

11.10 Jacob Moves (Genesis 46:1–47:12)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows
[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.
- (optional) Flash cards from “Joseph,” Genesis Series 5, A Beka Book, Pensacola, FL
- (optional) Herein Is Love Commentary Series; *Genesis, A Commentary for Children*, by Nancy Ganz, Shepherd Press, 2002.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: Vocabulary words are enlarged for flashcards at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.

- *Goshen*: the delta area of northern Egypt
- *to sojourn*: to live temporarily in a land that is not one’s home

Scripture (NASB)

Genesis 46:1 So Israel set out with all that he had, and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. 2 God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.” And he said, “Here I am.” 3 He said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. 4 I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes.”

5 Then Jacob arose from Beersheba; and the sons of Israel carried their father Jacob and their little ones and their wives in the wagons which Pharaoh had sent to carry him. 6 They took their livestock and their property, which they had acquired in the land of Canaan, and came to Egypt, Jacob and all his descendants with him: 7 his sons and his grandsons with him, his daughters and his granddaughters, and all his descendants he brought with him to Egypt.

[The names of seventy children and grandchildren who went to Egypt with Jacob are found in Genesis 46:8–27 but are not included here.]

28 Now he sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out *the way* before him to Goshen; and they came into the land of Goshen. 29 Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; as soon as he appeared before him, he fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time. 30 Then Israel said to Joseph, “Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive.” 31 Joseph said to his brothers and to his father’s household, “I will go up and tell Pharaoh, and will say to him, ‘My brothers and my father’s household, who *were* in the land of Canaan, have come to me; 32 and the men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock; and they have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.’ 33 When Pharaoh calls you and says, ‘What is your occupation?’ 34 you shall say, ‘Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers,’ that you may live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is loathsome to the Egyptians.”

47:1 Then Joseph went in and told Pharaoh, and said, “My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are in the land of Goshen.” 2 He took five men from among his brothers and presented them to Pharaoh. 3 Then Pharaoh said to his brothers, “What is your occupation?” So they said to Pharaoh, “Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers.” 4 They said to Pharaoh, “We have come to sojourn in the land, for there is no pasture for your servants’ flocks, for the famine is severe in the land of Canaan. Now, therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen.” 5 Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Your father and your brothers have come to you. 6 The land of Egypt

is at your disposal; settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land, let them live in the land of Goshen; and if you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock.”

7 Then Joseph brought his father Jacob and presented him to Pharaoh; and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. 8 Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many years have you lived?” 9 So Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty; few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning.” 10 And Jacob blessed Pharaoh, and went out from his presence. 11 So Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a possession in the land of Egypt, in the best of the land, in the land of Rameses, as Pharaoh had ordered. 12 Joseph provided his father and his brothers and all his father’s household with food, according to their little ones.

Introduction/Review:

When Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers, he also told them not to be grieved with themselves for selling him into slavery, for, he said, “God sent me before you to preserve life.” Then, because they would not be able to survive five more years of famine in Canaan, he said they must move to Egypt. At the direction of Pharaoh, Joseph provided wagons for his family to move to Egypt. He gave changes of clothes to each of the brothers but gave five changes of clothes to Benjamin as well as three hundred pieces of silver. For his father, he provided ten donkeys with good products from Egypt and ten more donkeys with grain, bread, and other provisions for the journey to Egypt.

The sons of Jacob showed all this to their father, who still had a hard time believing Joseph was yet alive. However, when he saw the wagons from Pharaoh, then he rejoiced in the fact that Joseph lived.

Story:

The family packed up and moved everything—their possessions, their herds, themselves. They traveled from Hebron to Beersheba [locate]. There, the place where his father, Isaac, and his grandfather, Abraham, had lived, Israel/Jacob offered sacrifices to God.

God’s validation of Jacob’s move

You know, to leave Canaan, the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, ✓was a scary thing for Jacob. So many times, God had said Canaan was the land in which he would bless these men and their descendants. Yet, it wasn’t safe if, as Joseph said, there were five more years of famine. ✓Perhaps Jacob was conflicted about going, even if it meant seeing his beloved Joseph again.

God, however, made it very clear to Jacob that he should go to Egypt, for he spoke to him after Jacob offered sacrifices in visions of the night and said, “Jacob, Jacob.”

Jacob/Israel answered, “Here I am.”

God said, “I am God, the God of your father; do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you a great nation there. I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again; and Joseph will close your eyes when you die.”

