



No Rain, No Grain!

Joseph Prepares for Famine

May 23, 2021

New Frontiers

Session 4

Ask where the good way is and walk
in it...

Jeremiah 6:16

1417 Chillum Rd

Hyattsville, MD 20782

05/23/2021

Bible Text: Genesis 42:1-44:2

Session Key Verse

Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer. Proverbs 30:25.

Joseph “saved for a rainy day” by having food collected and stored for a time when it would be needed. His preparing for the future saved many, many lives. Because Joseph had formed the habit of doing his best at everything, he helped himself, the country of Egypt, his own family, and many other countries.

The famine we learned about last week wasn’t just in Egypt. The famine was severe throughout the world.

- *What do you think might have happened if Pharaoh had put someone in charge of storing food who was not in the habit of doing his best?*

People could have starved because not enough food would have been stored up or may not have been stored properly. It’s good that Joseph was on the job!

The famine was also in the land of Canaan where Jacob, Joseph’s father, lived. When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent his sons to go down and buy some for their family.

When Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain, Jacob didn’t send Benjamin, Joseph’s eleventh brother, because he was afraid that harm might come to him.

Whom do you suppose the brothers had to buy grain from? How do you think Joseph felt when he saw the brothers who had sold him into slavery? When Joseph’s brothers arrived, they bowed down to him. This reminded Joseph of the dreams he had had when he was younger. They had come true! Joseph recognized his brothers, but he pretended he was a stranger and he spoke harshly to them. He wanted to test them to see if they had changed from mean men to ones who were kind and caring. “Where do you come from?” Joseph asked them.

“We have come from Canaan,” they replied, “to buy food.”

Although Joseph recognized his brothers, they did not recognize him. His appearance had changed a lot over the years, and he was dressed as an Egyptian. “You are spies! You have come to see where our land is

unprotected!” Joseph accused. The brothers tried to tell Joseph they were not spies, that they had only come for food.

Joseph said he would test them to make sure they were not spies. “Let one of your brothers stay here in prison,” Joseph explained, “while the rest of you take grain back for your households. Then bring your youngest brother to me so I know you are not spies.”

Joseph’s brothers were troubled by this. They knew their father would not want Benjamin to go to Egypt. They began talking among themselves, “Surely we are being punished because of our brother.” They meant Joseph. They felt this trouble was God’s way of punishing them for what they had done to Joseph many years before.

Joseph turned away from his brothers and began to cry. He probably didn’t want them to see his tears. Joseph kept his brother Simeon and let his other brothers return to their father.

After Joseph’s brothers started home, they opened the sacks of grain they had bought. Inside was the money they had paid for the grain. They were scared. Surely Joseph would think they had stolen the grain.

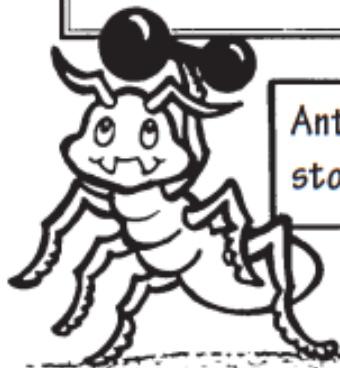
When the brothers arrived at home and told Jacob what had happened, Jacob did not want to send his son Benjamin to Egypt. However, they soon ran out of food and knew they couldn’t get any more until they returned with their brother Benjamin. Jacob finally agreed and sent all of his sons to Egypt.

When they arrived at Joseph’s house, they gave him gifts and explained about the money they had found in their sacks. When Joseph saw his brother, Benjamin, he had to leave the room to find a place to cry. After he was able to control his crying he came out and served his brothers a meal. When his brothers got ready to return home with more grain, Joseph instructed his servant to return his brothers’ money in their sacks and to put his silver cup in Benjamin’s bag.

Why do you think Joseph put his silver cup in Benjamin’s sack? We will find out next week. We will also see what happened to Joseph and his brothers.

GOOD HABITS!

Write a poem, song, short paragraph, or rap about a good spiritual habit you will work on developing, such as patience, honesty, or joyfulness.



