

11.13 Joseph's Brothers Fear; Joseph Dies (Genesis 50:15–26; Hebrews 11:22)

✓ “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) 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.

- (none this week)

Scripture (NASB)

Genesis 50:15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!” 16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, “Your father charged before he died, saying, 17 ‘Thus you shall say to Joseph, “Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.”’ And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” 19 But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, *but* God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. 21 So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

22 Now Joseph stayed in Egypt, he and his father's household, and Joseph lived one hundred and ten years. 23 Joseph saw the third generation of Ephraim's sons; also the sons of Machir, the son of Manasseh, were born on Joseph's knees. 24 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised on oath to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob.” 25 Then Joseph made the sons of Israel swear, saying, “God will surely take care of you, and you shall carry my bones up from here.” 26 So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt.

Hebrews 11:22 (ESV) By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

Introduction/Review:

Before Jacob died, he blessed Joseph's sons and also blessed or prophesied regarding his own sons. Probably the most significant blessing was the one conferred upon Judah, who would become the tribe of kings and eventually of the Messiah.

The period of mourning Jacob's death, including embalming (forty days), mourning in Egypt (seventy days), and a burial in Canaan. A huge retinue of Pharaoh's servants and Jacob's family accompanied his body back to Canaan, where, in addition to travel time, another seven days specifically for mourning took place. This was a long funeral!

Story:

What shall we do?

When the great company of people returned to Egypt after burying Jacob, Joseph's brothers got to thinking: “Our father is now dead. Joseph wouldn't do anything to punish us for all we did to him while our father

lived. Maybe, now that our father has died, he will pay us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him! Let's send a message to Joseph that we will say came from our father."

We shall send a message

So that's what they did. This was the message: "Your father ordered us before he died to say to you, Joseph, 'Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.' So now, Joseph, we ask you, please forgive our sin, we who are the servants of the God of your father."

When the messengers delivered their letter, Joseph wept as he heard its contents.

Then his brothers came and fell down before him. They said, "Behold, we are your servants." Again, this fifth bowing before Joseph and stating they would become his "servants" fulfilled Joseph's boyhood dreams. These brothers knew they deserved punishment, and they were afraid.

Joseph will forgive

But in one of the most refreshing scenes of Scripture, Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid. Am I in God's place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to preserve many people alive. So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." With these kind and forgiving words, he comforted them.

Joseph will die

Time passed—a lot of time passed. [Add the following figures on a chalk- or white-board.] Joseph had been about 38 years old when Jacob came to Egypt. Jacob lived in Egypt 17 years. [Add 17 + 38.] That made Joseph 55 years old at the time of his father's death. Joseph worked for Pharaoh several years, living another 55 years. [Add 55+55.] How old was Joseph when he died? [110 years old.] At the end of his life, Joseph had been able to enjoy seeing his son's sons' sons' sons—three generations of grandsons—of his own son, Ephraim. In other words, Joseph saw his great great grandsons who were born of Ephraim. As for Manasseh, Joseph's other son, Joseph knew Manasseh's sons—his grandsons.

Joseph had said to his brothers (✓which probably included his nephews if the brothers had died), "I am about to die, but God will surely take care of you and bring you up from this land to the land which He promised to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob." Where is the land God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? What is it called? [Canaan.]

Having been aware of the promise God made to Abraham that the people would be in a foreign land, Egypt, four hundred years and then would return to Canaan, Joseph had made the sons of Israel promise something. He had said, "You shall carry my bones up from here." In other words, Joseph had said, "When you leave Egypt, take my body with you to be buried in Canaan."

The last verse of the whole book of Genesis reads, "So Joseph died at the age of one hundred and ten years; and he was embalmed and placed in a coffin in Egypt."* There he lay for about three hundred years. During that time those original seventy relatives of Israel who came to Egypt grew to become a great nation.

*"So closes the book of Genesis. All its recorded dealings of God with Israel, and all the promises and the glories of the patriarchal line, end with 'a coffin in Egypt.' Such an ending is the more striking, when we remember that a space of three hundred years intervenes between the last events in Genesis and the first in Exodus, or almost as long a time as parts the Old Testament from the New. And, during all that period, Israel was left with a mummy and a hope. The elaborately embalmed body of Joseph lay in its gilded and pictured case, somewhere in Goshen, and was, no doubt, in the care of the Israelites, as is plain from the fact that they carried it with them at the exodus. For three centuries, that silent 'coffin in Egypt' preached its impressive messages. . . . [T]he shrivelled, colourless lips that lay in it, covered with many a fold of linen, had left as their last utterance, 'I die, but God will surely visit you.' No man is necessary. Israel can survive the loss of the strongest and wisest. God lives, though a hundred Josephs die. . . . The message of every death-bed and grave is

meant to be, “This and that man dies, but God lives””

(<https://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/maclaren/genesis/a-coffin-in-egypt.html>).

Lessons from this lesson:

- We see Jesus

Jesus died too—for our sins. However, He, unlike any before or after Him, rose from the dead to prove He had the power to save us from our sins.