What better evidence could Israel have than the direct voice of God Himself? ✓Perhaps he did not know what God had said to Abraham years before: “Know for certain that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, where they will be . . . four hundred years” (Genesis 15:13). Israel’s move was the beginning of those four hundred years. Jacob confidently left the southernmost border of Canaan, obeying God.

[Teacher, if you wish to present here the count of seventy souls that went to sojourn in Egypt (Genesis 46:27), a chart is found below. Or this chart and count could be used as an activity after the lesson.]

Jacob and Joseph’s reunion

As they neared the area called Goshen and Rameses [locate in the northern delta area of Egypt], Jacob sent Judah down to Joseph for instructions concerning exactly where to go. When Judah reached Joseph, Joseph

got into his chariot and rode to find his long-separated father. I would have loved to see the scene as Joseph, spying his father, jumped out of his chariot and ran to hug and kiss Jacob. The Bible expresses their meeting this way: “Joseph fell on his neck and wept on his neck a long time.” How long would it take to cry for the twenty-plus years of separation? Overjoyed Israel said to Joseph, “Now let me die, since I have seen your face, that you are still alive.”

Joseph’s preparation to come to Pharaoh

But there was business to be done. First, Joseph must inform Pharaoh that his father and brothers had indeed arrived from Canaan. Joseph said, “I will go up and tell Pharaoh, ‘My brothers and my father’s household, who were in the land of Canaan, have come to me. The men are shepherds, for they have been keepers of livestock. They have brought their flocks and their herds and all that they have.’”

“Now, when Pharaoh calls you before him and says, ‘What is your occupation?’ you shall say, ‘Your servants have been keepers of livestock from our youth even until now, both we and our fathers.’ If you say that, Pharaoh will let you live in the land of Goshen; for every shepherd is loathsome to the Egyptians.”*

So Joseph carried out his plan. He went to Pharaoh and said, “My father and my brothers and their flocks and their herds and all that they have, have come out of the land of Canaan; and behold, they are ✓temporarily in the land of Goshen.”

Then Joseph took five of his brothers (we don’t know which ones) and presented them to Pharaoh. Sure enough, Pharaoh asked, “What is your occupation?”

The brothers answered, “Your servants are shepherds, both we and our fathers. We have come to sojourn in the land. There is no pasture for your servants’ flocks in Canaan, for the famine is severe there. Now, therefore, please let your servants live in the land of Goshen.”

Pharaoh addressed Joseph, saying, “Your father and your brothers have come to you. The land of Egypt is at your disposal. Settle your father and your brothers in the best of the land—the most fertile and fruitful, and the fittest for cattle, being full of pastures; let them live in the land of Goshen. If you know any capable men among them, then put them in charge of my livestock.”

So, that’s where Jacob’s family settled. What a wonderful provision from the Lord. This would never have happened if Joseph had not found such favor with Pharaoh. God had been working during all the those difficult years that Joseph had experienced.

Jacob’s blessing on Pharaoh

✓Perhaps after a short period of time, Joseph presented his father, Jacob, to Pharaoh. Would you expect Pharaoh, the king, to bless this foreign old man? Perhaps, but the opposite took place: Jacob blessed Pharaoh. Maybe he included the following in his blessing: wishing him health and happiness, praying for his welfare, thanking him for all his kindness, and blessing him not only as was usual when men came into the presence of princes, but in an authoritative way—as a prophet and patriarch, a man divinely inspired of God, and who had great power in prayer with him (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/genesis-47-7.html>).

Pharaoh responded to the blessing with a question, “How many years have you lived?”

Jacob answered, “The years of my sojourning are one hundred and thirty. Few and unpleasant have been the years of my life, nor have they attained the years that my fathers lived during the days of their sojourning.” (You see, Abraham had died at the age of one hundred seventy-five years, and Isaac, at one hundred eighty. One hundred thirty was forty-five to fifty years fewer than the years of these two men.)

As Jacob left his audience with the king of Egypt, he again blessed him, ✓probably thanking him for his provision of a land in which to live and asking God’s favor and happiness for him.

Thus, we see how Joseph settled his father and his brothers and gave them a place to live in the best of the

land of Egypt, as Pharaoh had decreed. Joseph provided his father and his brothers with food throughout the famine and beyond.

