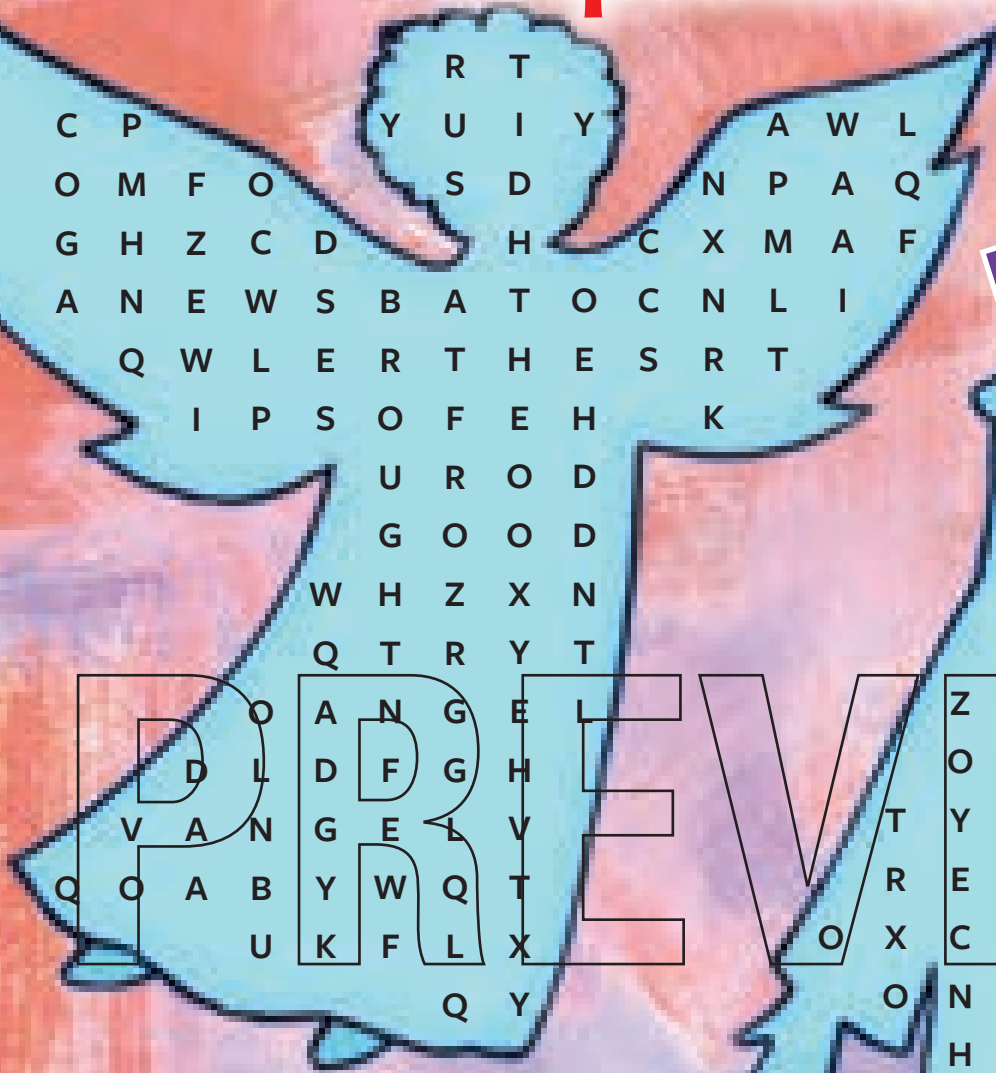
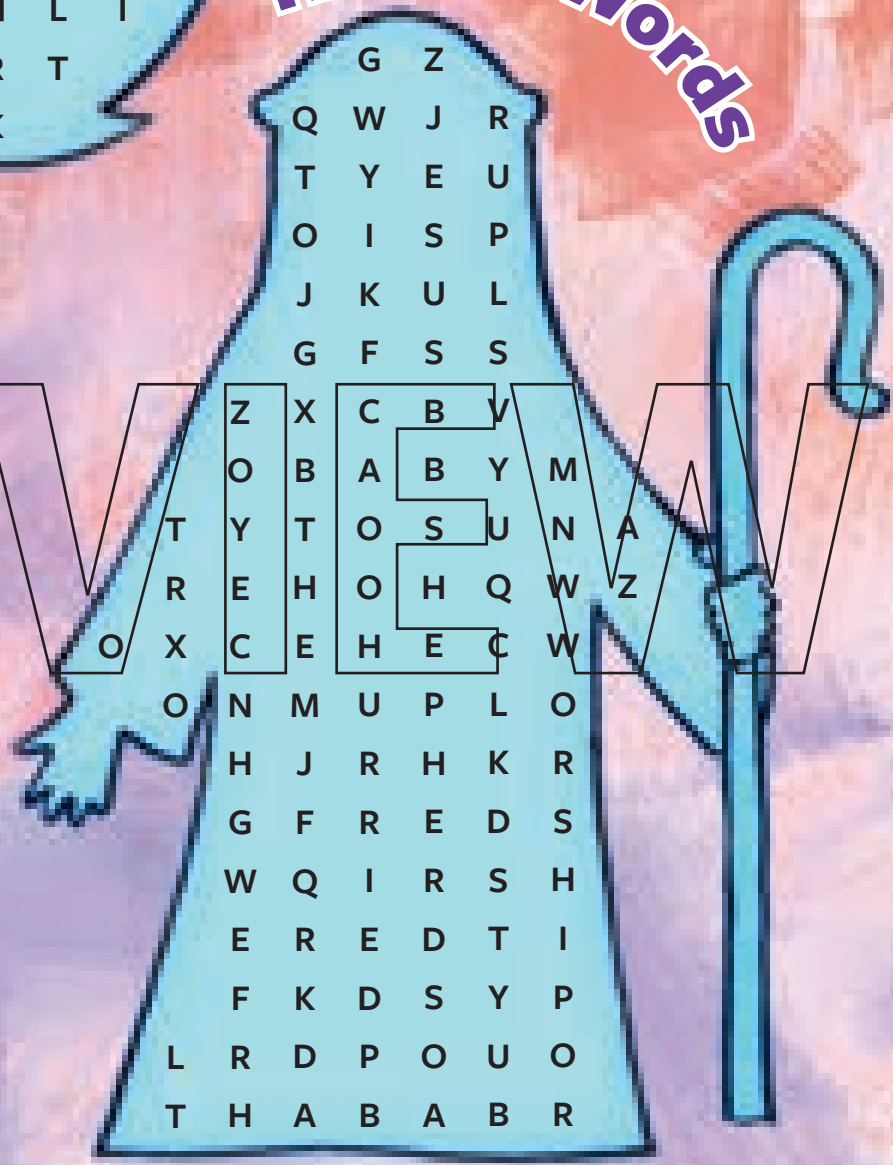


Shepherds and Angels



Hidden Words



On the Way Home

Hey kids! Find the words that are hidden in the angel and the shepherd shapes. When you find each one, circle it. Then put the words in order on the lines below the shapes to make two sentences that tell the story—a very short story! Read it to the people who are on the way home with you.

Angel _____

Shepherd _____



P R E V I E W

Long ago, on the night of a full moon near Bethlehem, there were shepherds taking care of the sheep.
as the stars appeared! The shepherds were afraid. They hid their faces in their hands.

Bethlehem. He is Christ the Lord. You can go see him there.

Then the sky was filled with angels. They sang "Glory to God!" The shepherds were too excited to sleep! They said,

So they left their sheep and hurried to Bethlehem. They found Jesus in a manger.
The shepherds' hearts were full of joy.

As the shepherds walked back to their sheep, they told everyone they met about what they had seen.





PREVIEW

... Suddenly an angel came to them. The angel was as bright and shining

... "Don't be afraid," the angel said. "I bring you good news! A Savior has been born in

... im. Look for a baby lying in a manger."

... were amazed. After the angels left, the mountains were dark again. But the

... l, "Let's go to Bethlehem to find the baby!"

... just as the angel had said! They fell down and worshipped the baby Jesus. The

... were filled with joy!

... t about the story of Jesus being born. The people who heard the story were amazed!

God's Christmas Gift to Us!