Joseph is a type of Christ: he was beloved of his father; not one sin is attributed to him; he forgave; he did God’s will.

- No one is indispensable. Even Joseph in all his authority was replaced. We, although we may have important positions, are not so important as we may think.

Activities:

- Play dough: coffin; pyramid
- Snack: Pudding (A 110-year-old wouldn’t have many teeth and would need to eat something that did not require chewing.)
- Younger students may count to 110 by tens, fives, or ones.
- Sing stanzas 1–6 of “Joseph,” found at Lesson 11.01 or on the Songs page at teachingthebibletochildren.org, where an audio and a visual are available.
- Review questions: (Game: Print, back with paper towel, and cut out the ten words from Genesis 50:20 found below. For each correct answer, a student may place a word in verse order on the flannel board.)
 1. When Jacob had died and was buried, about what did Joseph’s brothers worry? [That Joseph might repay them for their evil against him.]
 2. How did they first approach Joseph? [With a message, supposedly from their father.]
 3. What did the message say? [“Your father charged before he died, saying, ‘You shall tell Joseph, “Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.”’ So please forgive us.”]
 4. How did Joseph react upon receiving the message? [He wept.]
 5. What was the first thing the brothers did when they came to Joseph? [Bowed down.]
 6. What did they say? [“We are your servants.”]
 7. What did Joseph say in response? [“Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to preserve many people alive. I will provide for you and your little ones.”]
 8. What promise did Joseph remember that God had given to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? [That the people would return to Canaan.]
 9. Joseph made his family promise to do what when they returned to Canaan? [To take his body there.]
 10. How old was Joseph when he died? [One hundred ten years old.]

Memory Verse[s]: (NASB)

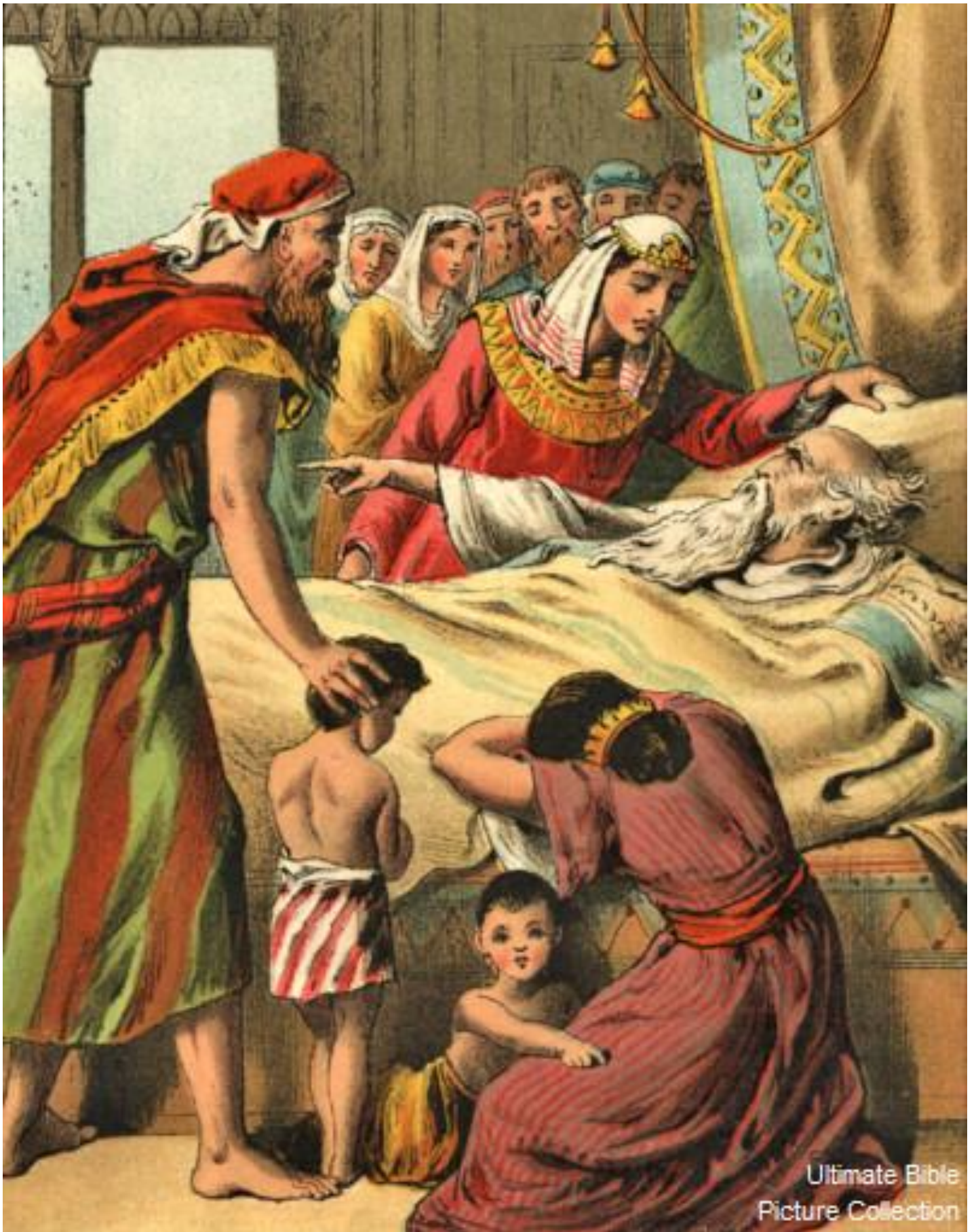
- Genesis 50:20—[Joseph said,] “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.”

