

BIBLE BUILDS PARENT PRIMER

GENESIS 45 - THE STORY OF JOSEPH



**BIBLE
BUILDS**

Remember: while we love the videos we are producing at Bible Builds, don't forget they are 'retellings' or narrative summarizations which means by nature they will have levels of interpretation and so on! Because of that, we want to make sure that is coupled with your family hearing the actual text and scriptures out loud in their entirety. Don't forget Paul tells Timothy to commit to the 'public reading of scripture' in his letter! It was meant to be read out loud more than we think--and that's perfect for family time! Below are a few tips and suggestions and questions to help facilitate making the story of God central to the family. And as always remember, to make it your own and use it in a way that's best for your family!

One of my favorite methods of bible reading with our family is called the **Discovery Bible Method** and the one we recommend here at Bible Builds. I love it for two reasons. One, it takes NO PREP--you can do it at any time and any place as long as you have a Bible nearby. And two, it's deeply engaging and invigorating for the kids--they come alive and 'lean in' to the story more when they have to tell it back! So we suggest every week to take the Bible Builds story for that week and use the discovery method at one or two meals that week (that's when we tend to do it in our family) or in the morning, or a nighttime meeting. It usually only takes 15 minutes but they retain and remember and 'chew' on it so much more. What is the Discovery Method?

It's simple.

#1

Read the story out loud in its entirety that week. Doing it from two translations is really fun and helpful, we've noticed.

#2

Have someone in the family volunteer or put them on the 'hot seat' to retell the entire story in their own words from what they heard. And as they do, the rest of the family stops them or helps them fill in the gaps when they miss important details!

#3

Answer these three questions:

- What is one thing that stood out to you?
- What beliefs commands or examples can you put into practice this week?
- Who can you share this story with this week? (this one more for older kids).

And that's it! But there's something about the discipline and practice of reading it out loud and then having to retell it that makes it come alive and sink way deeper. And it's simple and easy and sustainable! So below is this week's story that you can use to read and retell, coupled with some questions on the following page that are specific to this story. One tip is use the entire week in small bits rather than one big bible time. Meaning maybe spend 15 minutes on a Sunday or Monday meal reading it out loud and retelling it. Then on a Wednesday car ride running errands as a few of the questions below. Spreading it out makes it easier and also more on the forefront of everyone's thoughts throughout the week. Go team Bible Builders!

Jeff



The Story of Joseph - Genesis 45

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold to Egypt. **5** Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me ahead of you to save lives. **6** For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. **7** So God sent me ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on the earth, and to

keep you alive by a great deliverance. **8** Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household, and ruler over all the land of Egypt. **9** Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: "God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. **10** For you shall live in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your grandchildren, and your flocks and your herds and all that you have. **11** There I will also provide for you, for there are still five years of famine to come, and you and your household and all that you have would be impoverished." **12** Behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth which is speaking to you. **13** Now you must tell my father of all my splendor in Egypt, and all that you have seen; and you must hurry and bring my father down here." **14** Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. **15** And he kissed all his brothers and wept on them, and afterward his brothers talked with him.

16 Now when the news was heard in Pharaoh's house that Joseph's brothers had come, it pleased Pharaoh and his servants. **17** Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Say to your brothers, 'Do this: load your livestock and go to the land of Canaan, **18** 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 will eat the fat of the land.' **19** Now you are ordered, 'Do this: take wagons from the land of Egypt for your little ones and for your wives, and bring your father and come. **20** And do not concern yourselves with your property, for the best of all the land of Egypt is yours.'"



Questions for this week

#1

Have you ever been jealous of the attention or favor a sibling or a friend got? What would be a better way to respond?

#2

Go back and read Joseph's dream (Gen 37:1-11). Why do you think God gave him this dream? Do you think Joseph thought of it often when he was in prison?

#3

Which part of Joseph's journey from the prison to the palace was your favorite? Why?

#4

How were Joseph and Jesus similar? How did they both forgive? How were they both rescuers?

Optional Bonus Activity

THE FOOD SHARING GAME

OVERVIEW

WHAT YOU NEED:

Slips of paper and desirable food items that everyone would like to have. (For example: a pack of M&Ms, an entire pie, large bowl of chips, etc.)

SET UP:

Take your slips of paper and write each player's name on it. Draw a name of a participating family member. This person is "it" (aka Joseph) and has complete control over the special food (the M&Ms, chips, etc.).

GAME

Each family member must appeal to "Joseph" and explain why they deserve to have some (or all) of the special food.

NOTE: Joseph does not have to share! Or Joseph may decide to share with only some people, and not others.

PURPOSE

Joseph was generous to share Egypt's food with his family when they had none—even though they were so mean to him. If put in Joseph's situation... how would YOU respond?

GOAL

Better appreciate how epic Joseph's kindness and goodness was toward his family. He didn't "have to" share Egypt's food with them... but he did.

Optional Spiritual Growth Activity

DREAMS & INTERPRETATIONS

Take some time as a family to discuss how God sometimes speaks to us through dreams. Not every dream has meaning -- some are just plain strange. But God loves to speak to us while we are sleeping at night. Discuss how Joseph had dreams that were meaningful, and how he was also able to interpret the dreams of others - the Cupbearer, the Baker, and Pharaoh (Genesis 40-41) because God was with him.

Before going to bed each night this week, pray together and ask God for dreams in the night.

When everyone wakes up, take time to ask if anyone had a dream. If so, talk about the dream and then have everyone in the family ask God for the interpretation.

See what happens as you give God space to speak!

Make sure to write down or journal the family's dreams as you help your kids build their history with God.

MEMORY VERSE

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Romans 8:28