



**Joseph Gives Grain to His
Brothers**
Genesis 42:3-28

Does anyone remember who we've been learning about from the Bible? (Joseph) That's right! Lots of crazy things happened in Joseph's life. Last week, we left off after Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dreams. Because Joseph explained the dreams, Pharaoh trusted him.

Pharaoh even made him second in command in Egypt. Now, God had warned them there would be seven years with no food. To prepare for this, Joseph was storing food so people wouldn't be hungry during that time.

Eventually, the seven years of famine came. People in nearby lands were hungry. When you're really hungry, what's your favorite thing to eat?
(Allow a few kids to share)

In Joseph's time, you couldn't run to McDonald's for a Big Mac or swing by Chick-fil-a for a 12 pack of nuggets and a shake. There weren't restaurants or grocery stores. People had to go all the way to Egypt to get grain for their families.



One family that needed grain lived in the land of Canaan. You might remember them from a few weeks ago. The father's name was Jacob and he had 12 sons. Does that sound familiar to anyone? (Allow responses) It was Joseph's family. Joseph didn't have the best relationship with his brothers in the past. You may remember his brothers throwing him in a pit and selling him as a slave!

Because Jacob knew his family needed grain, he sent his sons to Egypt.

Joseph was the governor of the land in Egypt. One day, as Joseph was handing out grain, his brothers walked up to buy food.

How do you think Joseph felt when he saw his brothers? (Allow responses)



Joseph's brothers didn't recognize him at all, but Joseph knew who they were immediately. His brothers bowed down to him, and Joseph pretended not to know them. He asked where they came from, and the brothers said, "We've come from the land of Canaan to buy food."

Joseph remembered how they treated him before, and he had a choice to make about how to treat them now. How would you want to treat them? How would God want to treat them?

Let's see what Joseph chose to do.



Joseph decided to think of his brothers before himself. Even though they had been mean to him, he lived humbly by being kind even when they didn't deserve it. He filled their bags with grain AND even returned the money they paid for the grain.

On the way home, Joseph's brothers found the money in their bags. They started to panic! They worried that God was trying to get their attention for the bad things they did in the past. Next week, we'll continue the story with Joseph and his brothers.



***What were some ways you saw Joseph live humbly in the story?
(Gave his brothers grain, showed generosity in giving their money back, was kind to them, etc.)***

Joseph chose to live humbly, even when it was difficult. This is exactly what God wants from us. When we choose to live humbly, it affects others' lives. It may even affect their view of God!

Meeting others' needs, being kind to them, and showing generosity are just a few ways we can live humbly. Can you think of some ways you can live humbly at school or home this week? (Allow responses)