*Much speculation exists as to why shepherds were an abomination to the Egyptians. “Dr. Lightfoot is of opinion, that the Egyptians, being plagued for Abraham's and Sarah's sake, made a law, that for the future none should converse with Hebrews, nor with foreign shepherds, so familiarly as to eat or drink with them” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/genesis-46-34.html>). This is a interesting and likely answer.


Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus

As a baby escaping Herod’s sword, Jesus was taken to sojourn in Egypt with his parents.

- Jacob called his life a pilgrimage or sojourning. “They are not at home in their own country, [who] are seeking a better, even an heavenly one” (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/genesis-47-9.html>). “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced *them* and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth” (Hebrews 11:13).

Activities:

- Play dough: wagons; throne; sheep; cattle
- Snack: Sugar cookies in the shape of wagons. Cut 1x4-inch rectangular shapes out of rolled-out cookie dough. Cut the corners of the rectangle at an angle. With a bottle cap cut circles; cut these circles in half and attach to the bottom of the wagon bed. Cut out more wheel circles and place over the half wheels. Press down a little. Score horizontal lines on the wagon boxes and spokes on the wagon wheels. 
- Jacob said he had lived few and unpleasant days. Review the evil that had happened in his life: fleeing Esau’s wrath; working for Laban fourteen years for his wives; enduring a change of wages ten times at the hand of Laban; fearing his name would stink after his sons slaughtered the inhabitants of Shechem; burying his beloved Rachel when Benjamin was born; thinking his favorite son, Joseph, had been destroyed by a wild beast (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/genesis-47-9.html>).
- Sing stanzas 1–6 of “Joseph,” found at Lesson 11.01 or on the Songs page at teachingthebibleto kids.org, where an audio and a visual are available.
- Explain further why Goshen was the best place for Israel and his family to live. Other than its fertility, include these thoughts: “[T]hey might be near to [Joseph], who might dwell at On or Heliopolis, to which place, or province, Goshen belonged; and that being also the nearest part of the land to Canaan, they might the more easily and sooner get away when there was an occasion for it; as well as he was desirous they should not be brought into the heart of the land, lest they should be corrupted with the superstition, and idolatry, and vices of the people; and being afar off, both from the court, and the body of the people, might be less subject to their contempt and insults (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/gills-exposition-of-the-bible/genesis-46-34.html>).
- Display and discuss the chart found below showing the number of Jacob’s sons who went to Egypt.
- Present a donkey puppet skit using the script found below. The script is also found at teachingthebibleto kids.org. A great donkey puppet is made by Folkmanis®. One purchased in 2019 cost about \$27, worth the price because it can be used in so many Bible stories.

- Review questions: (Game: To connect with the seventy persons who came to Egypt, give each of the seven questions below ten points. Tally each correct answer, and at the end, hopefully, end up with seventy points.)
 1. What did Jacob do at Beersheba as he set out for Egypt? [Sacrificed.]
 2. What did God tell Jacob at Beersheba? [To go to Egypt where He would build his family into a great nation; God would go with him and bring him back; Joseph would close his eyes.]
 3. To what part of Egypt did Israel go? [The northern part; Goshen/Rameses.]
 4. Judah came to get Joseph. What did Joseph do next? [Got in his chariot, found his father, fell on his neck, and kissed him.]
 5. What did Joseph instruct his brothers to do when they met Pharaoh? [To tell him they were shepherds.]
 6. When Jacob and Pharaoh met, who blessed whom? [Jacob blessed Pharaoh.]
 7. How did Joseph provide for his family? [Supplying food for them all throughout the famine.]

Memory Verse[s]: (NASB)

- Genesis 46:4—[God said,] “I will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also surely bring you up again.”

Handwork:

- Make a simple card stock wagon following directions found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHz4n4ikeLU>. (Cutting out the around the wheel spokes and including the covered top and seem unnecessary and time-consuming.) A template is found below.

Goshen
to sojourn



...and when {Jacob} reached Beersheba, he offered sacrifices to God... God spoke to Israel in a vision at night and said, "I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there..."

