



Our Theme

We are family!

Memory Verse

"Blessed are the people whose God is the Lord!" [Psalm 144:15b](#)

Challenge Verse

"I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

- [Genesis 12:3](#)

April 2 - Life Application

**With God's help, families can forgive one another.
(Genesis 50)**

Parents: *This month, we are learning about **God's perfect family**, and how He protected and cared for them through His Providence. We also see that He blesses us in many ways-through His plan for our families, and by blessing us through parents and grandparents. **This week, we learned that Joseph forgave his brothers for what they had done, and that he returned good for evil.** After listening to the sermon, take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids. Read **pages 116-117** (The End of an Era) together in The Action Bible, and use **Genesis 50** in your Bible for reference.*

1. In **Genesis 49:30-31**, Jacob was dying. He blessed his sons, and then he made a request before he died. **Where did he want to be buried?** (*In the land that Abraham bought for his own burial. Abraham and Sarah were buried there, as well as Jacob's father Isaac and his mother Rebekah. He wanted to be buried with his parents and grandparents.*) **Did Joseph follow his father's wishes?** (**Genesis 50:13** - *Yes, he asked Pharaoh's permission to go with his family and take his father to the family burial place, and they did as their father had asked them to do.*)
2. **After they buried Jacob, Joseph's brothers began to be worried. Why?** (**Genesis 50:15** - *with their father gone, they were worried that Joseph would hate them and pay them back for all they had done to him.*) So, they sent a message to Joseph saying that their father wanted him to forgive them.
3. **How did Joseph respond? (He wept.)** Read **verses 19-21** together. **What did Joseph say to them?** (*They meant their actions for evil, but God meant it for good, to save many people. He comforted them and spoke kindly to them, promising to take care of them.*)
4. God can take things that were meant for evil and make them good. **Do you think it was hard for Joseph to forgive his brothers? How about you? How do you feel when you are forgiven after doing something wrong? Can you practice forgiving others, making good out of something bad?**
5. Joseph and his family lived in Egypt until he died at the age of 110 years. Before he died, Joseph told his family that God would one day bring them to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Promised Land. **What did he ask them to do when they went there?** (**Verse 25** - *Joseph asked them to take his bones to be buried in the Promised Land with his ancestors.*)

This week we celebrate **Palm Sunday**, the day that Jesus entered Jerusalem to die for our sins. Next Sunday, we celebrate **Easter**, the day that Jesus rose from the dead after giving His life for us so that we could be forgiven of our sins, and live with Him forever as part of His family.

- How is the story of Easter like the story of Joseph?
- How did Jesus take something meant for evil (the cross) and make something good out of it?

FAMILY CHALLENGE FOR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

1. Together, **make an Easter Resurrection Garden**. Go to Pinterest for some great ideas!

<https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?rs=ac&len=2&q=resurrection%20garden%20diy&eq=resurrection%20garden&etslf=7720>

2. How can you **“Just Go” as a family**?

- Invite your neighbors and friends to one of our three **Easter services**!
- Take advantage of the beautiful weather and have a neighborhood Easter egg hunt, or have some kids from the neighborhood over to decorate cookies. **While decorating, ask the kids what Easter means to them.** Don't judge or be offended with talk of eggs, candy and bunnies - but use the opportunity to share what Easter means to your family in a simple way.
- **Do you have any older people in your neighborhood?** Have your kids pick flowers and walk with them to deliver the flowers with a note: “Happy Easter! Jesus loves you!”

PRAYER

Jesus, Thank You for showing us, with the story of Joseph and Your story, that (with God's help) bad things that happen to us can be used for good. Thank You for forgiving our sins and making all things new. Thank You for letting us be in Your forever family! In Jesus' Name, Amen