

Genesis 45

Joseph was a very important man in Egypt, for he saw to it that people could come and buy grain from his storehouses. There was not enough food in the fields for people to eat, and Joseph had stored up food to sell to those who were hungry.

When his older brothers had come to Egypt to buy food, they didn't know that Joseph was their long, lost, brother. Long ago his brothers had been mean to Joseph and had sold him as a slave. They didn't even know that Joseph was still alive. Joseph wanted to make sure they had changed and were good people now. He had asked the brothers to bring his little brother Benjamin the next time they came to buy grain. Joseph was anxiously waiting to see if they would bring his little brother to Egypt.

He hoped his brothers would come soon to buy grain from him. Do you think they will bring Benjamin with them?



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2.

Then one day Joseph's brothers arrived. They came into the big palace and bowed before Joseph. They didn't know he was their brother; they thought Joseph was a strange Egyptian ruler and they were a little afraid of him.

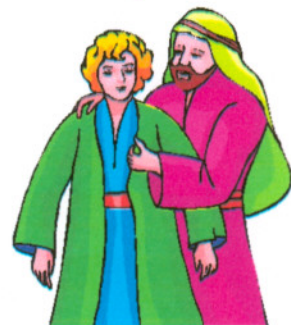
"Please sir, they said, we have come to buy grain for our families," they said.

Joseph looked at the brothers and saw a young man standing behind one of the others. "Is this your youngest brother?" Joseph asked. "Yes, this is our brother Benjamin" they said.

Oh, how Joseph wanted to run to Benjamin and hug and kiss him, but first Joseph had to make sure the older brothers would be kind to Benjamin and not mean like they used to be when he was young. Joseph decided to give the brothers a test.

"You are to eat lunch with me," Joseph said.

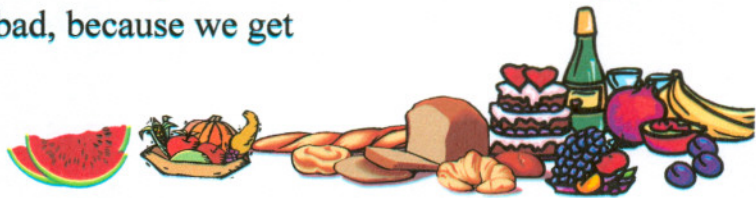
How strange, the brothers thought! Why would this ruler want to eat lunch with them?



Joseph had each of the brothers sit down at a long table and then the servants began to bring in the food. My, what a wonderful feast it was! They would have grapes, oranges and melons, bread and rolls and honey, and all kinds of good things to eat. Each of the brothers got all they could eat, but Joseph gave Benjamin much more than any of the others. Every time Benjamin's plate was empty, Joseph had more wonderful food brought to him. Why do you think he did this?

Well, one reason was because Joseph loved his younger brother so much, but another reason was to see if this made the other brothers mad. Would they be mean to Benjamin if Benjamin got more than they did?

What would you do if a friend or a brother or sister got more cake or ice cream than you did? Would you be mad at them? If someone else gets extra attention, that's okay, isn't it? We should be happy for them and not feel bad, because we get lots of attention sometimes too, don't we?



What do you think the brothers did? Were they mad and mean to Benjamin? No, they had grown up to be better men now. They had changed their ways and they were happy that Benjamin was treated so well. This made Joseph very happy also, but he had one more test to give the brothers.

Joseph gave each of the brothers a big sack full of grain to put on their donkeys, and then they started traveling toward their homes. The brothers didn't know it, but Joseph had hidden a special, silver cup in the top of one of their sacks.

Whose sack do you think he hid the cup in? He hid the cup in Benjamin's sack! Joseph did this so he could see if the brothers would leave Benjamin and go home without him.

After the brothers left Joseph sent his servants after them.

They yelled, "Stop, thieves!" "

Why have you stolen our ruler's special, silver cup?"



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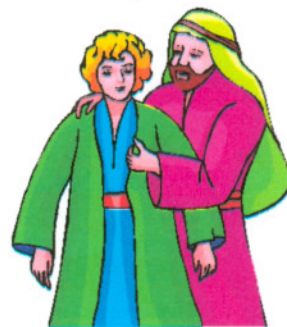
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"We didn't take your master's cup. Look and see," the brothers said as they took their sacks off their donkeys. Imagine how frightened they were when the servants found the special silver cup in Benjamin's sack!

"This is the thief, he will come back with us and become our master's slave, the rest of you can go to your homes," the servants said. "Oh no, we can't leave Benjamin," the brothers said, and they all headed back to Joseph's home.

"Please take one of us instead of Benjamin," the brothers pleaded, as they bowed before Joseph. "Our old father will be too sad to live, if Benjamin doesn't return home."

