

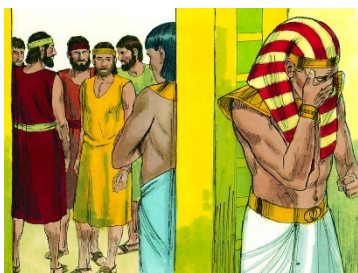


**ST NINIAN'S UNITING CHURCH**

**PEBBLES AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**



**Based on Genesis 45:1-15**



## **JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS**

The famine was happening all over. Joseph and the people of Egypt had enough to eat. But in other countries people were starving.

Far away, in Canaan, Joseph's brothers and sisters and his father, Jacob, had hardly anything to eat.

One day, Jacob said to his sons, "I hear there's lots of food in Egypt. Take some of the donkeys and go to Egypt to see if you can buy some."

So ten of the brothers left for Egypt. Benjamin didn't go because he was the youngest.

His father, Jacob, worried that Benjamin might get hurt on such a long trip.

When the brothers got to Egypt, they asked, "Where can we buy food?"

"Go see the person who takes care of all the food," they were told.

Of course, the brothers didn't know that was Joseph.

When they had sold Joseph to the traders many years before that, they didn't think they would ever see him again.

Joseph knew his brothers right away. Joseph was very surprised, but he didn't say anything.

He was glad to see his brothers. But Joseph was still angry at them for selling him to the traders. Joseph felt both angry and happy. He was all mixed up inside. "I think you are spies," Joseph said.

"Oh, no," said the brothers. "We're just then brothers who have come to buy food. We are not spies."

"If you are brothers, what is your father's name?" "Our father's name is Jacob. He is living in Canaan."

Joseph was so happy to hear that his father was still alive. He had to stop talking for a while, and he turned away from his brothers. He didn't want them to see the tears in his eyes. "Are there other members of your family?" Joseph asked.

"There is one more brother, Benjamin, but he was too young to come with us." Any others?" Joseph was feeling angry now. "Well, no. There was another brother, but he died." "What do you mean, he died?" Joseph was very angry.

The brothers just stood there; they didn't know what to say. They were afraid to say that had sold their brother as a slave.

Joseph could see from the faces of his brothers that they were very sorry for what they had done. "I am Joseph, your brother," he said.

The brothers couldn't believe it at first. It didn't seem possible. Then they felt afraid. "If this really is Joseph," they thought, "he will be very angry at us for what we did to him."

"Don't be afraid," said Joseph. "I think God wanted me to be in Egypt. God wanted me to help people so they wouldn't starve." "Thank God," said Reuben, the oldest brother. "Thank God!"

Then the brothers started hugging Joseph and Joseph was hugging them, and they were hugging each other. All of them were crying.

Finally, Joseph blew his nose and said, "Go back to Canaan. Bring Father and Benjamin and the whole family here to Egypt. I know a nice place where you can live. And there's lots of food here in Egypt."

When the brothers had told Jacob for the 20<sup>th</sup> time about Joseph in Egypt, the old man finally believed them. Suddenly he looked as if he was 20 years younger.

"Well," said Jacob. "What are we waiting for? Don't just stand there, let's get going." As Jacob and all his family left Canaan, God came and repeated the promise. "Israel will become a great nation," said God. "And you will come back again to live in your own country."

That is how the people called "Israel" came to be living in Egypt.

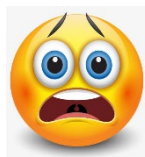


**JACOB BRINGS THE WHOLE FAMILY TO EGYPT AND MEETS JOSEPH**

Joseph met up with his brothers many years after they had treated him badly. They wondered if they should be afraid of him. They were so surprised! Joseph was so happy to see them that he cried. Joseph forgave his brothers for what they had done to him. With a grownup's help, if needed, draw lines to connect the emotions on the faces with the words. What emotions do you think the brothers felt when they met Joseph unexpectedly?



**SURPRISED**



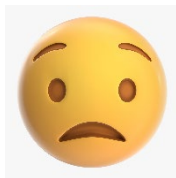
**HAPPY**



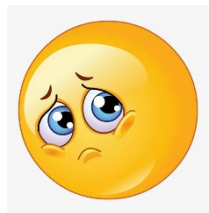
**SAD**



**AFRAID**



**ANGRY**



**CONFUSED**



**CRYING**



**WORRIED**

Dear God,

I know that Joseph's brothers did the wrong thing to him when he was young, and I'm so glad that You had some great plans in Egypt for him. Through his dreams Joseph was able to make friends with the Pharaoh and save the people from starvation. Lord, his brothers came to him for food, and he was able to meet them again, and forgive them for what they did. Jesus, I pray that when someone hurts me as much as they hurt Joseph, I can forgive them too, just like You have forgiven me. Thanks Jesus.

In Your name I pray,

Amen

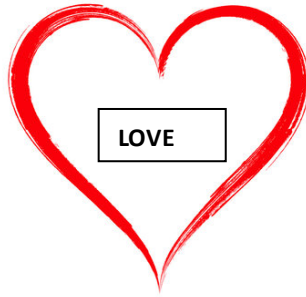
**Forgiving Fingers**

Forgiving people, or yourself, can be hard. Take a moment to think about why it can help to forgive and how you can do it.

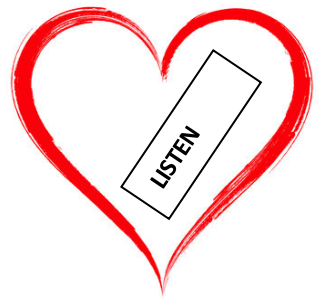
- Think about why it can be important to forgive someone and write it on the palm of the hand.
- On each finger or thumb, write a way we can forgive someone. You can use the words that are dotted around to help you, or think of your own.
- Colour and decorate your forgiving fingers.
- Cut out your hand shape and use it as a reminder when you need to forgive yourself or someone else.

accept

ink saving Eco



World



**SEEK + FIND!** FIND the FOLLOWING OBJECTS in the PICTURE BELOW

4 HEARTS 2 LADYBUGS 3 BANANAS 2 STARS 4 BIRDS 2 SOCKS 1 TURTLE



**FORGIVING SETS YOU FREE!**

**"I AM JOSEPH YOUR BROTHER, WHOM YE SOLD INTO EGYPT. BE NOT ANGRY WITH YOURSELVES. FOR GOD DID SEND ME BEFORE YOU TO PRESERVE LIFE" (GENESIS 45:5)**



On their second trip to Egypt to buy food, Joseph told his brothers who he was. He was not angry with them.

Genesis 45:1-7



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xir6YCFoveo>

This week's song from VeggieTales has a little bit of Carribean kind of sound! I hope you enjoy it.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCAoiVCDIqo> not Carribean, but fun to sing