

September Faith @ Home box
Use Spirit & Truth Narrative Lectionary guides
Creation and Fall
God's Promise to Abram
Joseph and His Brothers

September boxes

Print:

Genesis 2-3: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+2%3A4-3%3A8&version=NIV>

Roles in fellowship cards

Promises cards

Family Tree

Count the stars

Circular timeline

Joseph jeopardy x2 (1-no answers, 1-with answers)

Supply list:

Balloon

Skewer

Black construction paper

Pencil – sharp

Tealights

index cards

Genesis 37: 1-34 - Joseph's Dreams

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan.

² This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate^[a] robe for him. ⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

⁵ Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.

⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: ⁷ We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

⁸ His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

⁹ Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

¹⁰ When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" ¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Joseph Sold by His Brothers

¹² Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem, ¹³ and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."

"Very well," he replied.

¹⁴ So he said to him, "Go and see if all is well with your brothers and with the flocks, and bring word back to me." Then he sent him off from the Valley of Hebron.

When Joseph arrived at Shechem, ¹⁵ a man found him wandering around in the fields and asked him, "What are you looking for?"

¹⁶ He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are grazing their flocks?"

¹⁷ "They have moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. ¹⁸ But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

¹⁹ "Here comes that dreamer!" they said to each other. ²⁰ "Come now, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we'll see what comes of his dreams."

²¹ When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. "Let's not take his life," he said. ²² "Don't shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don't lay a hand on him." Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

²³ So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe—the ornate robe he was wearing—²⁴ and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it.

²⁵ As they sat down to eat their meal, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead. Their camels were loaded with spices, balm and myrrh, and they were on their way to take them down to Egypt.

²⁶ Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

²⁸ So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels^[b] of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

²⁹ When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. ³⁰ He went back to his brothers and said, “The boy isn’t there! Where can I turn now?”

³¹ Then they got Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood.

³² They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, “We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son’s robe.”

³³ He recognized it and said, “It is my son’s robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces.”

³⁴ Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days.

Genesis 50:15-21 - Joseph Reassures His Brothers

¹⁵ When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died:

¹⁷ ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

September Faith @ Home box
Promises Made, Promises Broken – Genesis
From Spirit and Truth Publishing

Creation and Fall – Genesis 2:4 – 3:8

Activity #1 - Following the Wrong Voice

Read the story (attached)

Today's lesson starts at the very beginning when our loving God made the heavens and earth and when God made Adam and Eve to be in relationship with God.

Read Genesis 2:4b-7

Cover your nose with your hand. Feel your breath in your hand as you breathe out of your nose. Close your eyes as you inhale. Imagine God breathing breath into your nostrils to give you life. Take your hand away from your nose. If you were Adam, how close would you feel to God after that? [Answers will vary, but may include: close since God's breath is the source of his life.]

Read Genesis 2:15.

What are your chores at home? How much do you enjoy doing them? It looks like God gave Adam chores right away. Adam was to take care of the garden. Since it was a perfect world at that time, what do you suppose God thinks about us having jobs to do? [Perhaps God thinks it is good for us to have chores or to take care of creation.]

Read Genesis 2:16, stopping after "...commanded the man."

Then read the dialog from Genesis 2:16-17 in a kind, loving voice (begins with "You may freely eat...")

Read, Genesis 3:1. Be sure to stop after saying, "He said to the woman."

Then read the dialog from Genesis 3:1 in a sneaky, creepy voice (begins with "You shall not eat...")

Read Genesis 3:2-4. Be sure to stop in verse four after "said to the woman."

Then read the dialog from Genesis 3:4-5 in a sneaky, creepy voice (begins with "You will not die...")

Read Genesis 3:6-8.

We heard some different voices when we read this story: God's voice, the snake's voice, and Eve's voice. Let's go back and take a closer look and listen to their words. Re-read Genesis 2:16-17. What was the message in God's voice? [Eat freely except of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil or you will die.] How fair do you think it was for God to keep Adam and Eve from some of the fruit? [Answers will vary.] Why do you think God gave Adam and Eve a rule like that? [To protect them; so they would know that they need to obey God.]

Re-read Genesis 3:1. Why did the snake ask this question? [Answers may vary; it seems like the snake was stirring up trouble.]