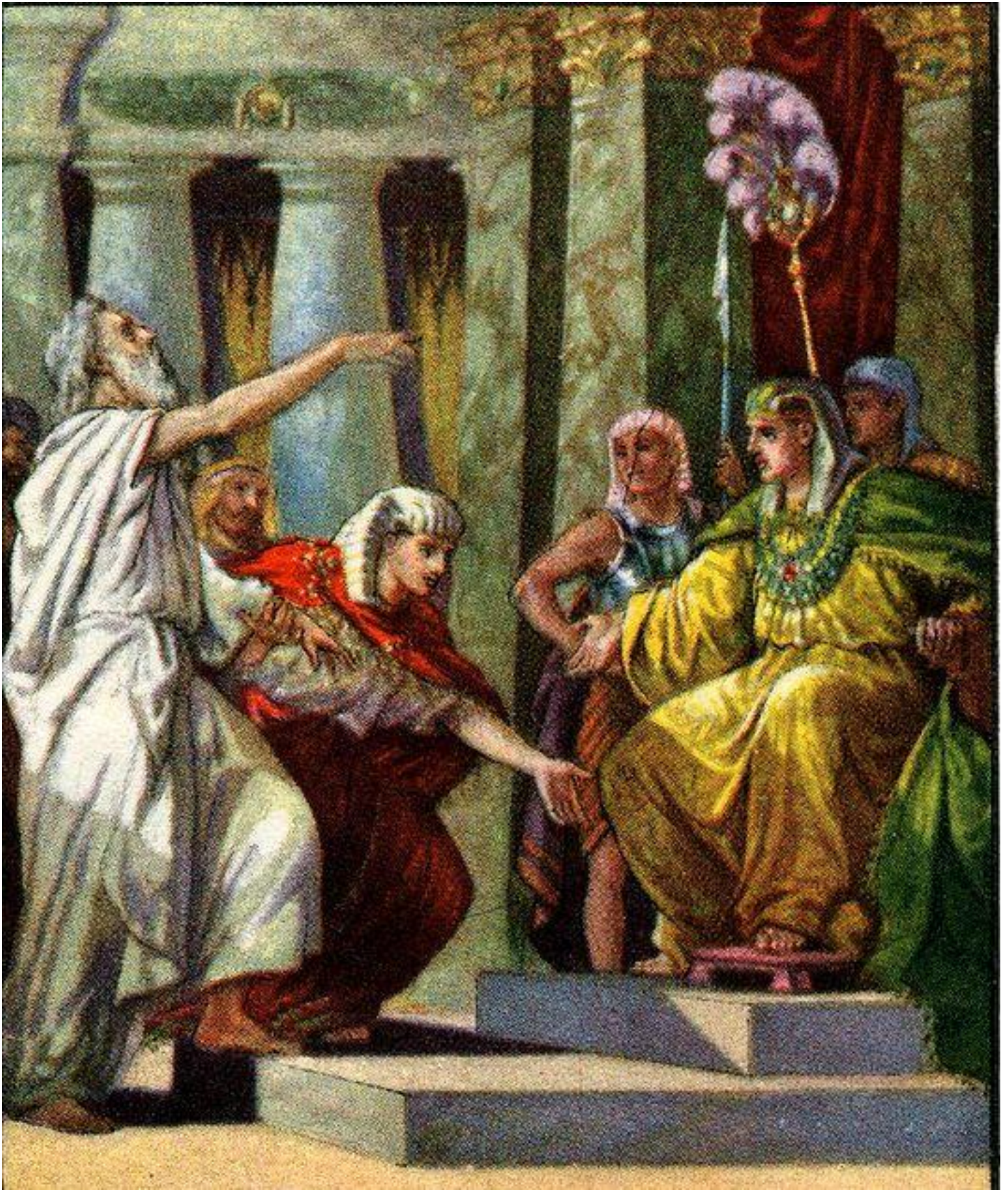
I will go down to Egypt with you and I will surely bring you back again.

And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes."

And so Jacob and all his family went to Egypt, taking with them their livestock and the possessions...
- Gen. 46:1-7



<https://chongsoonkim.blogspot.com/2014/01/jacob-goes-to-egypt.html>



<http://lavistachurchofchrist.org/Pictures/Patriarichal%20Age/target12.html>

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Seventy of Jacob/Israel's Family Move to Egypt

<u>Mother</u>	<u>Child</u>	<u>Child's Children</u>	<u>Total Number</u>
Leah	Reuben	4	5
	Simeon	6	7
	Levi	3	4
	Judah (2 grandchildren)	5	6
	Issachar	4	5
	Zebulon	3	4
	Dinah		1
Zilpah	Gad	7	8
	Asher	7	8
Rachel	Joseph	2	3
	Benjamin	10	11
Bilhah	Dan	1	2
	Naphtali	4	5
JACOB himself			1
TOTAL		56	70

Donkey
by Marilyn Alexander

Donkey: Hee haw! Hee haw!