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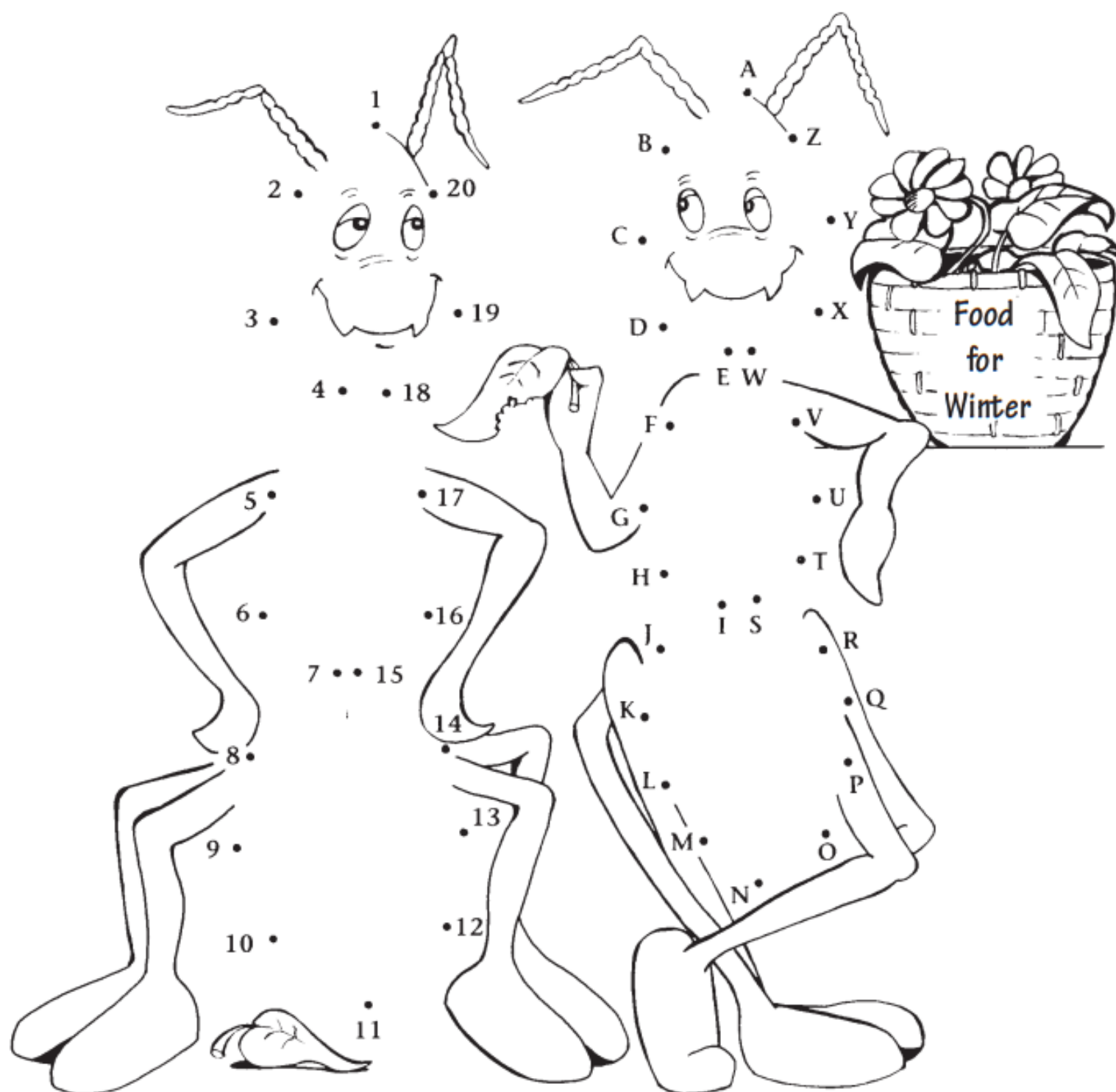




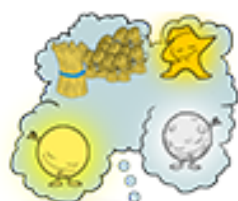
Because of the famine in Canaan, Jacob sent his sons to Egypt for grain. There they met their brother, Joseph.