Re-read Genesis 3:4-5. The snake made it seem like God was keeping Eve from something she had a right to have. When have you been tempted by another person to do the wrong thing? [Answers will vary.] What reasoning did that person use? [Answers will vary.]

Did you hear any difference in what God actually said and what Eve said that God said? (Refer to Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3:2-3) [Eve said that they were not allowed to touch the tree.] Why do you think Eve said words that God did not actually say? [She was exaggerating; she was going along with the negativity of the snake.]

It is easy to get worked up and go along with the one who is stirring up trouble. We can get caught up in the person's claims and add to them just like Eve when we let emotion take over. What are some of the voices (people or temptations) that try to get you to do the wrong thing? [Answers will vary.]

What can we do to keep from following the sneaky misleading voices? [Pray, talk to friends, talk to parents or teachers, etc.]

Activity #2 – Promises, Promises Card Game

God established covenants with Adam and Eve, with Abram, with all Israel at Mt. Sinai, and with David. Too often, though, the people have broken their part of the promise; but God is faithful, and renews the promise again and again.

God formed the first humans to walk with God in the Garden of Eden. With the exception of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they were tasked with the care of the garden.

The serpent encouraged Eve to question God's reasons for saying not to eat the fruit of the tree. He led Eve to doubt God's love for humankind. She started to think God was keeping the best from them rather than giving them the best of the creation and the best of a relationship with God. Eve and Adam both ate of the forbidden fruit. God gave them everything, including a perfect relationship with God, but they allowed the words of the serpent and their subsequent actions to interfere with that relationship. After they disobeyed and ate the fruit, they realized their nakedness and were embarrassed, and destroyed their perfect relationship with God. Disobedience (sin) came between humankind and God.

The Point

God loves us, even when we do the wrong thing. Just as there were consequences for Eve and Adam's wandering, we too experience the consequences for our actions. Praise God for the mercy shown not only to Adam and Eve but to us as well. God will always take care of us.

Find the Promises, promises cards. Mix them and put them in a stack on a table. This is the promise card station.

This game is about promises.

If you have a group, divide into teams. When it is your team's turn, you will send one player to your team's card station. That person will take a card off the top of the pile. Please send a different player each time it is your team's turn to go to the card station. The player who selects the card will stay at the card station and call out the question and chapter and verse on the card.

Working in your teams, use the Bible's table of contents to locate the verses and to find the answer to the question. The player who drew the card remains at the station in case either team needs the Scripture reference repeated.

The first team who sends a teammate to the promise card station with the correct answer wins five points.

Beware! When a "you broke a promise" card is selected, the team that sent a

player to pick a card will lose five points, and the other team will send a player to choose the next card. (Remember to keep track of the points.)
If you are playing alone, draw a card, find the reference and see if you can answer the question correctly. (Remember to keep track of the points.)
After the game, ask: what new things do you know about God's promises?

Activity #3 - Watch Out For the Snake + Prayer

If desired, locate a music video about today's passage using the search term "Watch Out for the Snake Video".

Play the video.

List the "snakes" (voices, words, temptations) that you need to be careful to ignore. You may have some ideas based on other parts of the lesson, but think of a few more. Then make a suggestion for how individuals can handle each of the items on their list. We need to prepare for how to handle the "snakes" so that we will follow God and not the snakes when choosing our words and actions.

Pray:

Dear God,

Thank you that you love us so much that you keep your promises to us even when we break our promises to obey you. We love your ways.

Help me say no to the crafty snakes.

We want to follow your ways.

Help me say no to the crafty snakes.

We know we will mess up sometimes.

Help me say no to the crafty snakes.

Thank you that you will forgive us and that you always keep on loving us.

Amen.

Activity #4 – Roles in Fellowship

God created another person after seeing that it was not good for Adam to be alone. Together people form the family of God. Together we look out for one another with love, compassion, assistance, and accountability. Together we remind one another of God's promises. And when one of us falls, we can be there to help that person with love and support.

As part of the family of God, we should look out for each other. If we see someone doing something that might lead to hurt or that is following a voice other than God's, we can offer to help. As part of fellowship, we should look for opportunities to help each other. We are going to role play situations where you can reach out to those in the family of God who may be listening to a voice that is leading them in a dangerous direction.

Find the Role in Fellowship cards. Choose a card. Determine how to handle the situation, and act out a possible resolution. Use as many cards as time allows.

