



February Theme:

God restores all things (because of His great love)!

Monthly Memory Verse:

“Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.”

- **Proverbs 23:18** (ESV)

Monthly Challenge Verse:

“...aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.”

- **2 Corinthians 13:11** (ESV)

February 19th | Life Application:

God restores and transforms lives.

Parents: This month, we are learning that **God restores all things**. This week, with the story of Joseph and his brother Judah, we see that **God restores and transforms lives**. After listening to the sermon, take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids. Read **pages 109-113** together in *The Action Bible*, and use **Genesis 44** in your Bible for reference.

1. Review: Joseph's brothers, except his youngest brother Benjamin, had come to Egypt during the famine to get food for their family. They didn't know that the man they were asking for food was their brother Joseph. **What had they done to Joseph?** (*They sold him into slavery because they were jealous.*) Last week, Joseph had forgiven his brothers, but tested them to see if they had changed. **How did he test them?**
 - First, he wanted to see if they had repented of what they had done. He overheard them talking and knew they were sorry.
 - Joseph knew the brothers had hurt him because they were jealous. He tested them to see if they were jealous of Benjamin for receiving five times more food, and they also passed this test.
2. **How did Joseph test his brothers further in Genesis 44?** (*He had his men put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack along with the money they had paid for the food. Then he sent the men to arrest Benjamin for stealing the cup.*)
3. **How did the brothers react?** (*They tore their clothes because they knew they would lose their brother Benjamin.*) They all returned to Egypt together to support Benjamin.
4. Joseph told the brothers to go home, and to leave Benjamin to be his servant. **How did he know that they had changed?** (*Read **Genesis 37:26-28**: it had been Judah's idea to sell Joseph to the Midianites to be taken to Egypt to be a slave. Now, Judah offered to stay and be Joseph's servant in place of Benjamin, **Genesis 44:30-34**. He knew that it would kill his father if his son Benjamin did not come back to him.*)
5. **This week, we are learning that God restores and transforms lives. What does "transform" mean?** (*To make a thorough and dramatic change.*)
6. **Whose life was transformed?** (*Joseph knew that Judah's life was transformed because of his willingness to trade places with Benjamin.*) Finally, Joseph knew that his brothers were sorry and that he could not only forgive them, but reconcile with them - that they could have a relationship. He had seen genuine life change in them. **How do you think Joseph felt?**

Digging Deeper

Joseph knew his brothers had repented and they were sorry for what they had done. Now he knew that their lives were changed, transformed, because Judah was willing to give his life for Benjamin's.

1. **How does this compare to you? Who gave His life for you? (Jesus.) Why? (To save us from our sins.)**
2. **How does believing this change you? (Once we have accepted Jesus' gift of salvation, our lives are transformed forever. We start to live our lives for Him more and more, and to honor Him in all we do.)**
3. **How are some ways we can change when we know Jesus? (Discuss.)**

Family Challenge:

Have your kids learned this month's memory verse? If so, try learning the challenge verse together!

*"...aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you." **2 Corinthians 13:11***

Challenge your kids to learn both verses and decide together on a **reward for the family** if you all learn them! (*Hint: It helps to create motions to go with the words or phrases!*) **Here are some ideas:**

- A trip to get yogurt or ice cream
- Pizza
- A picnic at a nearby park
- Ride the train to uptown Charlotte and have lunch
- Be creative!

Prayer:

Dear God, Thank You for transforming lives with Your love. Thank You for sending Your son, Jesus, as a sacrifice to pay for our sins. In Jesus' Name, Amen.