

# JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

## *Genesis 44-45:11*

### Genesis 44

<sup>1</sup>Now Joseph gave these instructions to the steward of his house: “Fill the men’s sacks with as much food as they can carry, and put each man’s silver in the mouth of his sack. <sup>2</sup>Then put my cup, the silver one, in the mouth of the youngest one’s sack, along with the silver for his grain.” And he did as Joseph said.

<sup>3</sup>As morning dawned, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys. <sup>4</sup>They had not gone far from the city when Joseph said to his steward, “Go after those men at once, and when you catch up with them, say to them, ‘Why have you repaid good with evil? <sup>5</sup>Isn’t this the cup my master drinks from and also uses for divination? This is a wicked thing you have done.’”

<sup>6</sup>When he caught up with them, he repeated these words to them. <sup>7</sup>But they said to him, “Why does my lord say such things? Far be it from your servants to do anything like that! <sup>8</sup>We even brought back to you from the land of Canaan the silver we found inside the mouths of our sacks. So why would we steal silver or gold from your master’s house? <sup>9</sup>If any of your servants is found to have it, he will die; and the rest of us will become my lord’s slaves.”

<sup>10</sup>“Very well, then,” he said, “let it be as you say. Whoever is found to have it will become my slave; the rest of you will be free from blame.”

<sup>11</sup>Each of them quickly lowered his sack to the ground and opened it. <sup>12</sup>Then the steward proceeded to search, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin’s sack. <sup>13</sup>At this, they tore their clothes. Then they all loaded their donkeys and returned to the city.

<sup>14</sup>Joseph was still in the house when Judah and his brothers came in, and they threw themselves to the ground before him. <sup>15</sup>Joseph said to them, “What is this you have done? Don’t you know that a man like me can find things out by divination?”

<sup>16</sup>“What can we say to my lord?” Judah replied. “What can we say? How can we prove our innocence? God has uncovered your servants’ guilt. We are now my lord’s slaves—we ourselves and the one who was found to have the cup.”

<sup>17</sup>But Joseph said, “Far be it from me to do such a thing! Only the man who was found to have the cup will become my slave. The rest of you, go back to your father in peace.”

<sup>18</sup>Then Judah went up to him and said: “Please, my lord, let your servant speak a word to my lord. Do not be angry with your servant, though you are equal to Pharaoh himself. <sup>19</sup>My lord asked his servants, ‘Do you have a father or a brother?’ <sup>20</sup>And we answered, ‘We have an aged father, and there is a young son born to him in his old age. His brother is dead, and he is the only one of his mother’s sons left, and his father loves him.’

<sup>21</sup>“Then you said to your servants, ‘Bring him down to me so I can see him for myself.’ <sup>22</sup>And we said to my lord, ‘The boy cannot leave his father; if he leaves him, his father will die.’ <sup>23</sup>But you told your servants, ‘Unless your youngest brother comes down with you, you will not see my face again.’ <sup>24</sup>When we went back to your servant my father, we told him what my lord had said.

<sup>25</sup>“Then our father said, ‘Go back and buy a little more food.’ <sup>26</sup>But we said, ‘We cannot go down. Only if our youngest brother

is with us will we go. We cannot see the man’s face unless our youngest brother is with us.’

<sup>27</sup>“Your servant my father said to us, ‘You know that my wife bore me two sons. <sup>28</sup>One of them went away from me, and I said, ‘He has surely been torn to pieces.’ And I have not seen him since. <sup>29</sup>If you take this one from me too and harm comes to him, you will bring my gray head down to the grave<sup>o</sup> in misery.’

<sup>30</sup>“So now, if the boy is not with us when I go back to your servant my father and if my father, whose life is closely bound up with the boy’s life, <sup>31</sup>sees that the boy isn’t there, he will die. Your servants will bring the gray head of our father down to the grave in sorrow. <sup>32</sup>Your servant guaranteed the boy’s safety to my father. I said, ‘If I do not bring him back to you, I will bear the blame before you, my father, all my life!’

<sup>33</sup>“Now then, please let your servant remain here as my lord’s slave in place of the boy, and let the boy return with his brothers. <sup>34</sup>How can I go back to my father if the boy is not with me? No! Do not let me see the misery that would come upon my father.”

### Genesis 45

<sup>1</sup>Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup>And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it.