As part of fellowship, we look out for each other. We help each other, we encourage each other, we celebrate with each other, and we try to keep each other from making poor choices.

Family Devotions for the Week

Sunday—Read Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8. God created the Garden of Eden and asked Adam to take care of it. Think about all that God created for you. Thank God for hands, and then each family member can demonstrate something we can do with our hands. Continue with feet, legs, arms, eyes, and nose. God carefully designed us. God cares about us.

Monday—Read Genesis 3:9-19. God confronted Adam and Eve about their sin. Act out the passage. Show embarrassment by hiding behind the couch or a chair or even your hands. Do we ever blame other people for things that we do wrong?

Tuesday—Read Genesis 6:9-22. God told Noah to build an ark, and God promised to keep Noah and his family safe during the flood. Find something you can pretend to be the ark. Line up stuffed animals or other toys, two by two.

Wednesday—Read Genesis 7:17-24; 8:6-12. Just as God promised, there was a flood, but Noah's family was safe. Continue using the pretend ark. Tap your fingers or hands on something to make sounds like rain. Imagine being in an ark and hearing the heavy rain for days and days.

Thursday—Read Genesis 9:8-17. God made a rainbow covenant with Noah, promising never to destroy the earth by flood again. Dress up in colorful outfits. Try to have on as many colors as possible. Wear your rainbow outfits and walk around, thanking God for keeping promises.

Friday—Read Genesis 11:1-9. The people were working together to become as powerful as God. They had to remember that people will always need God. Find a video of someone speaking another language. Block the screen and just listen to the other language.

Saturday—Read Genesis 12:1-7. Abram was asked to pick up everything and go wherever God leads him. Individual family members can choose something fun to do. After everyone is deeply involved, one family member should announce that everyone needs to get up. We need to go somewhere else now. How many get up right away to follow?

God's Promise to Abram – Genesis 15:1-6

Activity #1 – Star Constellation Craft

Supplies: Black construction paper, pencil, tea light or sunlight

Read The Lord's Covenant with Abram.

15 After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield, [a]

your very great reward. [b]”

But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit[c] my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring[d] be.”

Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Poke holes in your black construction paper with the sharp pencil. You can follow a constellation or just be creative. Once you are finished, you can tape it to your window or roll it up and put the tea light inside. When you look at it, you can remember God's promises to you.

Activity #2: Origin Story

Abram believed in God and lived for God. God told Abram that God is Abram's shield, and Abram's reward would be great. Abram asked how he would be rewarded because he had no children or heirs. God told Abram to look at the stars in the sky. God promised Abram that he would have that many descendants. Abram believed God's promise. God cared about Abram, about Abram's family, and about the community that would come from Abram's descendants. (Note: Later, God changed Abram's name to Abraham.)

The Point

God cares for us as communities, families, and individuals. In today's text, God's blessings for Abram and Sarai (Sarah) demonstrated God's love and care for Sarai and her desire to give birth, for Abram and his desire to have a son, and for Abram and Sarai's marriage and family. The text also shows God's love for those who would live in the community that would grow as a result of their son's birth, for all generations to follow. Each person is important to God and plays a unique part in God's plans for humanity.

We like to capture and remember beginnings or firsts. We like to look back and see what we were like as babies. Looking at history, remembering beginnings or origins, helps us make connections with who we are and how we got where we are today.

The Book of Genesis is the book of beginnings or “origin stories”. Genesis tells the story of the beginnings of the universe, the beginnings of sin, and the beginnings of God's blessings for the whole world through Abram, Isaac, and Jacob.

Many people have an interest in genealogy or in learning about their roots, their family's origin, and various family members. They conduct research and create a

large family tree showing as many generations as possible including grandparents, parents, sisters, brothers, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Some hold family reunions every year, or every few years, and try to get as many people in the family to attend as possible.

We can find Jesus' family tree in Matthew 1:1-17.

Now it is your turn to create a family tree. Family trees can be made many ways.

We are going to list names in a tree shape. You might want to list names of your family members on scrap paper first, so you do not miss anyone when you start to fill in the tree.