Interviewer: My, aren't you noisy!

Donkey: Yes, I am. It's my nature to say "hee haw." I'm a male donkey. I am called a jack.

Interviewer: Does that mean female donkeys say "her haw"?

Donkey: Hee naw. The ladies are called jennies. A jenny says "hee haw" just like the jacks.

Interviewer: You kind of look like a horse.

Donkey: Hee flaw! You think so? Well, I think I'm better than a horse in some ways. For example, I'm calmer than a horse. I can carry more weight than a horse my size, and I am much more of an all-terrain animal than horses are.

Interviewer: We have learned about God's great design for camels. How do you compare to them?

Donkey: Hee ahhh! We compare very favorably. We might not do so well in the hot, sandy desert, but we are excellent at carrying heavy loads for long distances. In fact, in the Bible each of the donkeys Joseph's brothers took to Egypt carried home about six bushels of wheat that weighed about 350 pounds. See how strong I am?

Interviewer: Yes, sir, Jack. How do your feet help you?

Donkey: Hee paw! Oh, I don't have paws; I have hooves. But I am very sure-footed on hilly, mountainous, and level ground. I can use my hooves for stomping or kicking my enemies like wild dogs or coyotes. I can even be a guard animal. Say, how do you like my ears?

Interviewer: Well, I hate to insult you, but your ears are very long and kind of floppy!

Donkey: Hee call! My ears are big for a reason: In the desert I can hear another donkey call from miles away. My ears also help me keep cool.

Interviewer: I have heard that you have a pretty good digestive system.

Donkey: Hee straw! You're right. I love to eat grass, but I can eat even inedible

plants and get nourishment and moisture from them. In fact, my body uses 95 percent of what I eat. That's pretty good compared to humans, who average about 40 to 60 percent. Christ, my Creator, prepared my body to conserve food efficiently.

Interviewer: May I ask you a personal question?

Donkey: Hee yah! Go ahead.

Interviewer: Why are you stubborn?

Donkey: Hee stall! Well, it's not exactly that I am stubborn. It's that I don't like to do anything that seems to me to be unsafe or is not in my best interest. I am rather intelligent, after all.

Interviewer: Is that so? Prove to me that you are intelligent.

Donkey: Hee crawl! I have an incredible memory: I can recognize places and other donkeys I was with up to 25 years ago. I have a keen sense of curiosity. People who work with me say I am highly intelligent.

Interviewer: Okay. You have proved your point.

Donkey: Hee law! I want to tell you that we donkeys are one of the earliest and most frequently mentioned animals in the Bible. We're mentioned over 400 times! One of us was honored to be the only animal the Bible records that Jesus ever rode. He rode a donkey into Jerusalem the week He was crucified.

Interviewer: That is interesting. I never would have guessed that you are such a remarkable animal. You really are wonderful.

Donkey: Hee haw! Thank you for your compliment, but I had nothing to do with being remarkable. My Creator, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the wonderful Maker of all that is good. Praise Him.

Resources:

<http://bible-donkeys.com/?id=131>

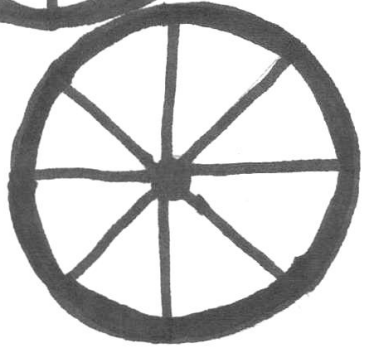
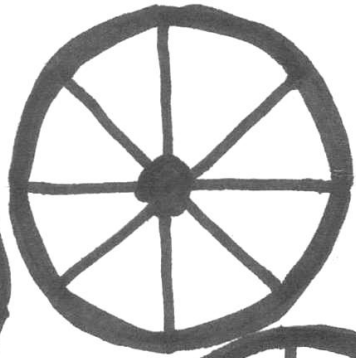
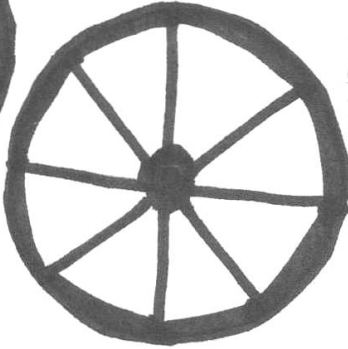
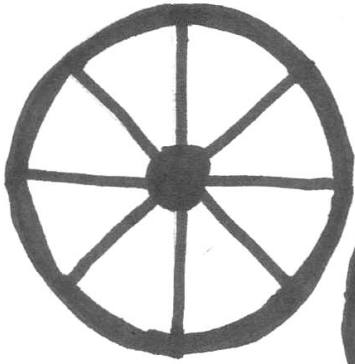
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<http://www.mikesdonkeys.co.uk/facts.html>