Color the picture using the color code to help you. You will have to do the math problem in each section to find out what color you need to use. For example, if the answer to a math problem is 2, then you will use blue. When you are finished, you will have a picture of God's greatest gift to all people everywhere!

Color

- 2 = Blue
- 3 = Brown
- 4 = Yellow
- 5 = Orange
- 6 = Red
- 7 = Green



Dear Family:

Today we learned the story of an angel choir that brought good news to lowly shepherds. We followed them to Bethlehem and worshiped and praised baby Jesus—our Savior!

Continue that worship and praise in your home this week as you celebrate Christ's birth together. You'll find great activities on the card that matches today's story symbol in your God's Big Story cards set—card #83. Invite your child to tell the story using the ornaments we made

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Joseph the Dreamer



I cried 4 days. I M



broken.

I was



becuz my bros sold Joseph.

Did You Know?

In Joseph's day, people didn't have cell phones, iPads, or computers. There was *no* texting! In Egypt they wrote with ink on a kind of paper called *papyrus* that was made out of plant fibers. Joseph, an Israelite, may have learned to write on pieces of pottery with a kind of ink made out of soot, resin, olive oil, and water. The letters of the alphabet people used during that time sometimes looked more like pictures.

PREVIEW

Joseph had drmz about
+ the
+ the
worshiping him. He is crazy!



Do



fear 4 I M with U.

On the Way Home

Text Messages

Hey kids! Read the messages people in our story might have written on a *papyrus* tablet or a piece of pottery. Underneath each message, write the name of the person who would have written it. If you're not sure, check the story on pages 2-3. One message might have come from God—so read carefully!

My bros



me!

A



took me away 2 B a
slave. I M alone.
I M scared!

Joseph the

Based on Gene



1. I am Joseph. And I am thrilled! My father gave me a coat that no one has ever seen! I can tell you right now, it makes me feel a little bit jealous.

2. I am Levi, one of Joseph's brothers. Joseph's coat is so beautiful, my father is mad. My father doesn't bother to give us such beautiful coats. I wonder why our father treats Joseph so much better than us. We hate Joseph!



PREVIEW

3. I am Simeon, one of Joseph's brothers. I'll tell you, I've never dreamed that we all had bundles of wheat. They're all wrapped in bundles—like we're going to worship him. He's so powerful!

4. I am Dan, another brother. Listen to this one: our parents were the sun and moon. Joseph said that the sun and moon also did! When he told us to bow down to you! Never ever!"

5. I am Asher. My brothers and I had been gone for a long time. Our dad sent Joseph to check on us. When we saw his coat, it was empty. So we took off his coat and threw it in the well. The coat in goat's blood so it looked as if something was there.

6. My name is Reuben. I am the oldest brother. One day, some businessmen came by on their camels. They needed a way to get rid of Joseph, the dream thief. So they took him off to Egypt. I cried out, "What will we do?"

7. I am Jacob, Joseph's father. My sons brought Joseph's coat all right. A wild animal must have eaten it. I was so sad. Every night I lay awake, wondering what will happen.

8. I am Potiphar, the captain of the guard. I served a traveling man who stopped in Egypt to sell his goods. I was in charge of my household affairs. Joseph was a very smart man. He was great!



The Dreamer

Genesis 37 and 39:1-2

Give me a new coat—the most beautiful coat I’ve ever seen. I want to feel like a prince! But I think my brothers are

They’re right—we are jealous. But we’re also steaming mad about his beautiful and expensive clothes. Never! We’re not going to be better than he treats us. We are beginning to

Tell you why we hate Joseph. He’s a dreamer! He’s always talking about our bundles all bowed down in front of his feet. It’s crazy!

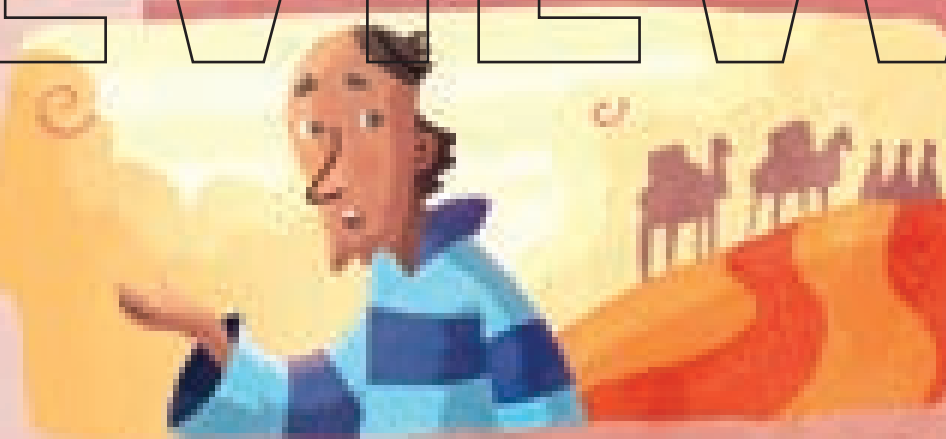
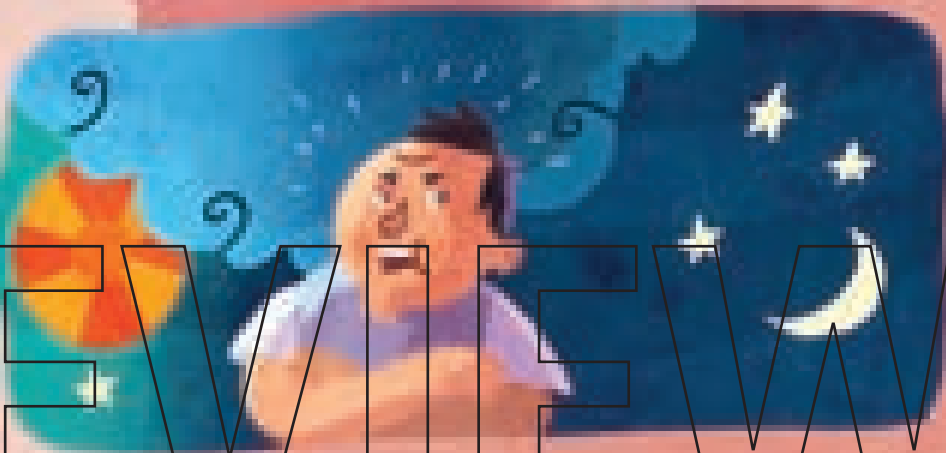
He also dreamed that we were stars and that the sun, moon, and stars bowed before him. We told him that, and we screamed in anger, “We’ll never bow

before him for a few days, taking care of the sheep. My father said that when the famine was coming, we decided to throw him into a cistern. We threw him into that dark, deep hole! Then we dipped some straw in blood. Nothing bad had happened to Joseph.

While Joseph was in the well, some men passed by. They needed a slave. My brothers thought that would be a good idea. The men gave Joseph a slave’s coat and they told our father Jacob? It will break his heart!”

When I found Joseph’s coat, covered in blood. It was as if he had been killed! I ripped my clothes and cried for a long time. That awful thing had happened to my Joseph.

Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt! I bought Joseph to help me store grain. I needed a servant to be in charge of my stores. Everything he did turned out



Tic-Tac-More!

This is just like Tic-Tac-Toe—only it's bigger! Play with a friend or family member. Each of you needs eight small paper squares. You could put X's and O's on them or use two different colors of paper. The person with the nearest birthday goes first. Choose a square. Before you lay your paper square over it, read the words and tell about a time you experienced loneliness or fear in that situation. Or tell why someone might feel loneliness or fear in that situation. Take turns playing; the first person to get four squares in a row—up, down, or diagonally, calls out TIC-TAC-MORE!

at a play area in a mall	at the park	playing alone outside	with a new babysitter
at recess at school	lost in a store	in class	in bed in the dark
hearing a storm outside	home alone after school	at a neighbor's house	you've done something wrong
best friend moves away	away from home overnight	walking home from school	moved to a new city

Memory Challenge:

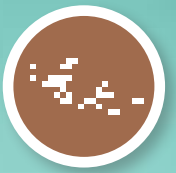


Isaiah 41:10

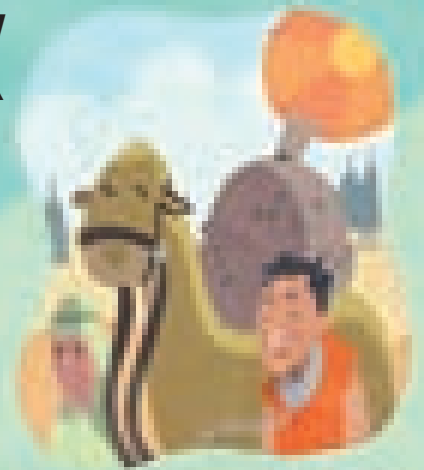
Dear Family:

Today we began the exciting story of Joseph. Encourage your child to retell it to you using the words and pictures in the center of this paper. Also take some time to look over pages 1 and 4. Talk about times when you are frightened or lonely. This week would be a great time to learn Isaiah 41:10 together—a reminder of God's promise to always be with you!