These beautiful trees can remind us that God cares for individuals and families in our church and community

Activity #3 – Father Abraham Song

Following the first sin and its consequences, Adam and Eve's son Cain murdered his brother, Abel. Humanity's downward spiral continued until enough was enough. God sent a flood, but first God made a way for Noah and his family to survive and for animal life to continue. Even after that fresh start, people struggled with pride and temptation. Despite the negative actions of humankind, God reached out with yet another promise: to make Abram a father to nations.

If you do not know the words or motions to this song, you may find a video on the Internet to familiarize yourself with them.

If you so choose, you may replace "sons" in the traditional lyrics with "kids" (i.e. "Father Abraham had many kids").

We read that when Abram and Sarai did not think there was a chance of having a baby, God promised Abram a son and so much more. Let us celebrate that promise.

Sing several rounds of "Father Abraham", getting faster with each round.

A long, long time ago when God promised Abram that his descendants would be more than the number of stars in the sky, God knew that you would be one of those descendants all of these years later. What does that tell you about God's love for you? [God has thought about me for a long time; God cares about me; God loves me; I was part of the promise that God made to Abram; I am important to God.]

Activity #4 - Count the stars

Locate photos of stars and galaxies. Photos can be found online (NASA and the Hubble Space Telescope are excellent sources) or in library books.

Try to count them. How many stars are there? Can you actually count them? [Answers will vary, but most will say they cannot count all those stars.]

Read the following verses.

God – Genesis 15:1

Abram – Genesis 15:2-3

God – Genesis 15:4-6

Look at the photo or video packed with stars.

How many people live with you? [Answers will vary.] We will call this your immediate family.

Imagine God taking Abram outside and telling him to look in the sky to see if he can count the stars. Then imagine Abram hearing God tell him that his descendants (his

family and his son's family, and his grandson's family, and so on) will be that many people. What does that say to you about how much God cared about Abram? [God cared a lot.]

God cared about Abram, his family, and his future descendants. God's promise to Abram affected not only him, but it also affected everyone after him.

God kept the promise to Abram. If God kept such a big a promise to Abram, what might that tell you about how God will keep the promises in the Bible for you, too? [God will do what God says.]

Complete the Finding Stars worksheet for fun. When you're done, color the stars as creatively as you can.

Family Devotions for the Week

Sunday—Read Genesis 15:1-6. God promised Abram would be a father of nations. Look through a family photo album and remember good times with family members.

Monday—Read Genesis 17:1-8. God changed Abram's name to Abraham. Adults, share with the children what their names mean and why they were given their names.

Tuesday—Read Genesis 18:1-15. God promised a son to Abraham and Sarah, something that seemed unbelievable at the time. Share stories about the most unbelievable thing that ever happened to you.

Wednesday—Read Genesis 21:1-7. Isaac was born to Abraham and Sarah. The name Isaac means "laughter." Laugh and laugh and laugh. Tell a joke or do something to make everyone laugh.

Thursday—Read Genesis 22:1-14. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son. Have the children jump off a step, porch or chair and into the arms of an adult who promises to catch them.

Friday—Read Genesis 27:1-17, 30-38. Isaac blessed his son Jacob with Esau's blessing after Esau exchanged his birthright for a bowl of Jacob's stew. Have each person draw a cross with their finger on another person's forehead or hand and say, "God loves you!"

Saturday—Read Genesis 35:9-15. God appeared to Jacob and blessed him. Lay hands on each family member, one at a time, and pray for God to bless them.

Joseph and His Brothers – Genesis 37:1-34 & 50:15-21

Activity #1 - All for The Good - Create a circular timeline where things end as they started.

Read the story (attached)

Supplies: Bibles, Circular timeline, pen or pencil

As we read today's Scripture passage, we are going to make a circular time line for a story that may end up right where it started, at least in some ways. There are Bible references to help us along the way, but it is your job to add words such as "good" or "bad" or "fair" or "unfair" along with some symbols to the timeline. You may want to add to the symbols or can make your own pictures or words. It is also your job to see when things change for the worse or for the better.

Read Genesis 37:3. Do you think the love we read about is fair or unfair? Why? Draw a heart at the top of the timeline. Add your words or symbols to the timeline.

Read Genesis 37:4. Do you think it made sense for the brothers to hate Joseph? Was it fair for them not to speak peaceably to Joseph? How do you think Joseph felt? Draw two or more brothers on your timeline. Add your words or symbols to the timeline.