PLANNING AHEAD

Connect the dots and color what you see. Ants have good habits. We can have good habits too!







Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH



JOSEPH'S DREAMS

R I L U J K H H G F Q P E I Q W X E R T
D J R O S T A R S F A U I Z Z J T E Z U
B S L T W B M X V L D F R Q U A B G G N
S U X N Q R G K A U W L A Q X C P Y K I
T N D A E O J J P G B L C H Z O H P F C
J D C A L T V E B E N W H G N B S T Y T
W D E W H H J A L N C U E X L E B E D X
W L R W W E S L Y G V Z L O L D W Q P Z
C E W I D R V O O U S D N E T W F Y I P
A T P S G S W U U P O C J S I Y T R W G
N A Y R E B O S J I X V L G G Q S E C J
A J U A K Z X Y I J O S E P H B L S Q R
A L Z E I F G V B L U Y Q T I B A A C E
N Z Q L V J D N G K K Q Z Z X J V W H I
F I E L D O H S H E P H E R D P E H A G
S H E A F A O X H U O O L M Y Y R I J N
U A Q T O R A H O S H X Y U J N Y M B N
Q U X U C U B K N O F Z Y L Q O M R W K
Z J Y A U S V M R A W W B I L U B Y K F
H H Q W R J M O O N U P D Q Z Q W P R N

SHEPHERD
RACHEL
FIELD
JACOB
EGYPT
BROTHERS

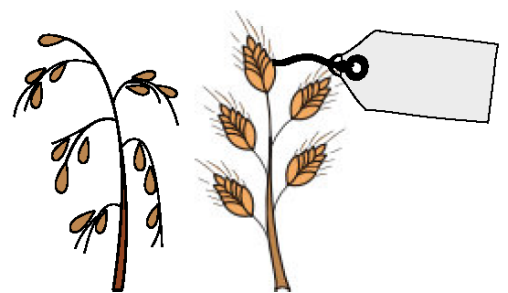
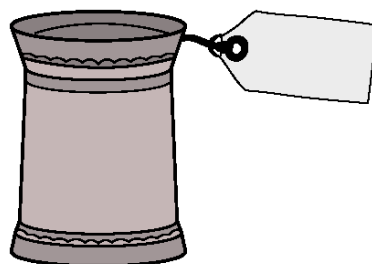
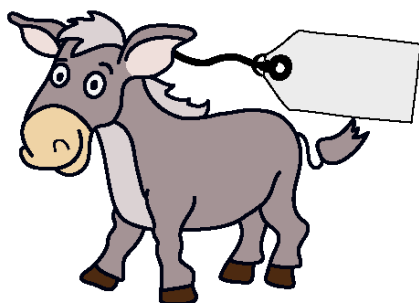
STARS
MOON
TORAH
SUN
TUNIC
JOSEPH

CANAAN
JEALOUSY
ISRAEL
SLAVERY
REIGN
SHEAF



I spy!

A servant found a cup in Benjamin's grain sack.
Color the same object a single color. Then count each
type of object and write the number on the label.