Joseph the Slave



I A T H U O M L S Y W



WOW!

God will *always* be with Joseph! That really is a **GREAT BIG** promise! Read the following lines. Circle each one that tells what is included in that promise.

- | | |
|--|---|
| God was with Joseph when he ... | ate supper alone. |
| was resting and thinking. | heard Potiphar's wife lie about him. |
| was laughing with other prisoners. | did house chores for Potiphar. |
| was sleeping. | took care of everything Potiphar owned. |
| was praying. | missed his father so much. |
| was sold by his brothers. | did chores in prison. |
| thought about Pharaoh's dreams. | got dressed every morning. |
| was deep in a dark well. | felt lonesome, forgotten, and afraid. |



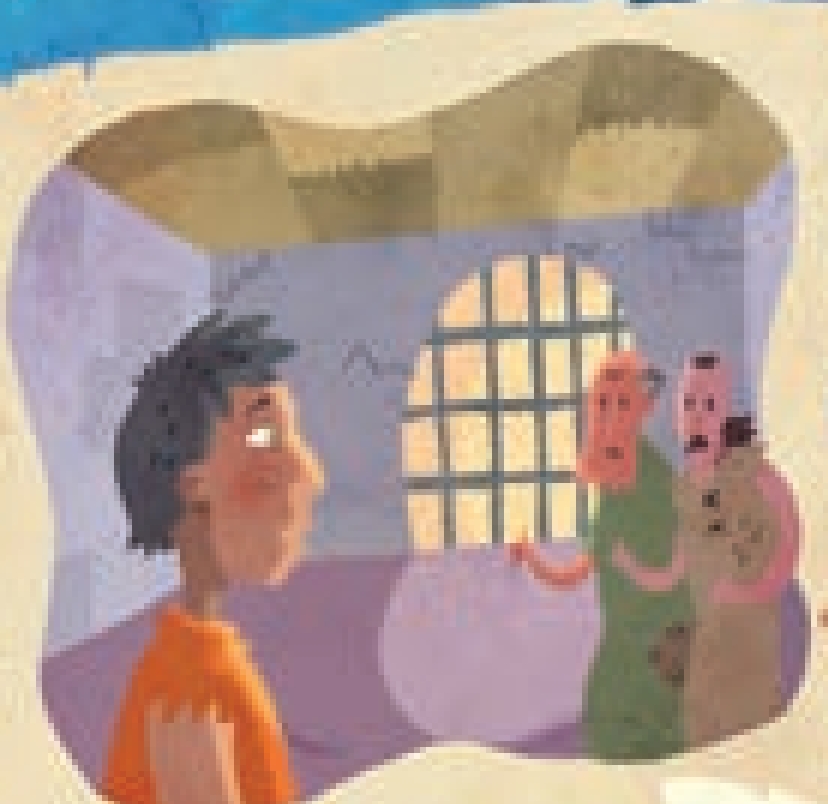
On the Way Home

A Great Big Promise

Hey kids! God made a special promise to Joseph. Use the code to find out what that promise was. Write it on the lines.

Strange

Based on Genesis



Oh, no!
More strange dreams!

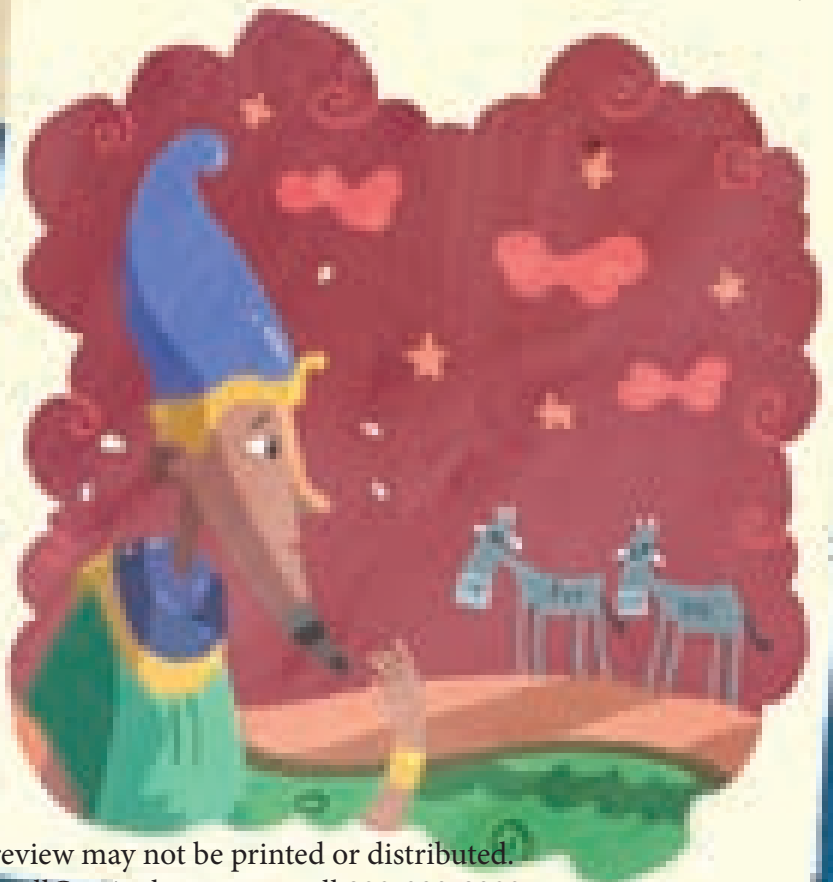
Part 1

Joseph liked his job in Potiphar's house. He worked hard. But Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph. She said he did something very bad. So Potiphar had Joseph thrown into prison. While he was in prison, Joseph met two men. They were Pharaoh's servants. When they had strange dreams, Joseph helped them. He asked God to tell him what the dreams meant, and God told him. What Joseph told them would happen *did* happen, exactly as Joseph had said.

Part 2

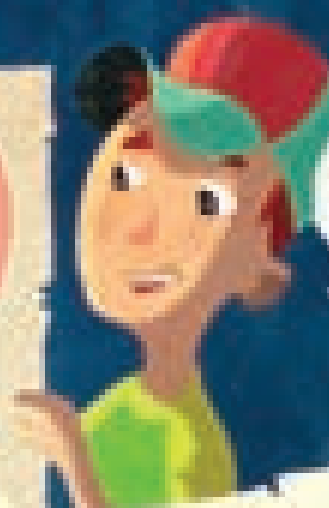
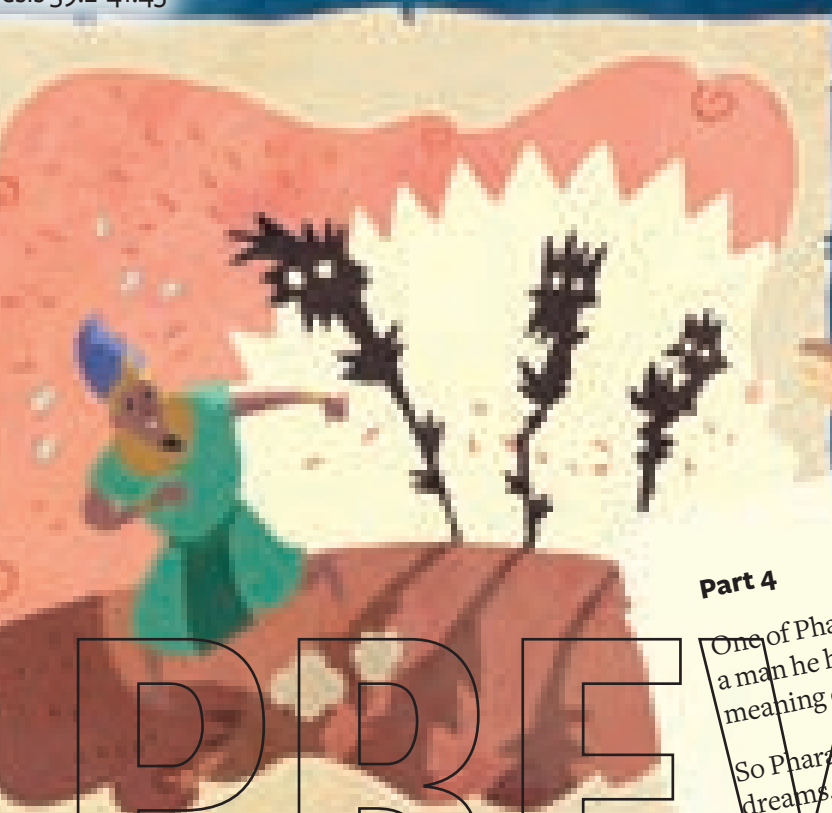
A few years later, Pharaoh had some strange dreams too. He dreamed he was standing by a river. He saw seven fat cows come up out of the river. Then he saw seven skinny cows come out of the river. The seven skinny cows ate the seven fat cows!