Read Genesis 37:5-8. Do you think Joseph's dream was good or bad? Why did Joseph's brothers hate him even though Joseph did not make the dream happen? Draw a dream cloud on the timeline. Add your words or symbols to the timeline.

Read Genesis 37:9-10. Do you think Joseph's second dream was good or bad? Why did Joseph's brothers hate him even more? How would you have treated Joseph? Draw the brothers next to Genesis 37:8 on the timeline, and another dream cloud next to Genesis 37:9. Add your words or symbols to the timeline.

Read Genesis 37:19-20. When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, do you think their plans were fair? Why? Was it okay to be hateful but not to act on it? After all, Joseph was loved more and was going to have power over them someday. Realize that hatred and acting on that hate are both wrong and unfair. Draw the brothers seeing the dreamer Joseph. Add your words or symbols to the timeline.

Read Genesis 37:26-34. Think about where this all started. What direction do you see Joseph's situation going in? [From bad to worse or from good to bad.] Draw a dollar sign near Genesis 37:26-34 on the timeline. Add your words or symbols to the timeline.

Read Genesis 37:36. We have all had some unfair things happen to us, but this seems to be very unfair! What did Joseph do to deserve this? Draw a dollar sign near Genesis 37:36. Add your words or symbols to the timeline. If you were Joseph, what would you be thinking? Some may assume Joseph thinks God will come to his rescue; others may assume he is doomed.

Read Genesis 41:39-43. Who would have expected this turn of events? Do you think this is fair? Why? Draw a picture of Joseph living what he dreamed near Genesis 41:39-43. Add your words or symbols to the timeline.

Here Joseph's brothers meant harm for him, and it looked like that is what was happening. But God never left Joseph. It looks like God turned around the bad and made something good from it.

Read Genesis 45:7-11. How would you have responded if you were Joseph and you saw your brothers again? Do you think you would be fair to them? Draw Joseph seeing his brothers. Add your words or symbols to the timeline.

Read Genesis 50:17-18. Just as Joseph dreamed, his brothers bowed down to him. Do you think Joseph believed all along that this would happen? What makes you think that? What do you think the brothers were thinking when they were reminded of what they did to Joseph? What about when they remembered the dreams Joseph had? Draw the brothers bowing down to Joseph. Add your words or symbols to the timeline.

Read Genesis 50:20-21. Love and forgiveness. The story started with love and ended with love. Unfortunately, there was some bad along the way. God did not remove all of the bad that others did to Joseph, but our loving God worked it out and used the bad to make something good. God does that. God looks out for us and has a way of taking bad situations and somehow using them for our good.

Activity #2: - Fellowship Keepers

After God's promise to Abram for an uncountable number of descendants (Genesis 15) God promised Hagar (Sarah's maid servant, pregnant by Abram) a future for her son, Ishmael. God promised Abram (renamed Abraham) would be a father of nations. God promised Abraham and Sarah a son and fulfilled that promise in the birth of Isaac. Abraham kept his promise to follow God when he was later asked to sacrifice his promised son Isaac. Instead, God kept the promise of continuing Abraham's family line by providing a sacrificial lamb. As God promised, Abraham's family grew. Family members broke promises to each other, but God kept God's promises. Abraham's son Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Today we see that Jacob's son Joseph, Abraham's great-grandson, was promised a role in the nation's future.

Joseph's brothers were jealous of Jacob's love for him. God gave Joseph a dream about the future, and that dream upset Joseph's brothers even more. In the dream, Joseph was in charge over his brothers. Joseph's brothers decided to kill him. They would tell their father, Jacob, that a wild beast had attacked and eaten Joseph. Joseph's brother Reuben did not agree with this plan. When Reuben was not watching, the other brothers sold Joseph to some Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt to be a slave. Years later, Joseph worked for Pharaoh and was in charge of the land and supplies. During a famine, his brothers needed food and came to him as servants. Joseph forgave his brothers for the evil they did to him. They may have planned evil, but God worked that evil into something good for Joseph and for a nation.

Even when we hurt each other, God can turn our work towards good. That does not give us the freedom to harm each other, but it offers hope to those who suffer harm. It offers hope to us when we realize the acts of injustice we have committed. Although it may take time for that "good" to be experienced, God's hand of love can exchange evil intent for a greater purpose.