<sup>3</sup>Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

<sup>4</sup>Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup>And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup>For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup>But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>“So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup>Now hurry back 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; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup>You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup>I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’

# JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

*Genesis 44-45:11*

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	QUESTIONS
5		1.) What did Joseph tell his steward to do? (Verse 2)
5		2.) What did the steward say would happen to the person with Joseph's silver cup?
5		3.) What did Joseph tell his brothers they had to do before they could buy more food?
5		4.) Why do you think Joseph was <i>not</i> upset with his brothers? (Verse 45:7)

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	MEMORY VERSE
10		<p>"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Proverbs 16:9</p>

POSSIBLE POINTS	MY POINTS	HOME CONNECTION	PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE
5		<i>I have read, or been read, the passage of scripture for this week.</i>	
5		<i>I have answered the questions aloud to an adult at home this week.</i>	
10		<i>I have recited the memory verse out loud to an adult at home this week.</i>	

TOTAL POINTS	CLUB CONNECTION
	LEADER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ___/___/___

# JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

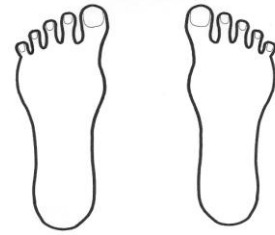
*Genesis 44-45:11*

## CRAFT/ACTIVITY: WALKING HEARTS

Students will make a pair of feet with a heart sticking up to remind them how God determines our steps as he did for Joseph many years ago.

### MATERIALS

1. White 67 lb. Cardstock
2. Walking Hearts Pattern
3. Scissors
4. Glue
5. Crayons, Markers, or Colored Pencils



### DIRECTIONS

1. Copy a “walking hearts” pattern for each student onto 67 lb. cardstock.
2. Have students color the “walking hearts” pattern with crayons, markers, or colored pencils.
3. Instruct students to cut out the heart and feet on the black lines. Students will fold the base of the heart on the dotted lines.
4. Students will then put glue on the tab that says “glue” and attach the heart to the foot with the word “glue” on it.

### FOR DISCUSSION

As students are making their walking hearts, remind them that God was the one who sent Joseph ahead of his brothers to Egypt to preserve them as a remnant on earth. Though Joseph’s brother’s determined in their hearts what to do, it was God that ultimately directed Joseph to Egypt. Review the memory verse with the students and help them understand that we typically tend to decide things on our own, but God is still in charge of directing us. We need to heed his direction and not resist the direction he takes us. Joseph realized he was a tool for God. When we allow God to direct us, we may realize the same thing Joseph did (Genesis 45:5).