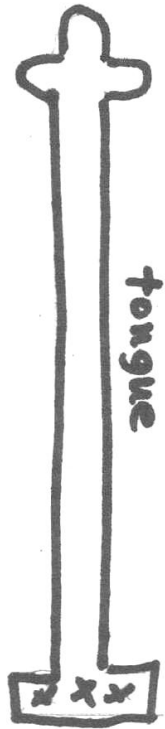
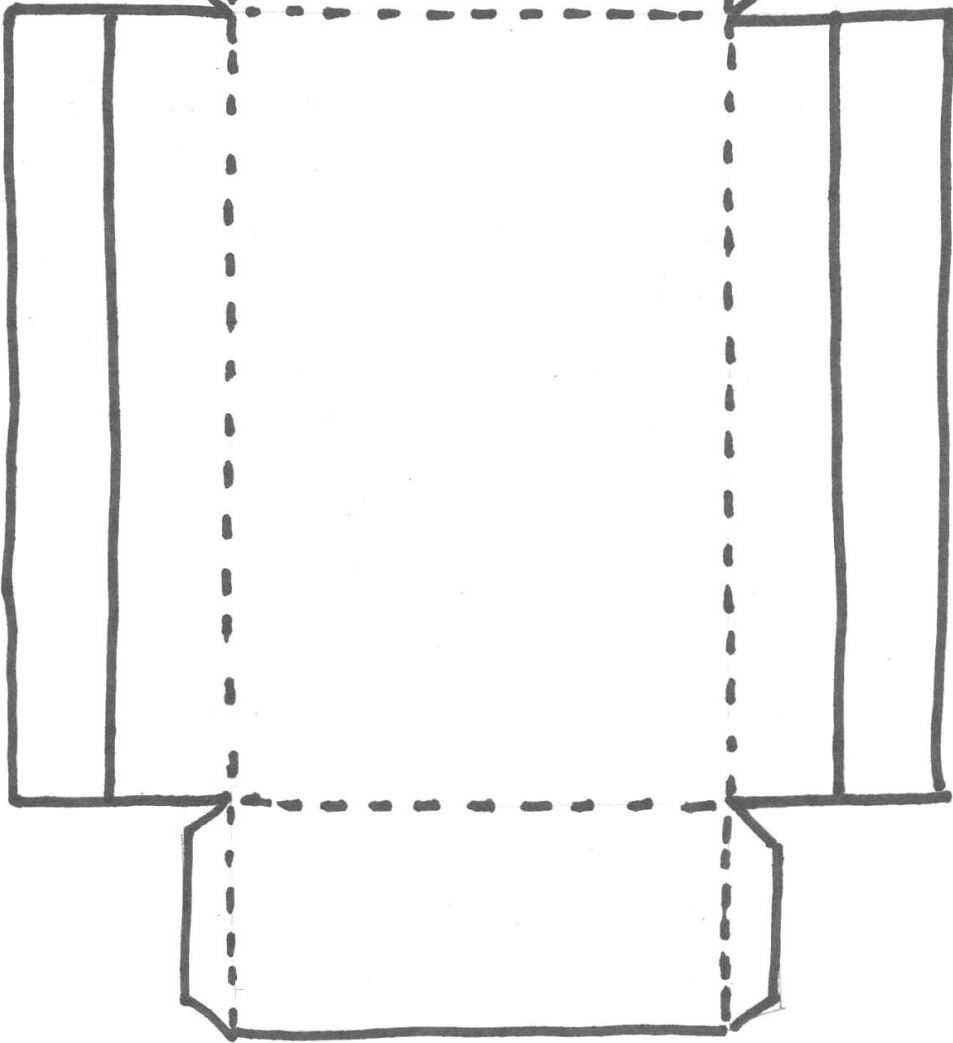
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seat



front



tongue