For this activity you will need 3 Index cards and a pen or pencil We do not always get along with everyone. Sometimes we say things that hurt others. We may not mean to hurt people, but it happens. Sometimes others hurt us. This breaks the relationship of love and caring that we call "fellowship" because Christians stop sharing God's love with each other when they are mad or hurt. We are going to make "Fellowship Keepers" to give to others here at church, in your family, or in your circle of friends to help mend fellowship when it is broken. Using the index cards, write these messages: I love you. I am sorry. I forgive you. Or write your own messages that would show people love. Is there someone who you might need to give a Fellowship Keeper to today?

What will you say when you deliver the Fellowship Keeper? [I am sorry if I hurt your feelings. I forgive you if you hurt my feelings.]

How do you expect the person to respond? [Accepting, forgiving, not accepting but willing to think about it.]

Plan in your head right now who you will give the first Fellowship Keeper to, and be sure to mean what it says on the card.

Activity #3 - Play Joseph Jeopardy

If you have a group of people (2 or more), divide into teams. You will choose a category and a point amount between 10 and 50. Then the other team will give you an answer that corresponds to that choice. Your team will then have two minutes to come up with the question for that answer. You may use your Bibles, but if you run out of time, the next team gets a turn at that question. Remember, your answer must be in the form of a question. Cross off the squares on the grid after they have been used. Keep score on the board.

At the end of the activity say, I am glad that we can count on God to work things out for our good. Prayer

Activity #4 - Joseph Forgives His Brothers Experiment

Supplies needed: balloons, markers, pointy wooden skewers, cooking oil

Sometimes things happen to us that aren't fair. But that doesn't make it okay for us to "pop-off" and do something ugly in return.

Take your balloon and blow it up half way. Now take your marker and write something on your balloon that you feel is unfair and may have made you jealous. No matter what happens God can always take something that is unfair or hurtful and make something good come from it. In Romans, Paul tells us that "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Because God is fair and just, we can trust him to make things come out right. God can help us develop thick skin so we don't "pop-off" at someone but choose to act in a way that would make God happy. Let's try and see how thick-skinned our balloons are.

Coat a skewer with oil. Using a gentle twisting motion, push the skewer through the "dark circle" (the thickest part of the balloon) on top. The balloon shouldn't pop. Watch you tube video "Skewer through Balloon-Cool Science Experiment" for instructions.

Family Devotions for the Week:

Sunday—Read Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21 Joseph's brothers were jealous because they knew God was going to make Joseph their leader. Serve a favorite treat to one family member while the others watch that person eat it. How can we be gracious and not give in to jealousy? (Later, give the rest a treat.)

Monday—Read Exodus 1:8-22 The Egyptians treated the Israelites like slaves. They were very hard on them while they worked. Do chores while one family member keeps saying things like "hurry up," "move faster," or "do that over." Imagine being treated like that all day long. Thank God for freedom.

Tuesday—Read Exodus 2:1-10 To keep her baby alive, the mother put baby Moses in a basket by the river bank. Pharaoh's daughter allowed the mother to nurse her baby.

Look through the children's baby pictures if you have them. Share what you went through the first time you left your baby to go to work or elsewhere.

Wednesday—Read Exodus 3:1-12 God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. God told Moses he was going to be the one to lead the people out of Egypt. Where we meet God is holy ground. Take off your shoes. Take turns talking to God, telling of your love for God.

Thursday—Read Exodus 4:1-17 Moses was afraid he could not do what God asked of him. God gave Moses miraculous power to help him lead the Israelites. Help each other do things like reaching for something, lifting something, making a bed, etc.

Friday—Read Exodus 7:14-17; 8:5-6, 16-17, 20-21; 9:1-3, 7 God sent plagues to Egypt to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelites. Identify the five plagues in the reading. Use the counting numbers to remember and repeat them in order. After each one, say "Let my people go!" (i.e. "One: Water to blood, let my people go!" "Two: Frogs," etc.).

Saturday—Read Exodus 9:8-9, 22-23; 10:1-2, 22-24; 11:9-10 God sent more plagues. Identify the five additional plagues in the reading. Use the counting numbers, beginning with six, to remember and repeat them in order. After each one, say "Let my people go!" (i.e. "Six: Boils, let my people go!" etc.) Extra: Can you count out all ten plagues?