Boy, those skinny cows must have been starved!



Dreams

Genesis 39:2-41:45



Weird! Grain that eats grain! No wonder Pharaoh couldn't figure it out!

Part 4

One of Pharaoh's servants had an idea. He told Pharaoh about a man he had met in prison. He said, "Joseph's God can tell the meaning of dreams."

So Pharaoh brought Joseph to the palace and told him both dreams. Joseph said, "My God has told me what your dreams mean. God says that for seven years your people will have good crops and lots of food. Then you will have seven bad years when nothing will grow. You need to save your grain in the good years so the people will have enough to eat in the bad years." Pharaoh was relieved to know what the dreams meant. He put Joseph in charge of taking care of the grain. In fact, he made Joseph ruler over the whole land!

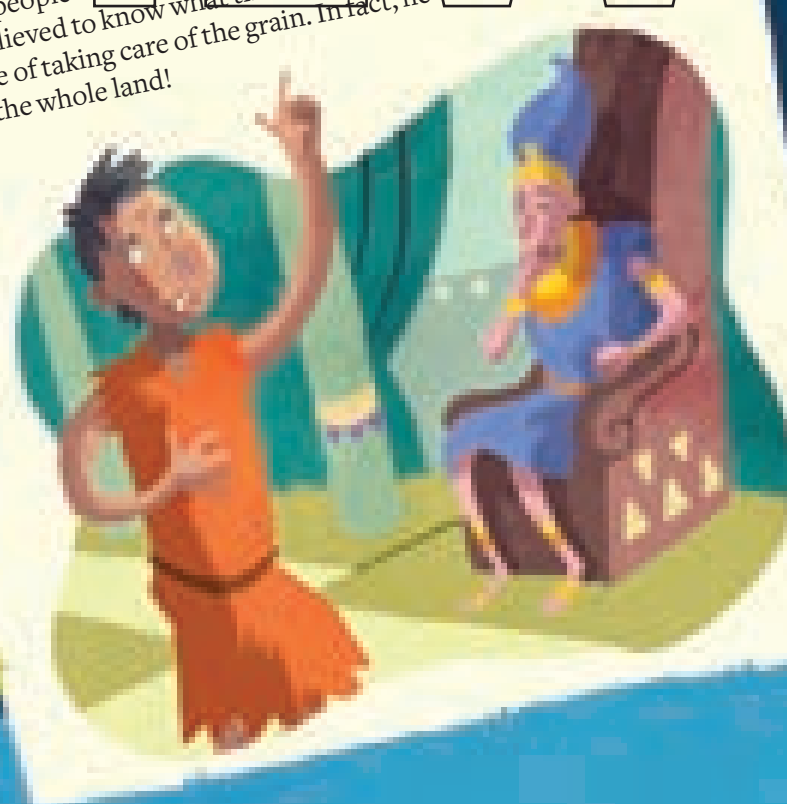
DREAMS

Part 3

Pharaoh had another dream—even stranger than the last. He saw a stalk of grain. On that stalk were seven nice, round heads of grain that would make any farmer happy. Then, on that same stalk, seven dried up and skinny-looking heads of grain appeared. Those dried up heads of grain actually ate the seven heads of grain that looked perfect. Pharaoh was worried. He wanted to know what the dreams meant.



Oh boy! Joseph's got himself a giant job!





Litany of Thanks

Thank you, God, for _____.

Thank you, God, for _____.

I know you always _____
PREVIEW
You, O God, are _____
I will always _____

Thank you for being our God!

Dear Family:

In today's session we heard another part of the story about Joseph. We talked about how Joseph trusted God—even in prison. You may wish to use the story on pages 2-3 for the reading that goes with the symbol in your God's Big Story cards. End your devotional time by using the litany of thanks your child wrote on this page. Thank your child for this contribution to your family devotions.

Memory



Challenge:

Isaiah 41:10

It's me—Joseph! God has been taking care of all of us!

Joseph

Based on Genesis 37-46



Look at this great coat father gave me!

It's not fair!

We don't get fancy coats!

16

1

PREVIEW

Oh, great ruler. We have come to buy grain. We're starving!

Joseph, you're a great worker! I'm putting you in charge of my whole house!

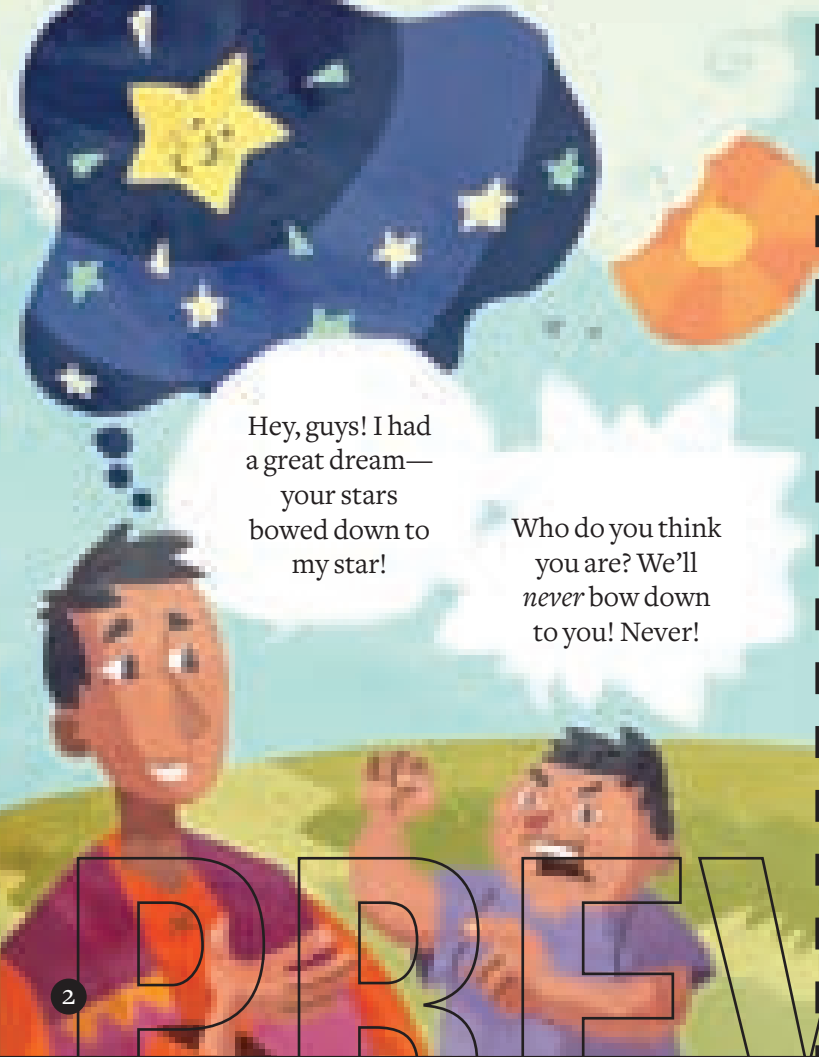
Thank you, Potiphar.

