



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 5th | Life Application:

God restores families.

Parents: This month we are learning that **God restores all things**. This week, **God restores families!** After listening to the sermon, take some time during the week to have great conversations with your kids. Read **pages 105-108** together in *The Action Bible*, and use **Genesis 42** in your Bible for reference.

Review: Joseph did not see his brothers and his father for 20 years. **How do you think Joseph felt about his family and his home?**

Say: "Even though Joseph was in a strange place far from home, he loved God and had faith that God was with him. He worked hard, was honest, and was a good person no matter what happened to him. Yet, he must have missed his family and his home. This week, we will see that **God restores families**, and He provided for Joseph's family to come to Egypt so that they could be reunited! Let's see what happened!"

1. Read or tell what happened in **Genesis 42:1-5**. **Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt?** (There was famine in the land, and Jacob sent them to get grain.) **In verse 1, why do you think the brothers looked at each other when Jacob told them to go to Egypt?** (They had sold Joseph into slavery and they knew he was in Egypt.) **Why did Jacob keep Benjamin at home?** (He had already lost Joseph, the other son of Rebekah. He did not want to lose his youngest son as well.)
2. **When Joseph saw his brothers bow down before him, how do you think he felt?** (Discuss: Angry? Sad? Glad to finally see some of his family? All of these emotions?) **What did Joseph remember when he saw his brothers bowing before him?** (He remembered his dreams from long ago when he saw his brothers bowing before him - see **Genesis 37:6,7**.)
3. Read or tell what happened in **verses 9-16**. **Of what did he accuse his brothers?** (He said they were spies, even after they said they were not.) **What did Joseph tell them they had to do?** (Bring his brother Benjamin to him, and he put them in custody for three days to let them think about it.)
4. **In their conversation with each other, why did the brothers think they were being distressed in this way?** (Because of what they had done to Joseph when he was a boy.) Joseph heard and understood them. They didn't think Joseph understood their language. **What did he do?** (**Verse 24** - He wept.) Do you think Joseph still loved his brothers? Why do you think Joseph tested his brothers? (To see if they had changed and if they repented of their sins toward him, to see if they are truly sorry.)
5. **Why did Joseph keep Simeon?** (To make sure the other brothers came back with Benjamin.) **When the brothers left and took the bags of grain home, what were they surprised and afraid to see?** (**Verse 35** - Their money had been placed in the bags of grain!)

6. They told Jacob what Joseph wanted. **How did Jacob react?** (See **verses 36-38**. Even though Reuben promised, on the lives of his own sons, that he would bring Benjamin back, Jacob refused to send Benjamin back with them. He was afraid he would be killed.)

Can you see God's hand in the story of Joseph? Do you think that God has His providence working in your life as well? Have you ever seen God's hand at work in your life in the way that things happen?

Points to Remember

- God's Providence is with those who love Him.
- God can restore broken families, and He made a way for Joseph's family to be restored.
- We need to forgive those who hurt us. God commands us to forgive one another (**Matthew 6:14**). God's grace seems to be blocked if we don't forgive those who have hurt us. Joseph forgave his brothers even though they had hurt him so badly.
- Hopefully, we can reconcile with those who have hurt us. But, even if we have forgiven them, we need to see that repentance in them. It is important. We need to know that others are truly sorry in order to reconcile. Joseph needed to know his brothers were sorry and he tested them to be sure.

Family Challenge:

Have family members **make up motions for this month's verse**. For fun, record them saying the verse with motions!

Give each person a large index card and ask them to **write the verse and decorate it**. Put the cards around the house. **Challenge everyone to learn the verse** by saying it whenever they see the verse card as they walk around the house.

Prayer:

Dear God, You love us and You can restore us when we need it. This week, we saw how You can restore families. Help our family to stay strong and to remain close to each other- praying together, going to church together, living life and having fun together - so that we can serve You together. In Jesus' Name, Amen.