### TIME NEEDED TO COMPLETE:

Approximately 15 minutes

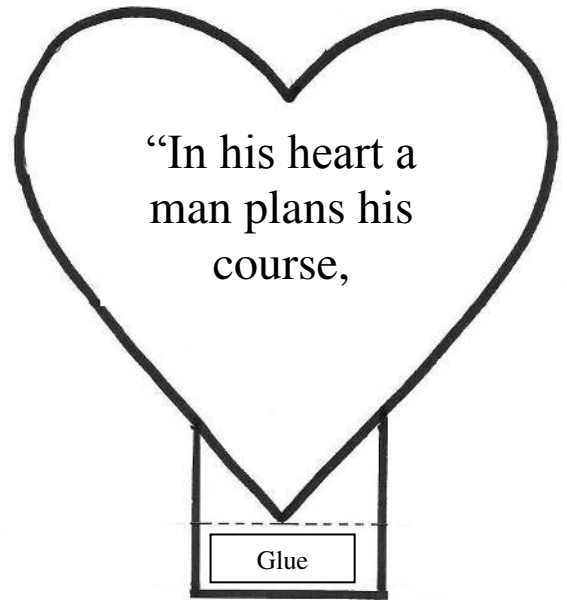
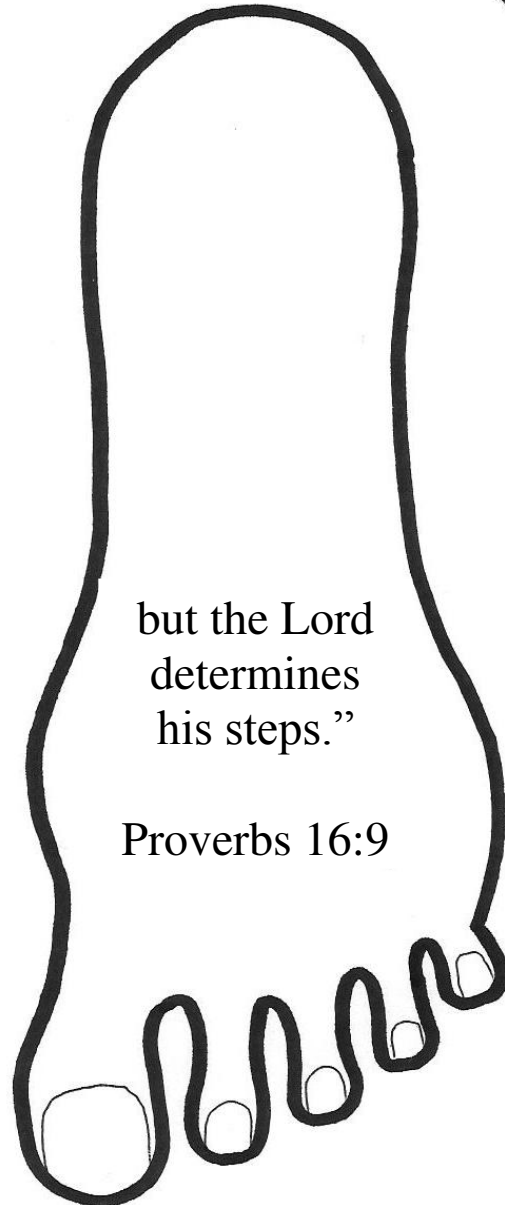
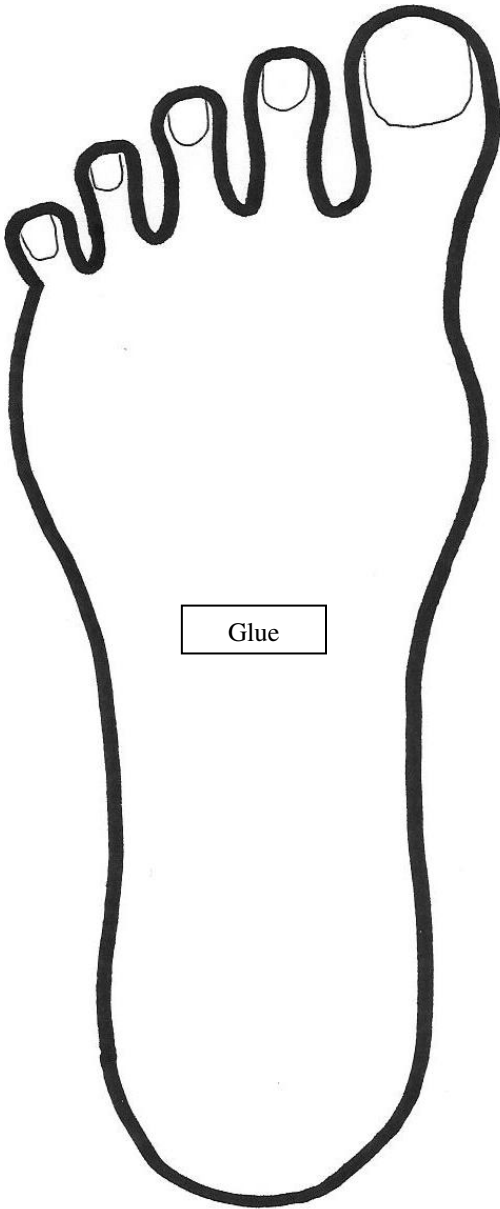
### MEMORY VERSE