You look like spies ... but I will sell you sacks of grain.

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12

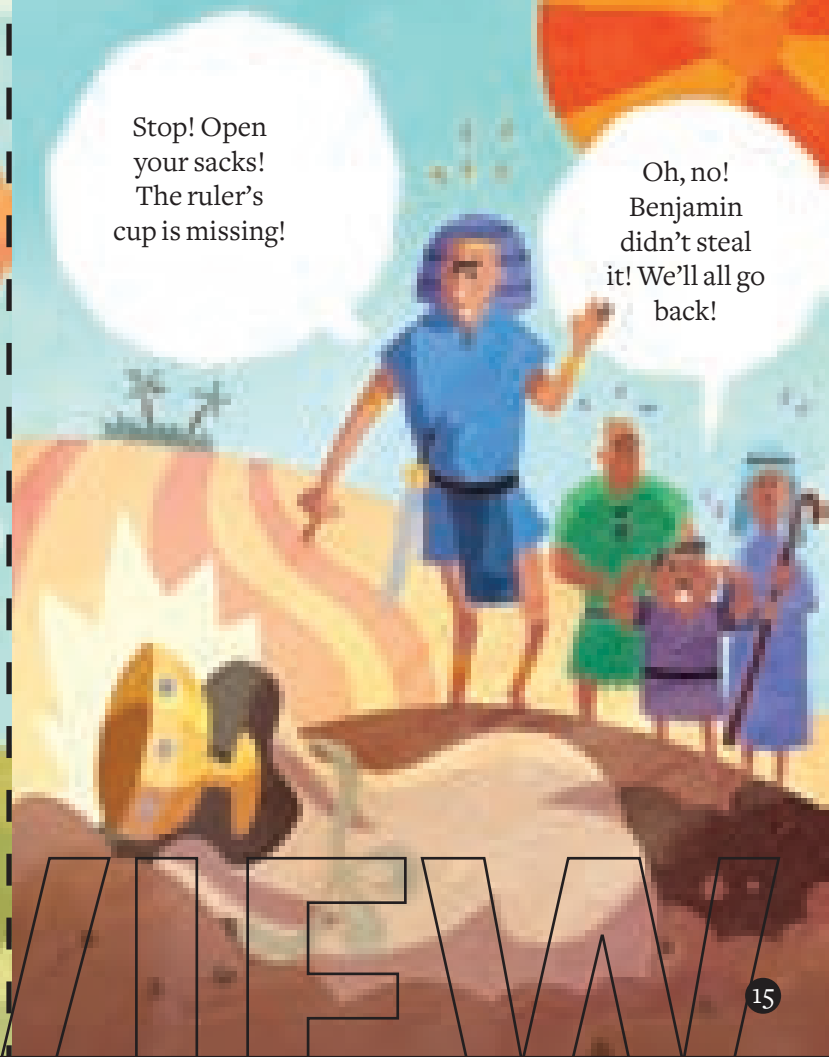
5



Hey, guys! I had a great dream—your stars bowed down to my star!

Who do you think you are? We'll never bow down to you! Never!

2

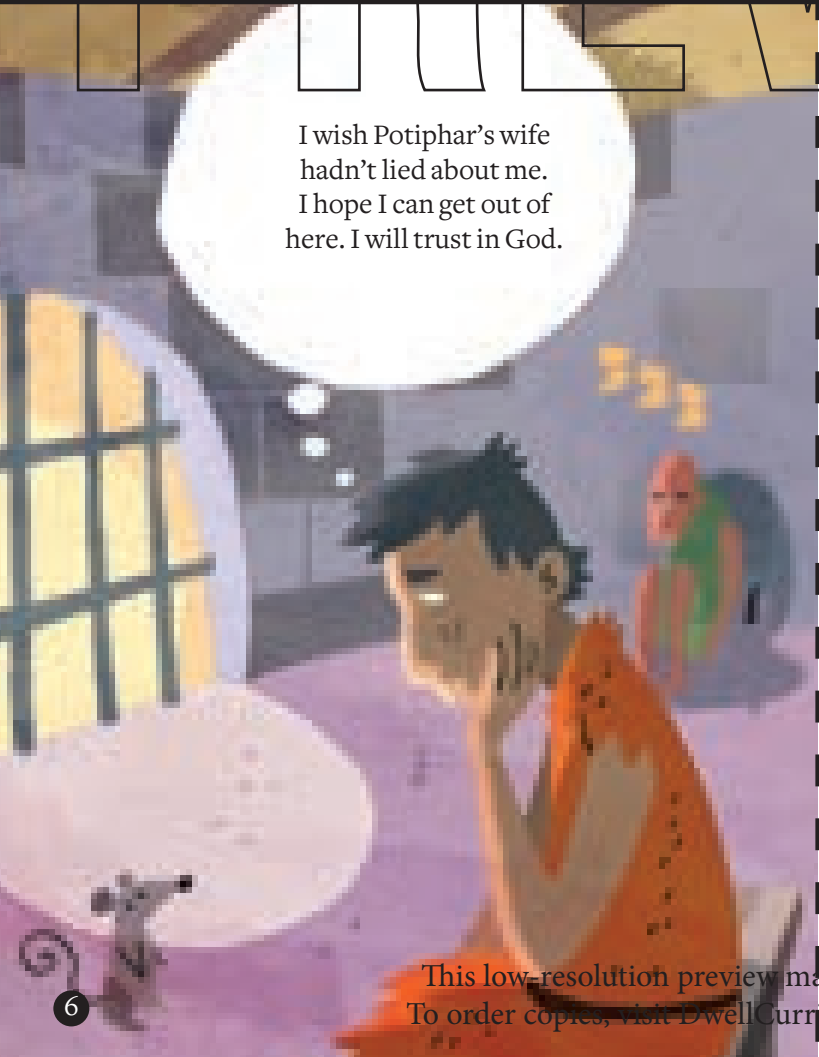


Stop! Open your sacks! The ruler's cup is missing!

Oh, no! Benjamin didn't steal it! We'll all go back!

15

PREVIEW



I wish Potiphar's wife hadn't lied about me. I hope I can get out of here. I will trust in God.

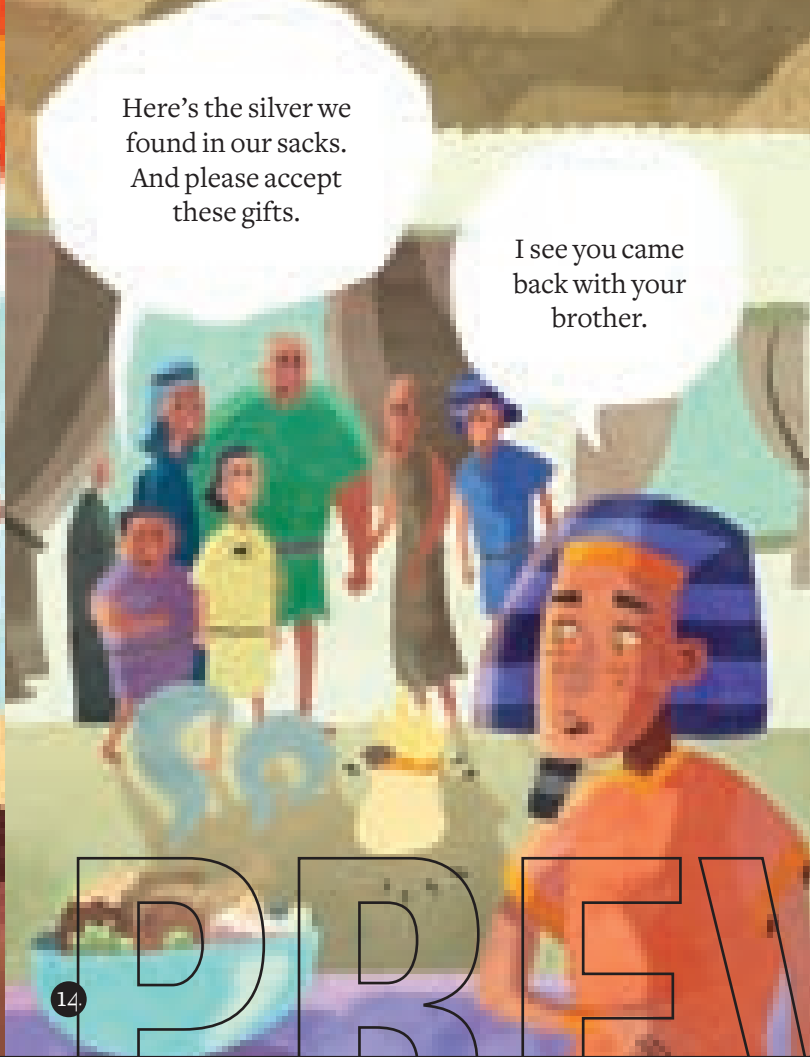
6



Father Jacob, we are starving! There's no food!


