

## Let's Talk: Day 43-One Story

Joseph & Caring for Family – God Uses Joseph's Suffering (like Jesus' Suffering) for Others

Today's Reading: Genesis 46 & 47; Romans 8:28

God can make good come from any situation. He “repurposes” suffering for His good. Use the search term “repurpose” on Pinterest. There are plenty of creative examples of old items being given a new purpose. For example, a baby crib could be turned into a desk. Give each family five minutes to “repurpose” some unused household object for good. Share together.

Questions:

1. Imagine being Joseph. What emotions would you have had as you rode your chariot to see your father after 20+ years? As you rode together back to Egypt, what things do you think you would talk about?
2. Where is your favorite place to talk as a family? Where are your favorite places to talk with individual members of your family?
3. How did Joseph treat his family well? How did he treat the Egyptians well?
4. How do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers?

## Let's Talk: Day 44

Jacob & the Blessings – Jacob Passes on God's Blessing Before He Dies

Today's Reading: Genesis 48 & 49:29-33; Hebrews 11:20-21

Find a few things in your house that belonged to someone special to you who is no longer alive. Share some stories about that person. What legacy from that person lives on in your family?

Questions:

1. What is surprising about the way Jacob blessed Joseph's children? Does this remind you of Jacob's own blessing? How?
2. What spiritual lesson could God be teaching regarding the greater blessing going to the "second" birth?
3. Where did Jacob want to be buried? Why did he not want to be with his family in Egypt?
4. Parents, if you were to say a blessing today over your kids (spiritual or physical kids), what would you say?

### **Let's Talk: Day 45**

Joseph & his Death – The Fear of Joseph's Brothers vs. the Forgiveness of Joseph

Today's Reading: Genesis 50; Ephesians 4:31-32; Hebrews 11:22

Joseph understood God had a greater purpose: "You meant it for evil but God meant it for good." Make a decision as a family to look at every difficult situation you face with the attitude of asking "What good could God possibly bring out of our bad situation?"

Questions:

1. Why were Joseph's brothers worried once their father died? What do you worry about?
2. Do you think Joseph had forgiven his brothers? Why would the brothers doubt Joseph's forgiveness? Why do you think Joseph cried when they asked forgiveness again?
3. How did Joseph live out Ephesians 4:31-32? How can you?
4. Where did Joseph want to be buried? Why?

### **Let's Talk: Day 46**

The Midwives' Dilemma – When Should People Disobey the Government?

Today's Reading: Exodus 1; Acts 4:18-20; Acts 5:26-32

To give a visual picture of the story of Moses, watch the movie "The Prince of Egypt." If you don't have 90 minutes you can watch just the first three minutes which re-creates the setting of Exodus one. You can watch it online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Epk7JUofoEY>.

Questions:

1. In the generations after Joseph, how did the attitudes of the Egyptian leadership change toward the Hebrews? Why did they change?
2. What horrible law did the Egyptians pass regarding baby boys? How did the midwives disobey the government? How did God respond toward them?
3. How did the disciples disobey the rulers of their day? Why did they disobey?
4. Is it ever right for you to disobey the government? If so, when? Would you be willing to suffer for Jesus?

### **Let's Talk: Day 47**

Moses & his Childhood – The Faith of Moses' Parents & Moses Flees Egypt

Today's Reading: Exodus 2; Acts 7:17-29; Hebrews 11:23-26

Twice in Moses's life, he fled and hid from danger. Play sardines where one person hides and as each person finds the hiding place they join them there. The hiding place can represent a "place of safety/refuge." Where was refuge found in today's story?

Questions:

1. How did Moses get his name?
2. What clues can you find that show what kind of relationship Moses' parents had with God?
3. What kind of relationship did Moses have with the Egyptians? What about his own Hebrew people? Can you imagine what it would have felt like for a Hebrew slave to watch a fellow Hebrew, Moses, be treated like royalty?
4. How does Acts 7 give more details of the first 40 years of Moses? At that point do you think he felt more "Egyptian" or "Hebrew?" Why? Have you ever tried to relate to groups of people that have very different cultures (maybe in school or your neighborhood or at work)? What are some of the challenges?

### **Let's Talk: Day 48**

Moses & the Burning Bush – God Calls Moses & Moses Gives Various Excuses

Today's Reading: Exodus 3 & 4; Acts 7:30-36

Moses heard God through the burning bush. He still speaks to us and confirms it through prayer, the bible and others. Have your family take off their shoes and sit by the fire, if you have a fireplace, or use a candle. Set a timer for three minutes and pray and listen to what God may speak to you hearts.

Questions:

1. At one point did the Lord actually speak from the burning bush? Have you ever thought how God might wait until you turn aside to look at what He is doing before He speaks to you? Can you think of any "burning bush" moments in your life?
2. What do you learn about God in this chapter? How do you think this event changed Moses' relationship with God for the rest of His life?
3. What excuses does Moses give God? How does God answer him? Can you think of a time when you were asked to do something and you gave excuses rather than just obeyed?
4. What was in the hand of Moses that God often used (be watching for it in the upcoming readings) to demonstrate His power? What strengths or abilities has God given you that He wants to use to show His power to others?

## Let's Talk: Day 49

Today's Reading: Weekly Day OFF

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 (suggestions: Romans 8:28, Ephesians 4:32, or Acts 5:29).

Preview Family Activity: This week we begin to read about Moses. His life is a great place to talk about the Grace@Home building block of "relationships." Your influence as a parent is highly tied to the type of relationship you have with your kids and with God. In the busyness of life do you make relationships with your kids a priority? Make a date with each child to focus on building their relationship through one-on-one time together. Be watching in this week's reading how the relationships of Moses play a key role in his story (and history).