*“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.” Proverbs 16:9*

# JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

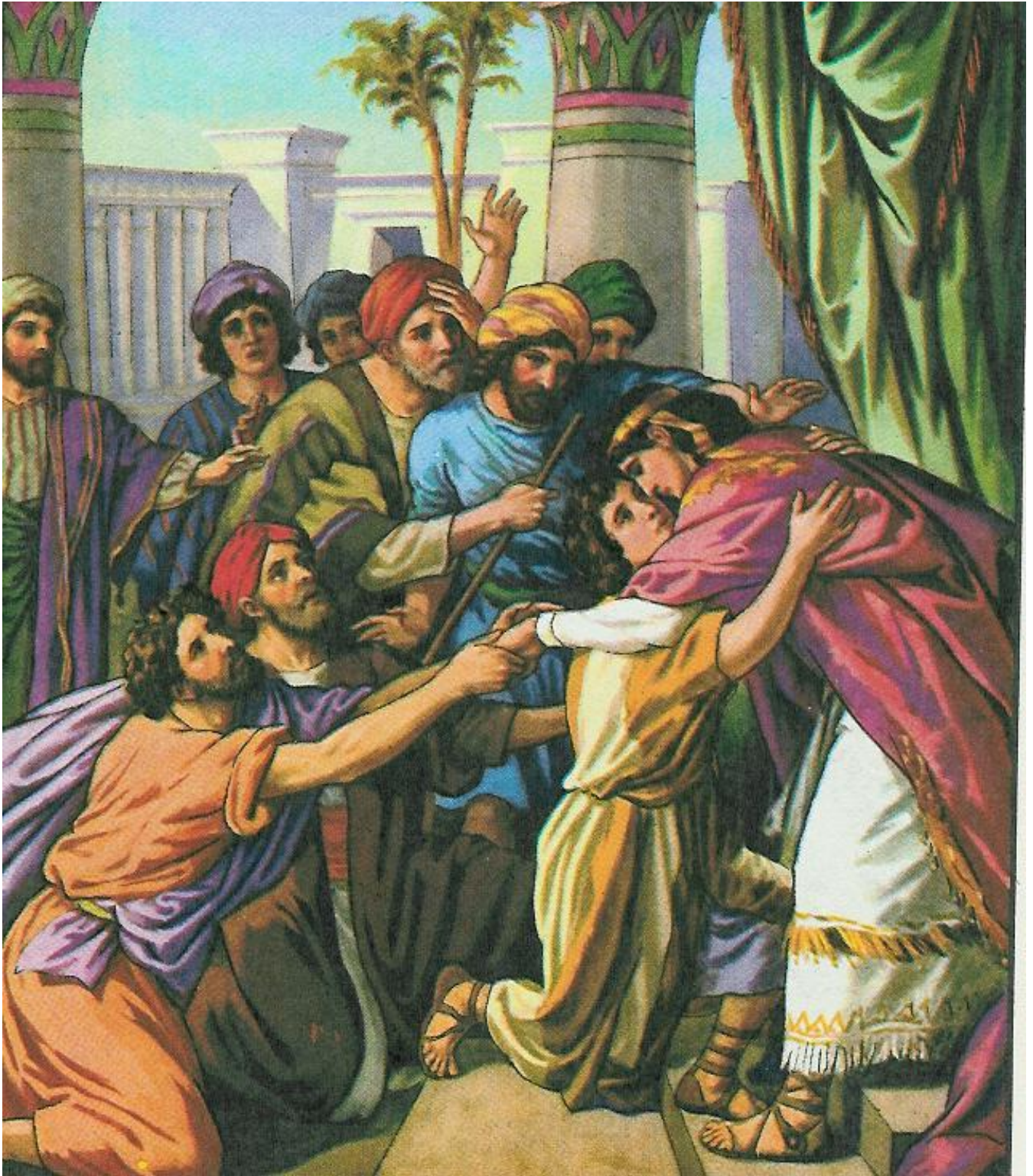
*Genesis 44-45:11*

## WALKING HEARTS PATTERN



# JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

*Genesis 44-45:11*



Picture from *The Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes* by Kenneth N. Taylor. Moody Press: Copyright © 1956.

# JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

*Genesis 44-45:11*



*Joseph tells his brothers who he is*

# JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

*Genesis 44- 45:11*

Color the picture using the color code.