You'll have to go to Egypt. I hear there's food there.

11



Here's the silver we found in our sacks. And please accept these gifts.


I see you came back with your brother.



Good! The well is a good place for him! No more bragging!

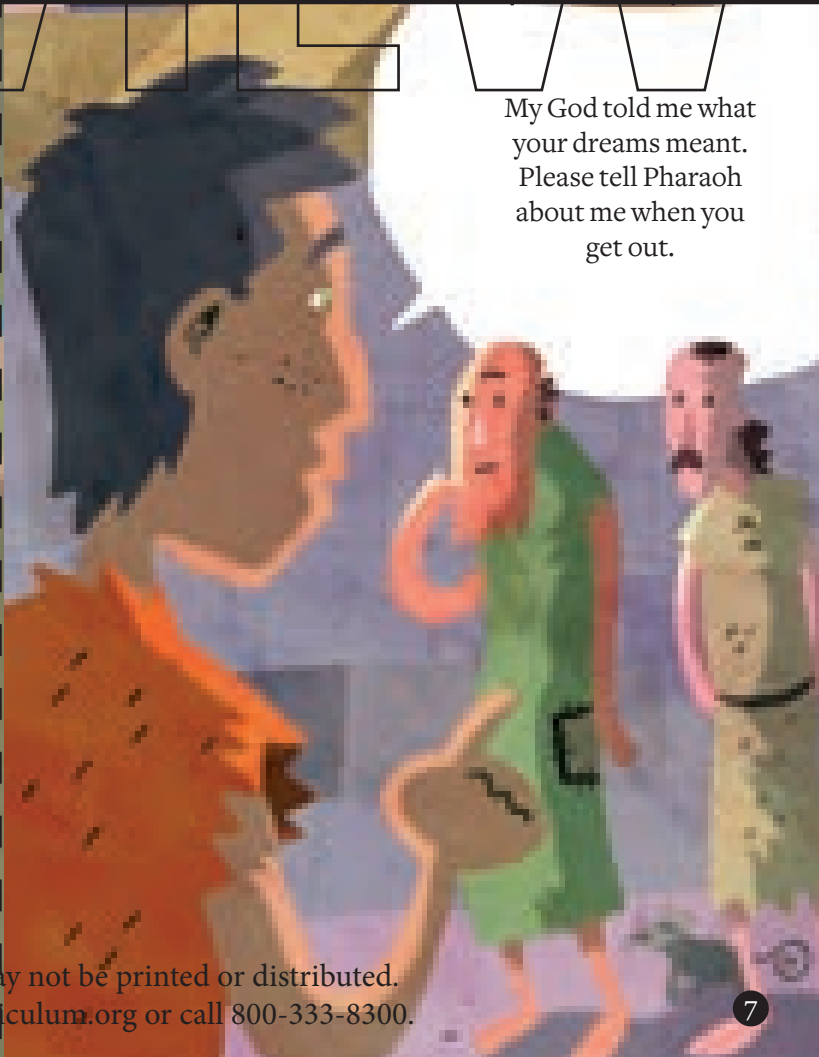
Hey, get me out of here! I need to get back home.

PREVIEW

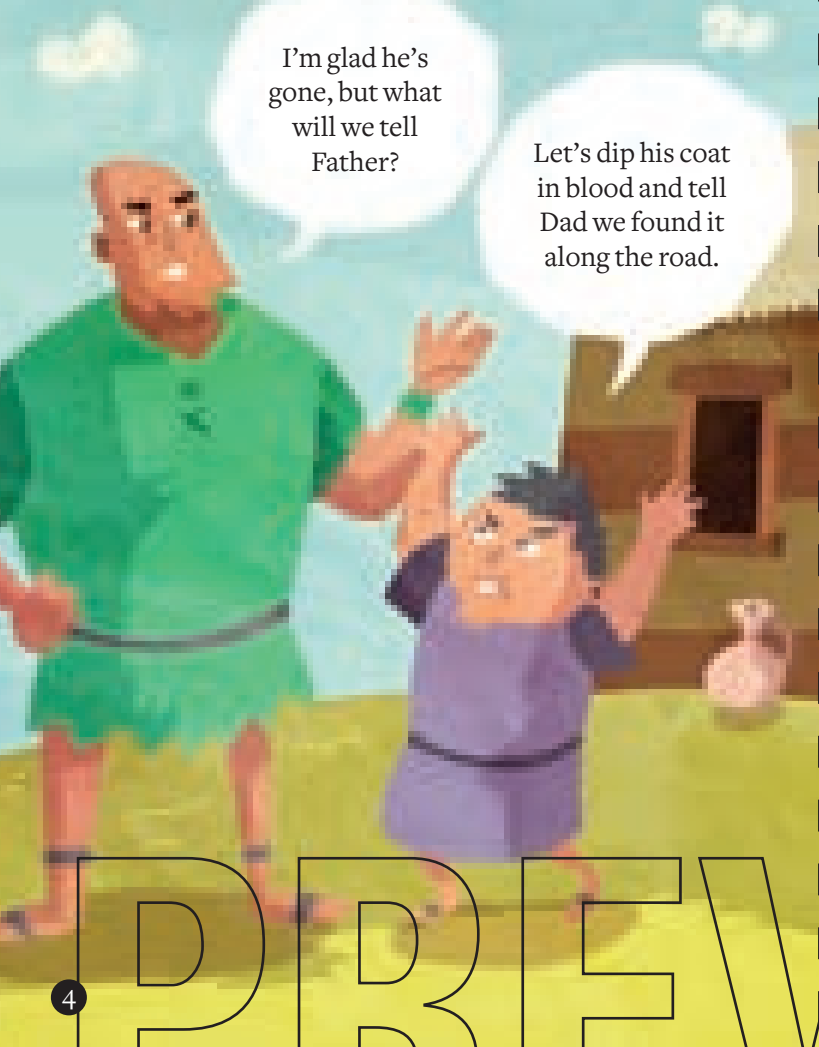


You need to save grain during seven good years to feed the people in the seven bad years.

I'll put you in charge! You will rule the land!



My God told me what your dreams meant. Please tell Pharaoh about me when you get out.



I'm glad he's gone, but what will we tell Father?

Let's dip his coat in blood and tell Dad we found it along the road.



There's money on the top of my sack!