Handwork:

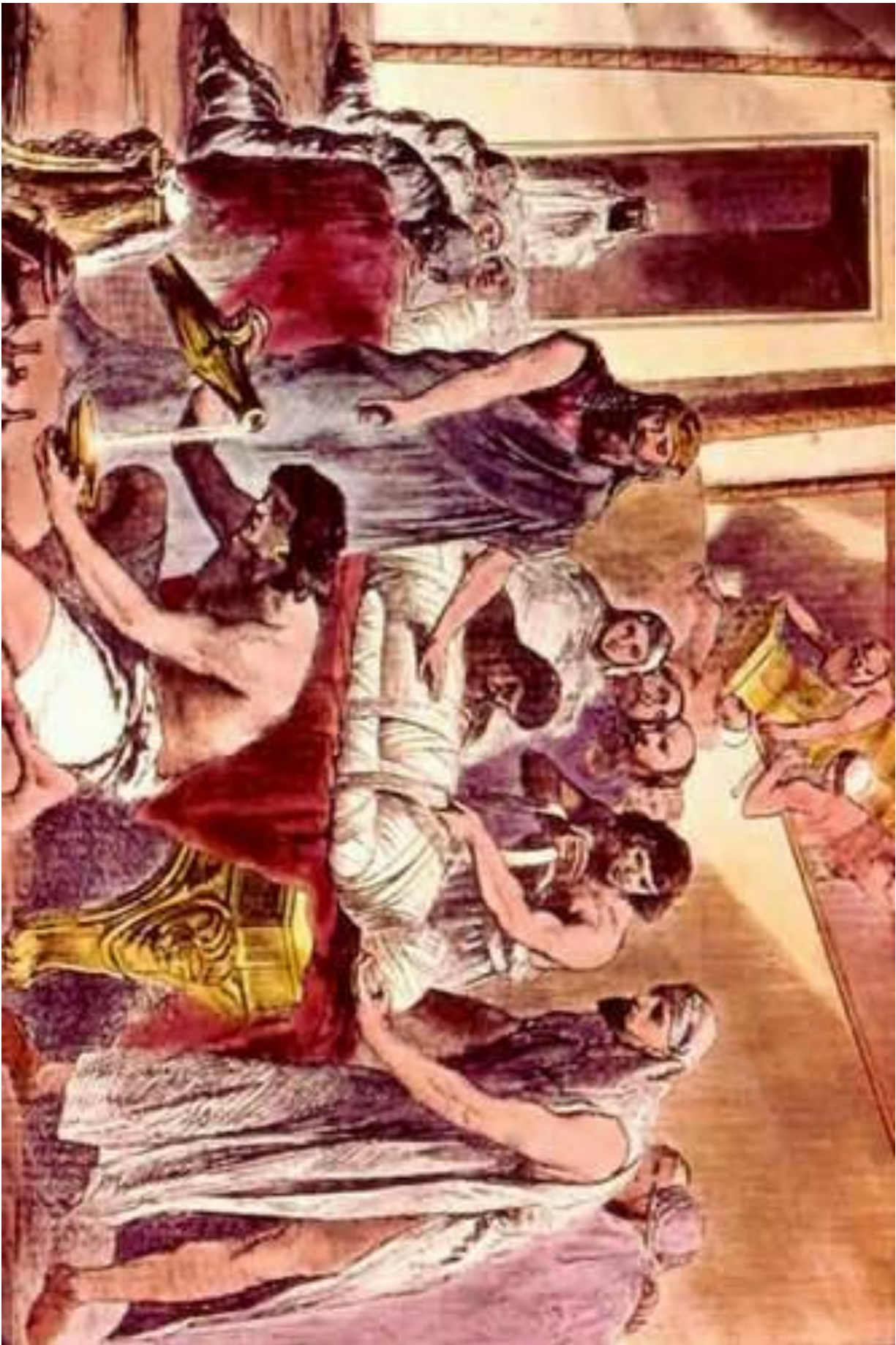
- Make a square pyramid (without a base) found below by cutting the outside edge of the figure and folding on the inside lines. Put glue on the tab and attach to the underside of the open edge. To find the pattern for a pyramid with a base, go to <http://lugezi.com/images/>.



<http://www.coachbrown.org/good-comes-from-bad-when-you-act-right-genesis-5012-20/>



Ultimate Bible
Picture Collection





You

meant

it

for

evil.

God

meant

it

for

good.