## COLOR KEY

- 1 = red
- 2 = blue
- 3 = yellow
- 4 = green
- 5 = brown
- 6 = orange



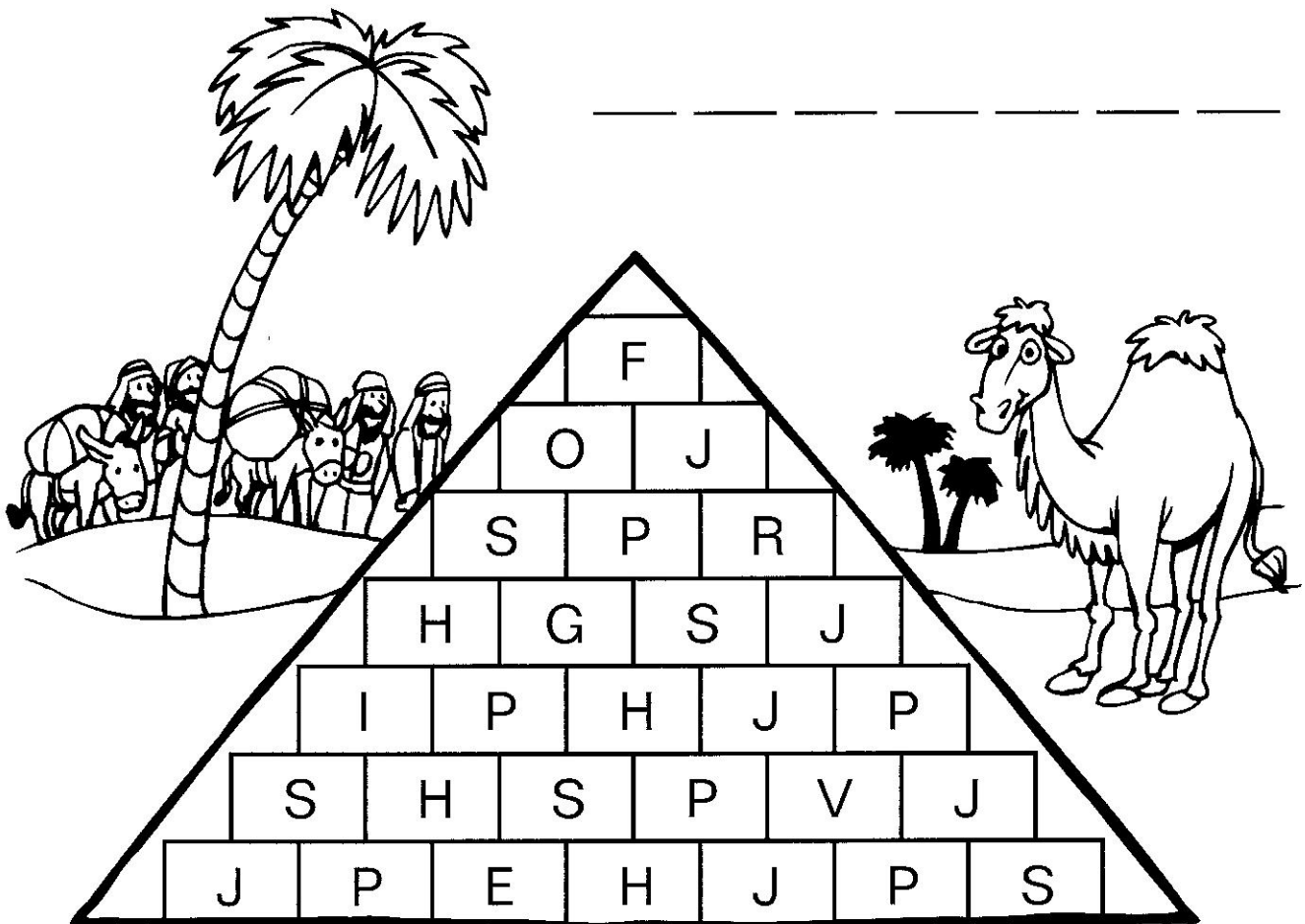
Joseph finally told his brothers who he was. Then they were afraid that he would have them killed because of the way they had treated him. Instead, Joseph promised that he would take care of all of them. He sent them home to get their families and his father to come live in Egypt.

# JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS

*Genesis 44- 45:11*

Joseph's brothers were not nice to him. They sold him to be a slave. They pretended he was dead. Much later, Joseph became a powerful leader in Egypt. When the brothers needed help, they went to Egypt. What did Joseph do?

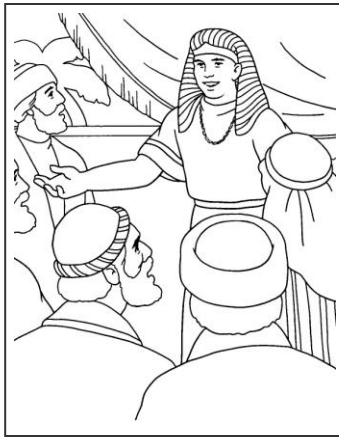
Use a dark color to fill in all the bricks in the pyramid that have the letters J, S, P, and H. Copy the leftover letters, from top to bottom, onto the spaces below.



# THE BIBLE TIMES HERALD

A SPECIAL REPORT ON GENESIS 44-45:11

## JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS



Joseph's brothers were back in Egypt to buy food during the famine. Before they left, Joseph told his servant to put their silver back in their bags. He told his servant

to put his special silver cup into Benjamin's bag.

When Joseph's brothers left Egypt, Joseph sent his servant after them. The servant checked their bags of grain. Inside of Benjamin's bag was Joseph's silver cup. Benjamin would have to become a slave of Joseph.

Judah, who was Joseph's brother, begged Joseph not to make Benjamin a slave.

Joseph was happy to see all of his brothers, but his brothers did not recognize him. Joseph could not keep from crying. He told all of his servants to leave.

Joseph told his brothers who he was. "I am your brother Joseph," he said. "God used me to help you. Don't be upset about selling me. It was part of God's plan. There will be another five years of famine. I want you all to come to live here in Egypt with me so you will have food to eat.

For more details, please read Genesis 44-45:11 in the Bible.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why were Joseph's brothers in Egypt?
2. What did Joseph tell his servant to do?
3. What did Joseph want his family to do?
4. Why do you think Joseph began to cry?

## MEMORY VERSE

"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."

Proverbs 16:9

## UNSCRAMBLE THE MESSAGE

S J O P H E O L T D

I H S B S O T E H R R

H O W E H W S A