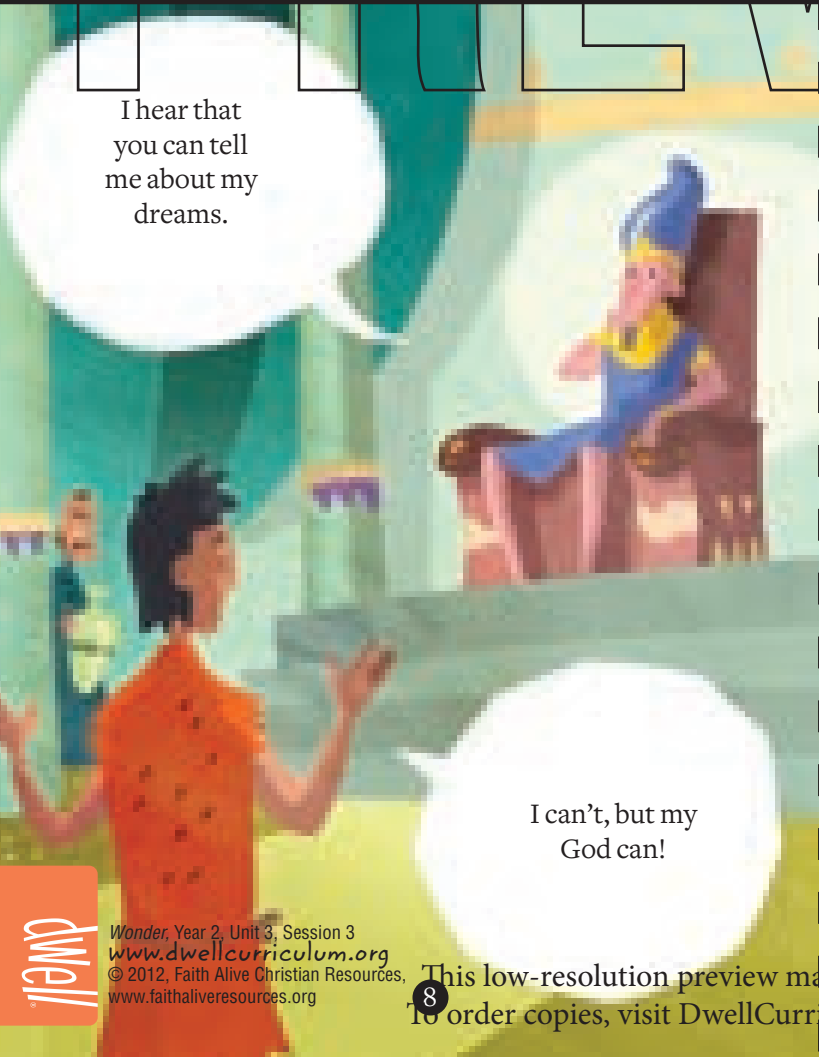
What if he won't set our brother free when we return with Benjamin?

Mine too! He'll think we stole it!

PREVIEW

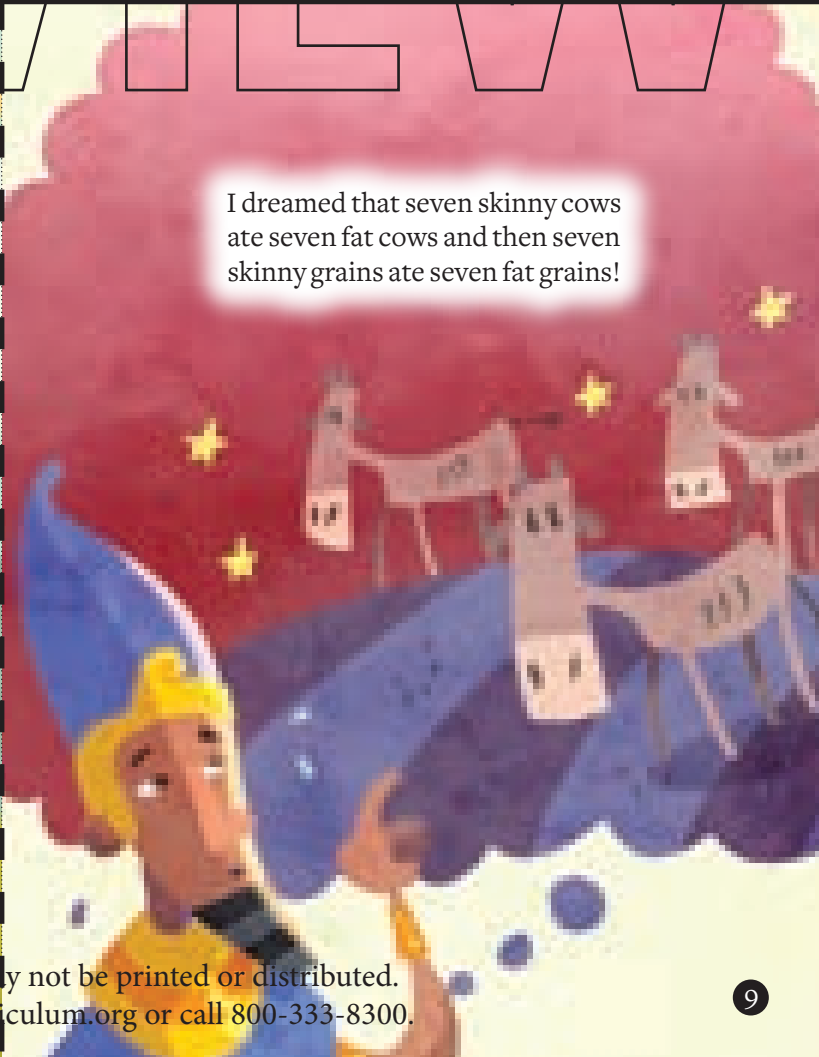
4

13



I hear that you can tell me about my dreams.

I can't, but my God can!

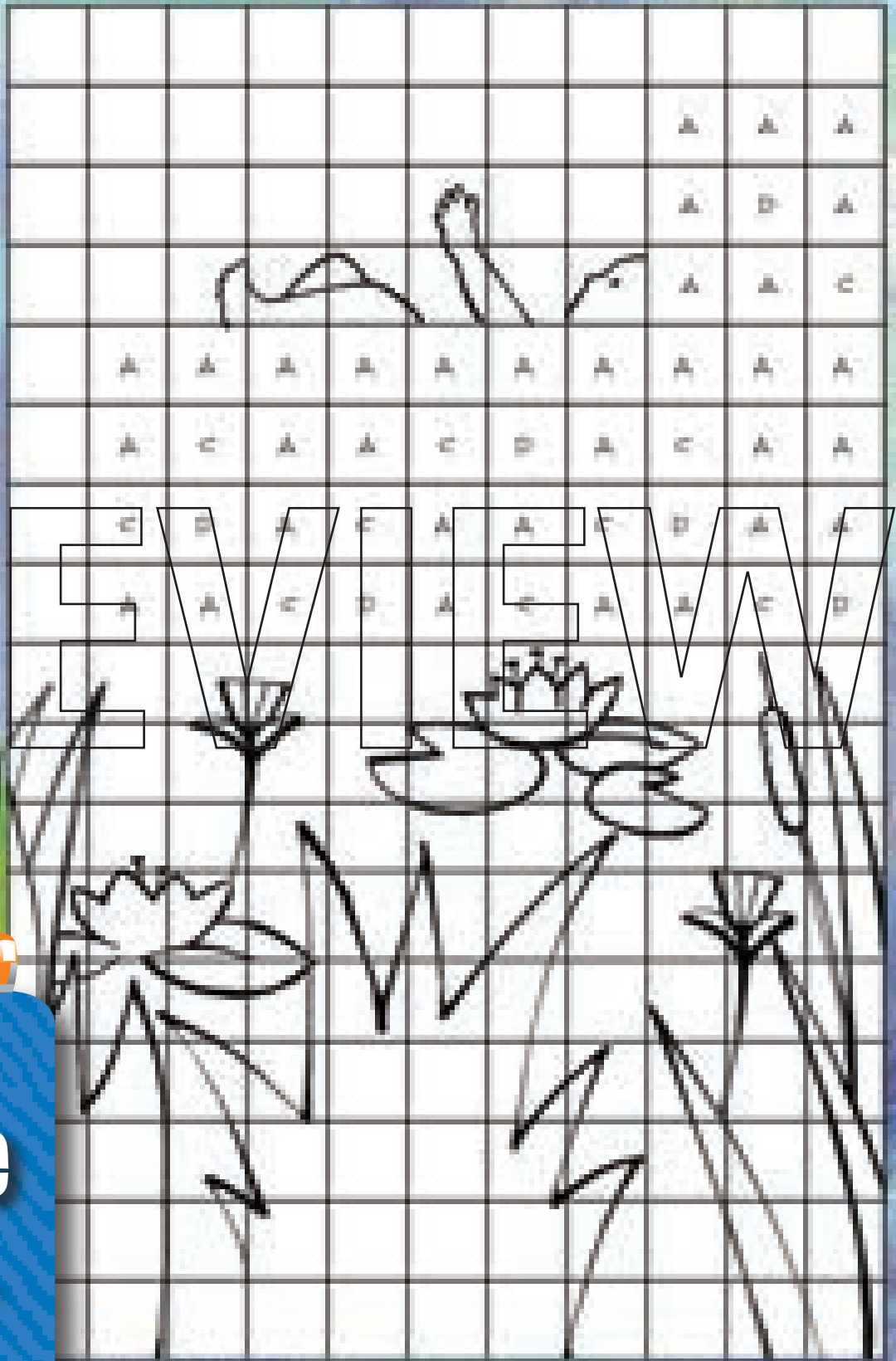


I dreamed that seven skinny cows ate seven fat cows and then seven skinny grains ate seven fat grains!

