

Let's Talk: Day 36-One Story

Jacob & the Wrestling – Jacob Wrestling with God & Embracing God as his Own

Today's Reading: Genesis 32 & 33; Hosea 12:2-6

Have a wrestling match (thumb, arm, leg, or whole body – you decide). When the loser has had enough, he recites Hosea 12:6 “But you must return to your God; maintain love and justice, and wait for your God always.” Then the winner repeats the verse before doing a victory lap. Have several matches with a variety of opponents!

Questions:

1. Why was Jacob afraid to meet Esau and what did he do to prepare for the meeting?
2. With whom did Jacob wrestle? How did this wrestling match change his identity? What did Jacob have to admit first?
3. Describe the meeting between Esau and Jacob? Is it what you thought would happen? Why or why not? How must God have been working in Esau's heart over the several years that he was separated from Jacob?
4. How is Genesis 33:20 a fulfillment of the promise Jacob made to God in chapter 28? How can we put into practice Hosea 12:6?

Let's Talk: Day 37

Joseph & his Betrayal – Joseph is Envied, Betrayed & Sold by his Brothers (like Jesus was)

Today's Reading: Genesis 37; Acts 7:8-9; Matthew 27:1-18

It is easy to get jealous. Both Joseph's brothers and the Jewish leaders felt that another was getting too much praise and attention. No good comes from those thoughts. It's important for us to learn to “esteem others more highly than ourselves.” Take turns sharing at least one character quality you appreciate in each family member.

Questions:

1. Every family makes mistakes. How did Jacob, Joseph and his brothers each do something that wasn't the best choice for the family? What is something you sometimes do that doesn't help the family get along?
2. What two dreams did Joseph have? What did they mean?
3. What did Joseph's brothers do to him? If you were Joseph, what would you have been thinking in the pit as you listen to your brothers eat a meal and decide whether or not to kill you? What does Acts 7 teach us about God in even our worst circumstances?
4. How are the chief priests and elders similar to the brothers of Joseph? Have you ever been envious or jealous of someone? How can you keep jealousy from becoming part of your identity?

Let's Talk: Day 38

Joseph & Potiphar's Wife – Joseph Avoiding & Fleeing from Sexual Temptation

Today's Reading: Genesis 39; Proverbs 7; 1Corinthians 6:18-20*

Use science to illustrate how we should run from sin. Take a bowl of water and sprinkle it with salt and pepper [people]. When you add dish soap [temptation] the salt and pepper moves quickly to the sides of the bowl [fleeing].

Questions:

1. How was God with Joseph even in hard circumstances? Can you think of how God has been with you in difficult situations?
2. From this chapter, how would you describe Joseph? What is his identity?
3. How did Potiphar's wife try to trick Joseph? How does Proverbs 7 describe this kind of woman and how to avoid her? With older children: Discuss life situations they would need to "flee from".
4. Who owns our body? Practically, how can we glorify God with our body?

* CAUTION: Parents of younger children should always share the truth but may want to use discretion in explaining the specifics detailed in this chapter.

Let's Talk: Day 39

Joseph & Interpreting Dreams – Joseph's Testing in Prison & Promotion by Pharaoh

Today's Reading: Genesis 40 & 41; Psalm 105:13-22

Discuss the longest time you have been in time out, sent to your room or grounded. Compare that to how long Joseph was left alone in prison. Did you feel forgotten while you were being disciplined? Share five things you think Joseph thought about while he was in prison?

Questions:

1. How did God help Joseph? How did Joseph help Pharaoh?
2. Who should get the praise, God or Joseph? Why? Where do you think Joseph got his identity from during this time? What thoughts do you think he had toward his family?
3. How many things did God provide in this story? What has God provided for you? In Psalm 105, for what purpose does God say Joseph was in chains?
4. How was Joseph rewarded? How are you rewarded when you listen to God? What benefit do the people around you get when you listen to God?

Let's Talk: Day 40

Joseph & Meeting his Brothers – Joseph Weeping for his Brothers (like Jesus did)

Today's Reading: Genesis 42 & 43; Luke 19:41-42

The distance between Jacob's home and Egypt where Joseph lived was far. Share the history of your family. Pull out a map and show the places where either your family has lived or where grandparents or other ancestors originated. Where would you want to live when you leave home?

Questions:

1. What did Jacob send his sons to do? Who was left behind? Why?
2. Why do you think Joseph didn't reveal his identity to his brothers right away?
3. How do you think Joseph felt about his family during these chapters? What do you think his brothers felt?

4. Why did Joseph weep? Why did Jesus weep? Have you ever cried for someone else or had someone cry for you? Share if you feel comfortable.

Let's Talk: Day 41

Joseph & his Revelation – Joseph Reveals his Identity (like Jesus will) at the Second Coming

Today's Reading: Genesis 44 & 45; Acts 7:9-13

Everyone think of a secret identity (it could be someone from the bible or media). Give three clues. Reveal your identity if no one can guess it.

Questions:

1. What did Joseph do to Benjamin's bag? Why? How did the brothers respond?
2. Does it seem like any of the brothers cared for the health of their father? How could you tell? Do you think this family was "healthier" (not physically) now than at the time they sold Joseph? Why or why not?
3. If you had been one of his brothers, what would you have been thinking when Joseph revealed himself? What about when Joseph told them to get their father and come and live in Egypt?
4. What similarities can you draw between the life of Joseph and the life of Jesus?

Let's Talk: Day 42

Today's Reading: Sunday is the weekly OFF Day

Weekly Review: Think back on this week's reading. What story stands out to you and why? As a family, pick a verse on which to meditate or memorize (Psalm 105:4, 5; Hosea 12:6, 1Corinthians 6:19, 20).

Preview Family Activity: You cannot talk about the life of Joseph without talking about the Grace@Home building block of "Family." Last week you discussed three words that describe your family. Today either write down or draw some of the favorite things you do or have done as a family. Do you think you communicate well together? Do you support each other? What do you wish you could do together? As you read about Joseph and his family, what similarities and differences can you find compared to your own family?