Then Joseph knew for sure that his brothers had changed their ways. Joseph was so happy he began to cry. "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold as a slave many years ago." Then Joseph ran and hugged and kissed his brothers. "Don't be afraid, I am really Joseph and I was kept alive by God to help save people's lives here in Egypt and all over the country."

Then everyone hugged each other and shouted for joy!

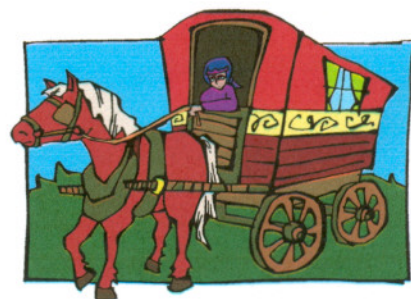


Joseph told the Pharaoh that he would like to send for his father and all his brother's families so they could come and live in Egypt with him. The Pharaoh was very happy for Joseph and told him that they could pick the very best land in Egypt to live in. Then Pharaoh gave Joseph wagons and horses to bring his father, Jacob and the brother's families and belongings back to Egypt, as well.

Jacob was so surprised and so happy when he heard that Joseph was alive and well. He could hardly believe his eyes when he saw the fancy wagons and horses that Pharaoh had sent for him and his family to ride in.

What a wonderful time it was when Joseph saw his father, Jacob once again. They cried and hugged and laughed, because they were so happy!

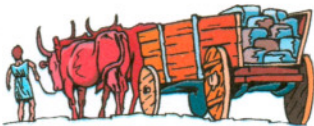
God had heard Joseph's prayers and once again he was with his family.



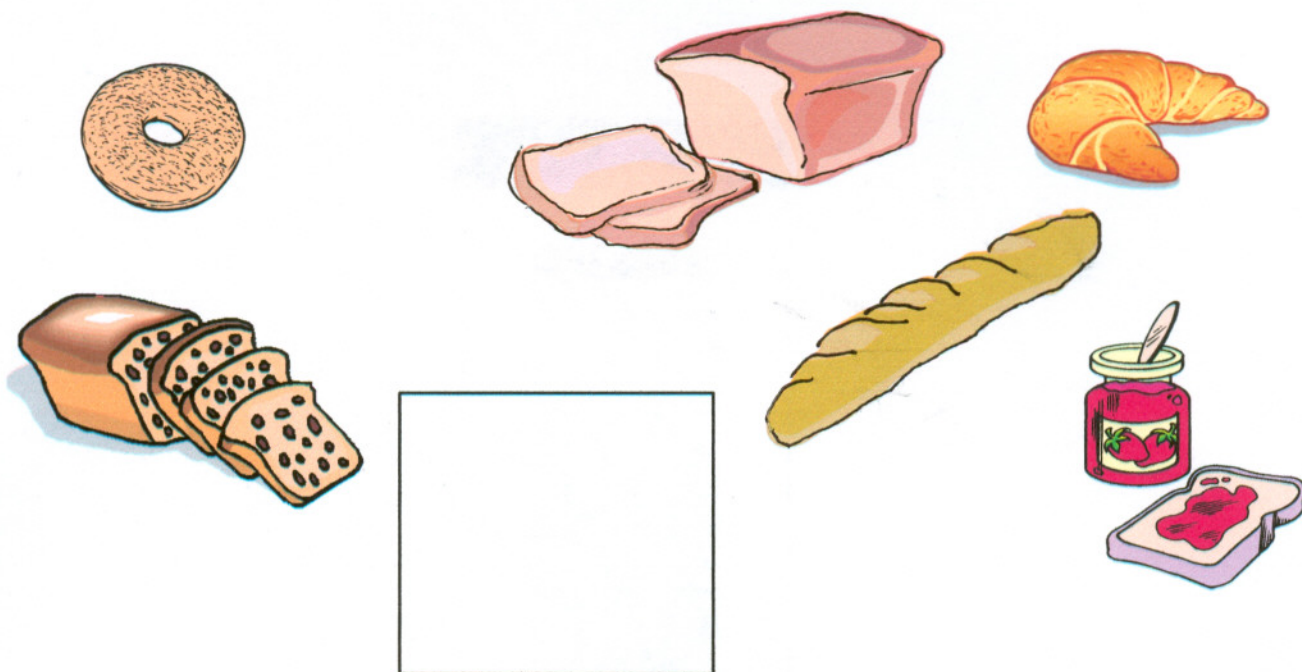
Question Page

1. What kind of thing did Joseph sell to the people in Egypt? (grain, watermellon, bread)?
2. Who was Joseph's younger brother? (Mike, Sam, Benjamin)?
3. Did Joseph tell his brothers who he was when he first saw them?
4. Who got the most food at the feast?
5. What did Joseph put in Benjamin's grain sack?
6. Did the brothers let Benjamin go back to Egypt alone to become a slave?
7. When Joseph told the brothers who he was, were they happy or were they mad?
8. What did Joseph sent something for his father Jacob to travel in, what was it?
(a boat, a wagon, a car)
9. Who was it that kept Joseph alive so he could save many people by selling them grain?
(God, Pharaoh, Jacob)
10. If a brother or sister or friend is given something special or given extra treats of a gift,
should you be mad because you didn't get as much as they did? How should you feel?