The Birth of Moses



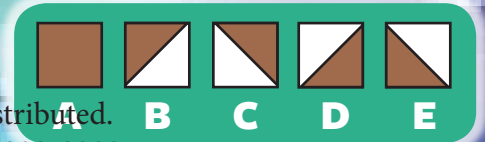
PREVIEW



On the Way Home

Where Is Baby Moses?

Hey kids! Find out where baby Moses is. Start by using the code to fill in all the squares on the puzzle. Work carefully to be sure you fill in each square exactly as the code shows. When you've finished, you'll know exactly where baby Moses is!





God Saves Baby Moses

Based on Exodus 1:22-2:10


Pharaoh looked over his kingdom;
he didn't like what he saw.

"There are way too many Hebrews—
I'm going to make a law."

"Whenever a Hebrew mother
has a newborn son,
my soldiers must go kill him.
Now see that this is done!"

One set of Hebrew parents
said no to this new rule.
They hid their newborn baby son
from soldiers who were cruel.

But as the boy grew bigger,
his cries grew louder too.
"It's getting hard to hide him!
What are we going to do?"




The baby's mom was worried.
Her heart was filled with fear.
She prayed to God to help her—
to save her baby dear.

PREVIEW

And then she started weaving
a tiny boat-like bed.
“I’ve got a plan to keep him safe
from Pharaoh’s law,” she said.

She sent the baby’s sister
to the river with the boat.
“Lay it gently in the water—
I’m sure that it will float!”

“Then stand behind the reeds and wait.
I’m not sure what you’ll see.
But God will save this baby—
I’m as sure as I can be!”



The girl obeyed her mother
and to her great surprise,
the princess found her brother
when she heard his tiny cries.

“I want to keep this baby.
I will care for him somehow.
“I’m going to call him Moses
but I’ll need a nurse for now!”

Miriam ran to meet her.
“I’ll find one right away!
She’ll love this little baby
and care for him each day!”

So Moses’ mother kept him—
she brought him home again.
She knew that God had saved him
from Pharaoh’s wicked plan.

PREVIEW

Memory



Challenge:

Isaiah 41:10

Dear Family:

Today your child heard the story about the wonderful way in which God saved baby Moses. If the puzzle on page 1 hasn’t been done yet, do it together. You may wish to read the story poem when you use the God’s Big Story card that goes with today’s symbol. Retelling the story at home and doing the activities on the card are meaningful and fun ways to nurture faith.

The Burning Bush



Food

Friends

Church

School

PREVIEW

Favorite Places

PREVIEW

Family Members



On the Way Home

Missing Home

Hey kids! It had been years since Moses left Egypt. When he was young he had lived there with his own parents and his sister, Miriam, before moving to the palace as the son of the princess. If you had to leave home until you were grown up, what would you miss most? Look at each category and fill in what you'd miss. When you're finished, share your ideas with your family.



Moses looked out over the field. One, two, three, four. . . One by one he counted his sheep. Yes, they were all there. They were all safe.

As he sat in the field, Moses thought about his life back in Egypt. He remembered living with his mother and father when he was a little boy. And he remembered his life after that—living in the palace with the princess. Moses was one of God's people, and for a while, he had lived the life of an Egyptian prince. But not anymore.

Moses frowned as he thought of how badly Pharaoh treated God's people. *But there's nothing I can do about it, he said to himself. Pharaoh's angry with me. I wonder if he still wants to kill me. I can't ever go back to Egypt. I can't go back to my people. And I can't go back to the palace. Not ever.*

PREVIEW



s Moses

odus 2:11-4:31

PREVIEW

While he sat there thinking, Moses saw something strange. His eyes opened wide. Off in the distance a bush was on fire, but it wasn't burning up! *How can that be?* Moses wondered. He stood up, picked up his stick, and walked toward the bush. He was almost there when something even stranger happened—something that made Moses stop in his tracks. He heard a voice calling his name: “Moses! Moses!” The voice was coming right out of that bush!

Right away Moses knew who it was. It was God! Moses was afraid. “Take off your sandals, Moses,” God said. “You’re standing on holy ground.” With shaking hands, Moses took off his sandals. “I am the God of your parents and grandparents, Moses,” God said. Moses was so scared that he covered his face with his hands.

But God had more to say. “I have a job for you, Moses. I want you to go to Egypt and tell Pharaoh to let my people go.”

Moses shook his head no. “Oh, no, not me!” Moses cried out to God. “I can’t do it. Ask someone else.”

But God said, "You're the one, Moses." Then God gave Moses some amazing signs to show God's people. God made Moses' stick turn into a snake, and he said he would make water turn into blood. And then God said: "Go to Egypt, Moses. Tell Pharaoh to set my people free!"

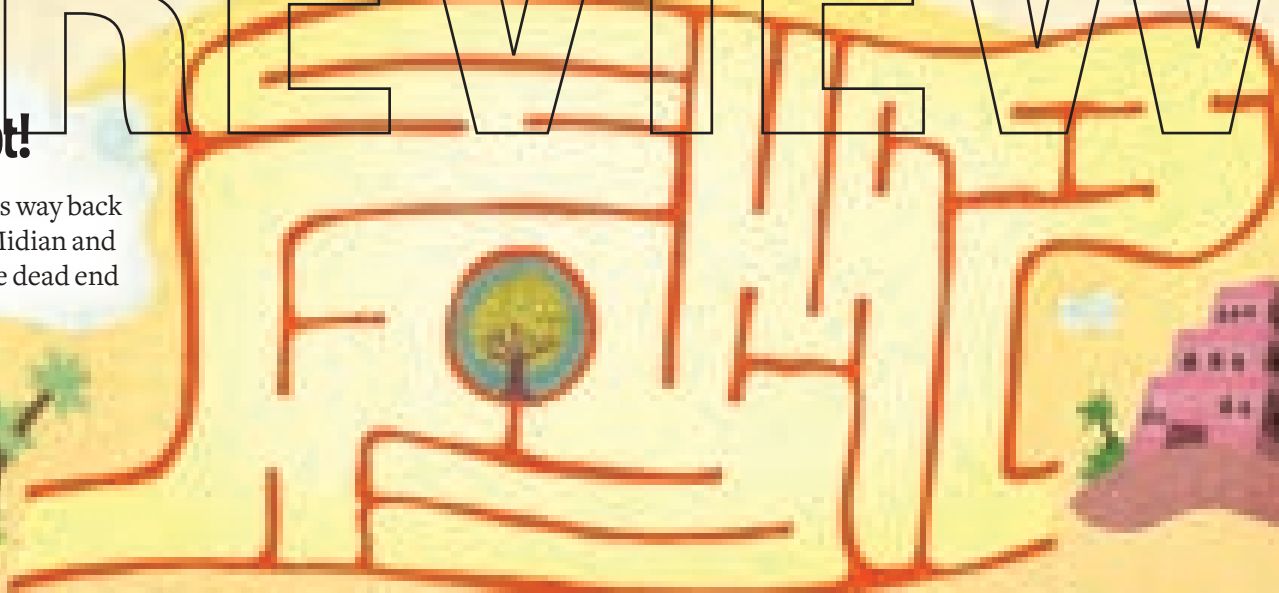
Again Moses shook his head and said no. He was so scared! He didn't think he could ever talk to Pharaoh. But God told him something important. "You will not be alone, Moses. I will be with you."

Moses nodded. He knew it was time to obey. It was time to go back to Egypt and talk to Pharaoh. So that's just what he did.

PREVIEW

Back to Egypt!

Help Moses find his way back to Egypt. Start in Midian and watch out for those dead end roads!



Memory

Challenge:

Isaiah 41:10

Dear Family:

Today we heard the exciting story of how God called Moses from a burning bush. Read the story together and enjoy the maze! Talk about the special job God called Moses to do. Then think about the special jobs God calls each person in your family to do. Ask God to be with you to help you do those jobs. Look for the God's Big Story card that matches today's story symbol for more fun and easy story activities to nurture faith in your family.