe touched on part of this week's story in his sermon last week as well (he spoke through vs 23)

SAY:

Do you remember where we left off last week? Joseph's brothers had returned to Egypt, and they were worried. The last time they had been there, they found their money still in their grain sacks. They were afraid the people in Egypt, and the man in charge (Joseph) would think they stole it!

So they went to the servant at Joseph's house and said, "Excuse us, sir! Last time we came to buy food, when we got home we found the money we paid still in our bags. We didn't take it, really we didn't! We brought it back, and we brought more money to buy food again."

The servant smiled and said, "Don't worry. Your God must have put the money there. I received your payment." Then he brought their brother Simeon out to them. He was the one who had been in the jail, left behind until they were to come back to Egypt with Benjamin.

(continued on back)

The servant gave the water to wash their feet and he fed their donkeys. Then they got their gifts ready to give to Joseph (even though they didn't realize it was their brother!), because they heard they were going to eat there.

When Joseph arrived, they brought him the gifts they had carried from home. They had special things from their land like pistachio nuts, almonds, honey, and spices. When they had given the gifts to Joseph, they bowed down low before him. Joseph asked them kindly, "How are you? How is your aging father that you told me about? Is he still alive?" "Yes, he is alive and well," they told him.

Then Joseph looked around and he saw his youngest brother, Benjamin. His whole heart filled with love, but he didn't want to cry in front of them. "Is this your youngest brother, the one you told me about?" he asked. "God bless you, my son," he said. Then he quickly left the room and found a place to cry in private because he was so happy to see Benjamin. After he washed his face and calmed down, Joseph came back and said, "Let's eat!"

The brothers were all seated at tables and Joseph gave each of them food. But when Benjamin's plate came, Joseph gave him five times as much as the others! Everyone ate and drank and felt happy together, although they still didn't know that the kind ruler was actually their brother Joseph.

Older kids: Read Genesis 43:19-34

FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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

HOW DO YOU THINK THE BROTHERS FELT WHEN THEY FOUND OUT THE MISSING MONEY HAD BEEN COVERED? HOW WOULD YOU FEEL?

Help your children to understand that during a famine this family would not have had a lot, and that paying for the grain would be a hardship. When Joseph's servant said their cost was covered, it would have felt like a miracle. God used Joseph to bless his brothers, providing for them in a very real way.

CAN YOU THINK OF A TIME WHEN GOD PROVIDED FOR YOU WHEN IT SEEMED THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY?

Parents, take this time to share ways God has provided in your life. It doesn't have to be financially if that isn't part of your story. God might have provided a friendship you desperately needed, a mentor, a job opportunity, healing, etc.

Talk about how we often experience God's provision and care without knowing how it happens. God is always working, and a lot of the time we don't see all the details or know exactly how He is working. BUT- remind your kids that we can trust that He is always present, working and providing for all our needs even when we can't see it.

PRAY TOGETHER

Asking God to help you notice the ways He is providing for your family. Ask Him to help you trust Him when you don't understand how He is working.



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