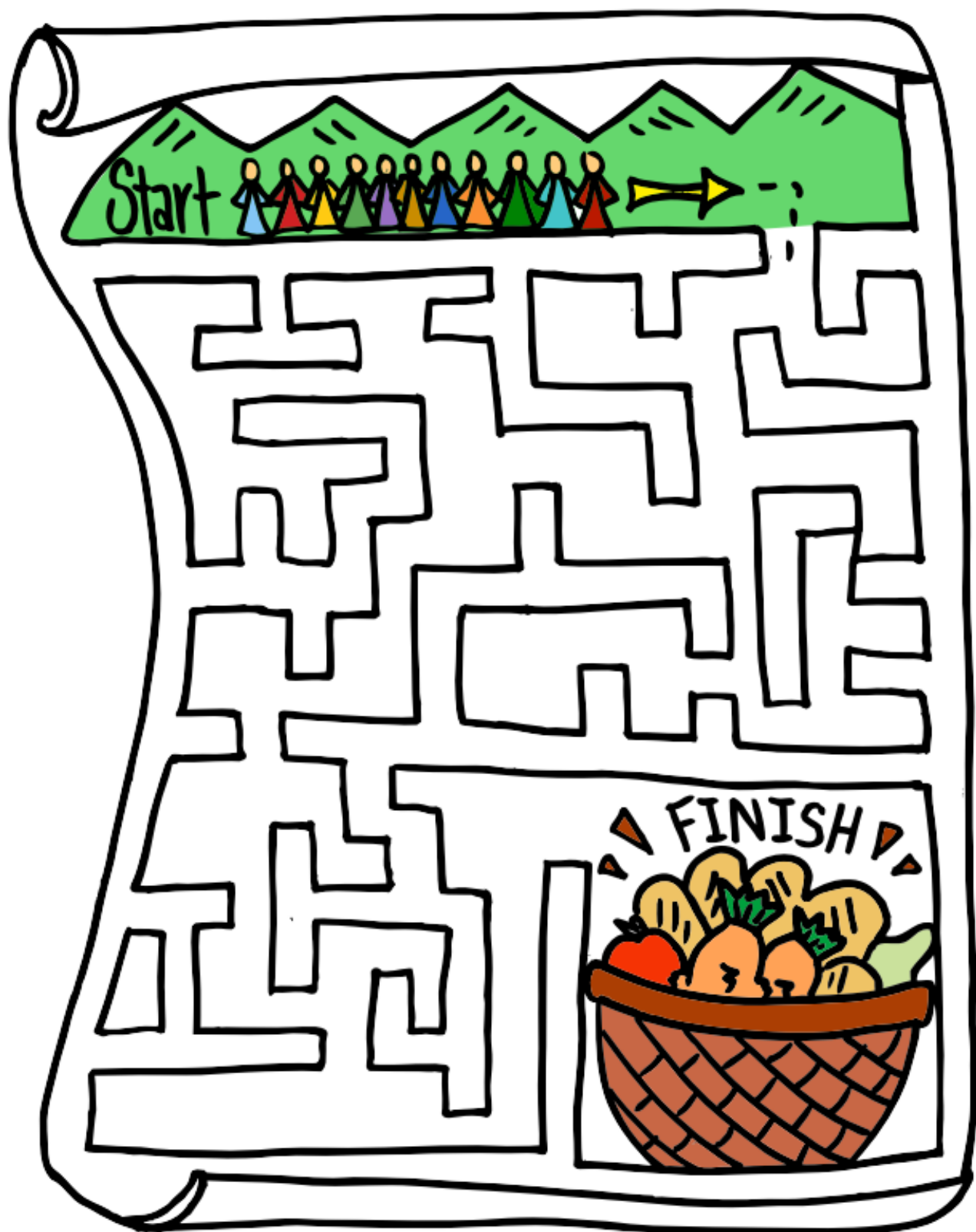




BibleWise

Brothers' Travel to Egypt Maze

Joseph's brothers are on their way to Egypt in search of food. Help them through the maze.



Next Week: May 30, 2021

SESSION 5

Problems From The Past

KNOWING RIGHT FROM WRONG

Bible Text



Matthew 4:21,22; 26:36-45; Luke 22:8,13; John 19:15; 19:25-27; 20:1-8

Session Key Verse

He who sows wickedness reaps trouble. Proverbs 22:8

Session Goals

Today each child will—

-  learn that the bad choices Joseph's brothers made had consequences
-  discover that right is right even if no one is doing it, and wrong is wrong even if everyone is doing it

The concepts of right and wrong are becoming more blurred in our society every day. Humanism dictates there are no absolutes. Many believe moral absolutes are outdated and suppressive.

When children hear this, and then are told at church that there are absolutes, they become confused. They become even more confused when they get in trouble for something they have done. They have a hard time accepting the consequences of their wrong behavior. After all, if right and wrong don't exist, how can a person be punished for doing something "wrong"?

Help the children in your group understand that God has established moral absolutes, and that we make choices daily that are right and wrong. Emphasize that we are responsible for the choices we make—we have to accept the consequences of our behavior. Help them realize this includes "making things right" when we hurt others.