Circle the kind of thing Jacob and his family might ride in. Which would you rather ride in?



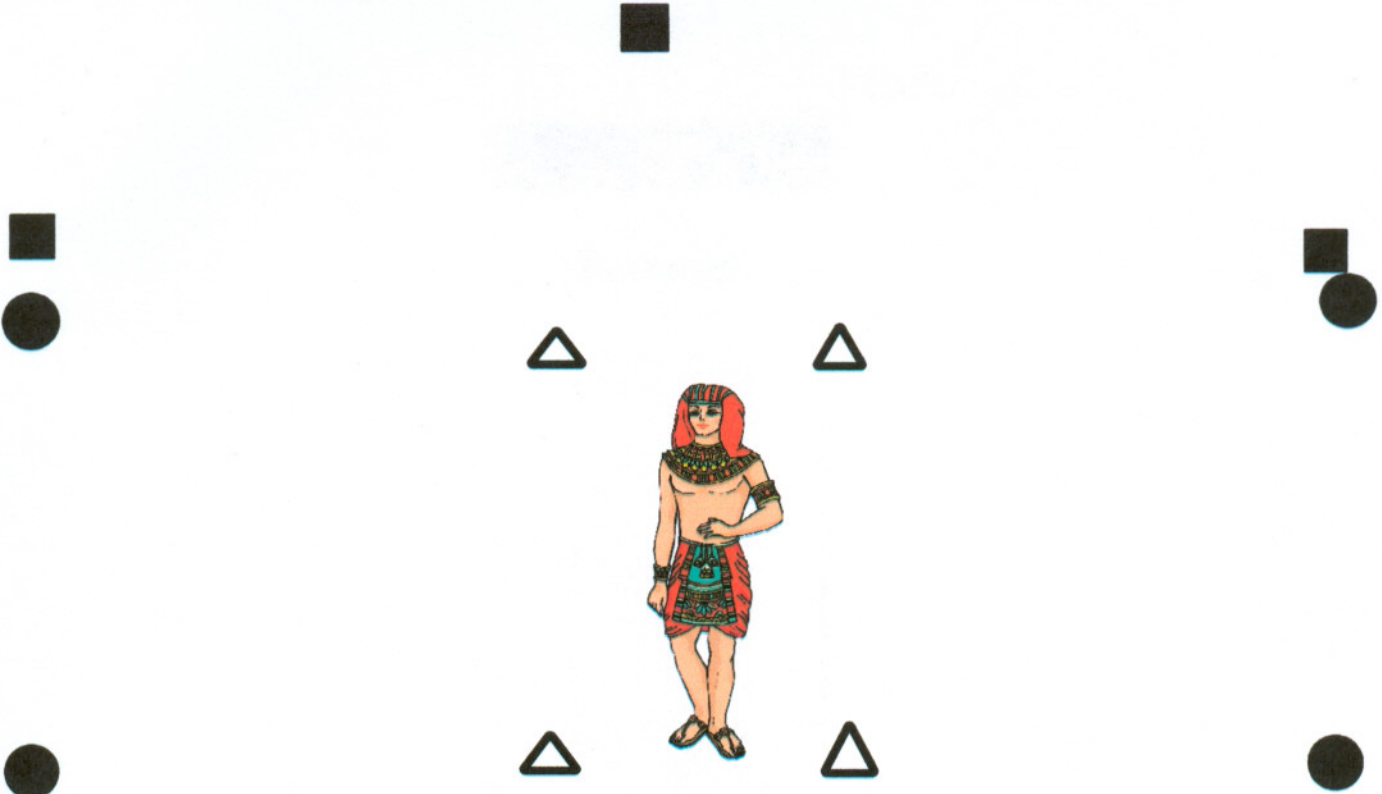
The grain that Joseph sold made all kinds of different breads. Put a circle around the kind of bread you like best in these pictures, then draw some bread that you like in the empty square. Put an X by the raisin bread in the pictures.



Match the cups by drawing a line between the two which are alike. Which do you think would look like the one Benjamin found in his sack? Can you find a mouse in a cup?



Joseph is standing in the door of his house. Can you match the shapes by drawing a line from one shape to the other shape that matches, in order to draw Joseph's house? (example: draw from one circle to the other)



What kind of food would you give Benjamin? Draw a line from the food you choose to the plate below.

