

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 16th August
Eleventh Sunday after
Pentecost



Here are some activities you could do together as a family, begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, the story of Joseph's dreams coming true!

You can find it in your Bible in:
Genesis 45 v 1–15

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your group.

To explore the whole story of Joseph why not use this summary video:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NQ7wLTBnF84>

The other passages we will be thinking about at church this week are:

Psalm 133
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Psalm 67
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28

A prayer to say together

Dear God,
Thank you for the story of Joseph's dreams coming true! Thank you that even though we may go through difficult times we can trust in your promises and plans for our lives. Help us to be like Joseph and see the tough times as opportunities to grow.

We pray for families in the world who are struggling or facing difficult times that they would know your care and provision. Amen

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What differences can you see between Joseph and his brothers in this part of his story compared with last week (Genesis 37)?

In this passage we read that the brothers were afraid of Joseph – what a change from the jealous brothers who threw him in a pit and sold him as a slave. Joseph's dream of them all bowing down before him had come true.

But Joseph had changed as well, he is not showing off but humble. He knows that it is only because God has been with him and guided him that he has got to where he is. He does not blame his brothers for sending him to Egypt but instead sees it as part of God's plan for his life.

Some questions for children to ask adults

Can you think of a difficult time in your life which you now look back on as a good and positive learning experience?

Family Activity 1

You will need: a timer/clock

God gave Joseph a dream, but he had to wait and trust in God's timing before the dream came true. Do you remember the minute game we played a few weeks ago?

Why not play again and see if you have got any better at guessing when a minute is up?

One person has a clock or phone timer, this person tells everybody when to begin.

Everybody else must stand up, they must sit down when they think a minute has passed – they are not allowed to cheat by looking at a watch or clock. Once everybody has sat down the person watching the timer should say who was closest.





A verse to remember

Romans 11 v 29

God never changes his mind about the people he calls and the things he gives them.

Joseph went through many difficult challenges between the time when he first dreamed about his brothers bowing down to him and the time that his dream came true. He was enslaved and imprisoned, he was taken to a foreign land and finally given huge responsibility and power. I wonder if Joseph remained confident that his dream would come true or did he sometimes think that God had forgotten or abandoned him. This verse in Romans reminds us that God's promises and plans for us do not change.

Try to learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it or decorate the verse on a piece of paper or card together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week.

Family Activity 2

You will need: A cup!

Joseph hid a silver cup in the sack of his youngest brother, Benjamin (Genesis 44). It was a trap to see if his brothers had really changed. Take it in turns to hide a cup or other object around the house. The person who has hidden it could give clues or say "warmer" or "colder" to help everybody else find it!



Active Prayer

You will need: Paper and pens

Joseph was given a dream by God of what his future would look like. When he heard Pharaoh's dream, he understood that it was a picture of what was going to happen in Egypt in the years to come – seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

Our prayer for the world is that God's kingdom would come... we can imagine what that would look like as we pray.

Draw your own pictures of what you think the world would look like if everybody in it accepted God as their King and allowed God's power to rule in their lives.



Family Activity 3

God can speak to us through our dreams just as he spoke to Joseph. Why not make some time over breakfast this week to share with one another what you have dreamed about?

You could pray before bed and ask God to speak to you in your dreams and help you remember what you dreamed about.



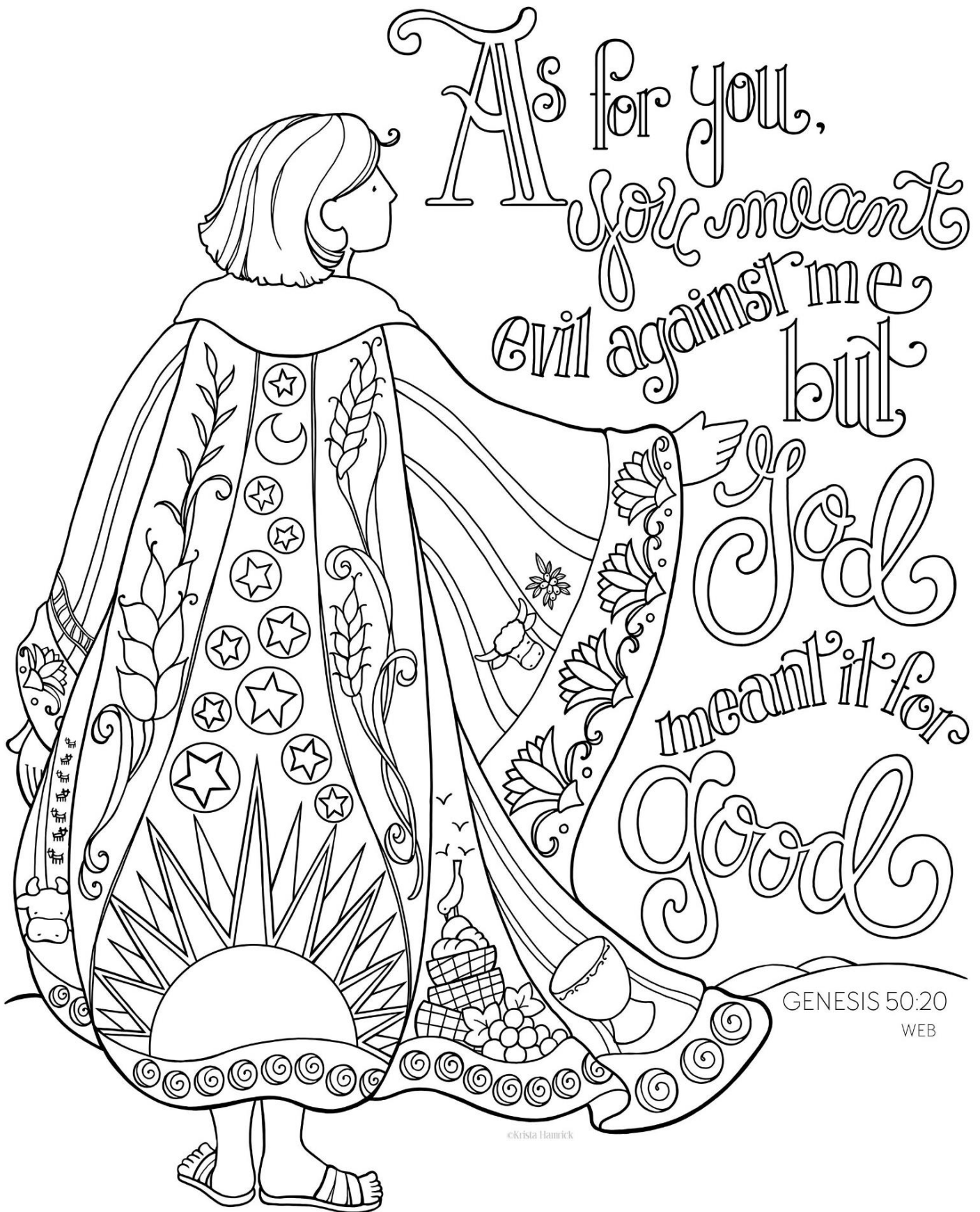
Helping Older Children

So many of our dreams and plans for this year have been stopped or put on hold by the Pandemic. Why not help Older Children to make a list of the dreams and plans they have not seen happen during this time.

Spend some time sharing and praying together, thanking God that his promises do not change and asking God to help you trust him through these difficult times just like Joseph did.

A colouring page you could print and colour together

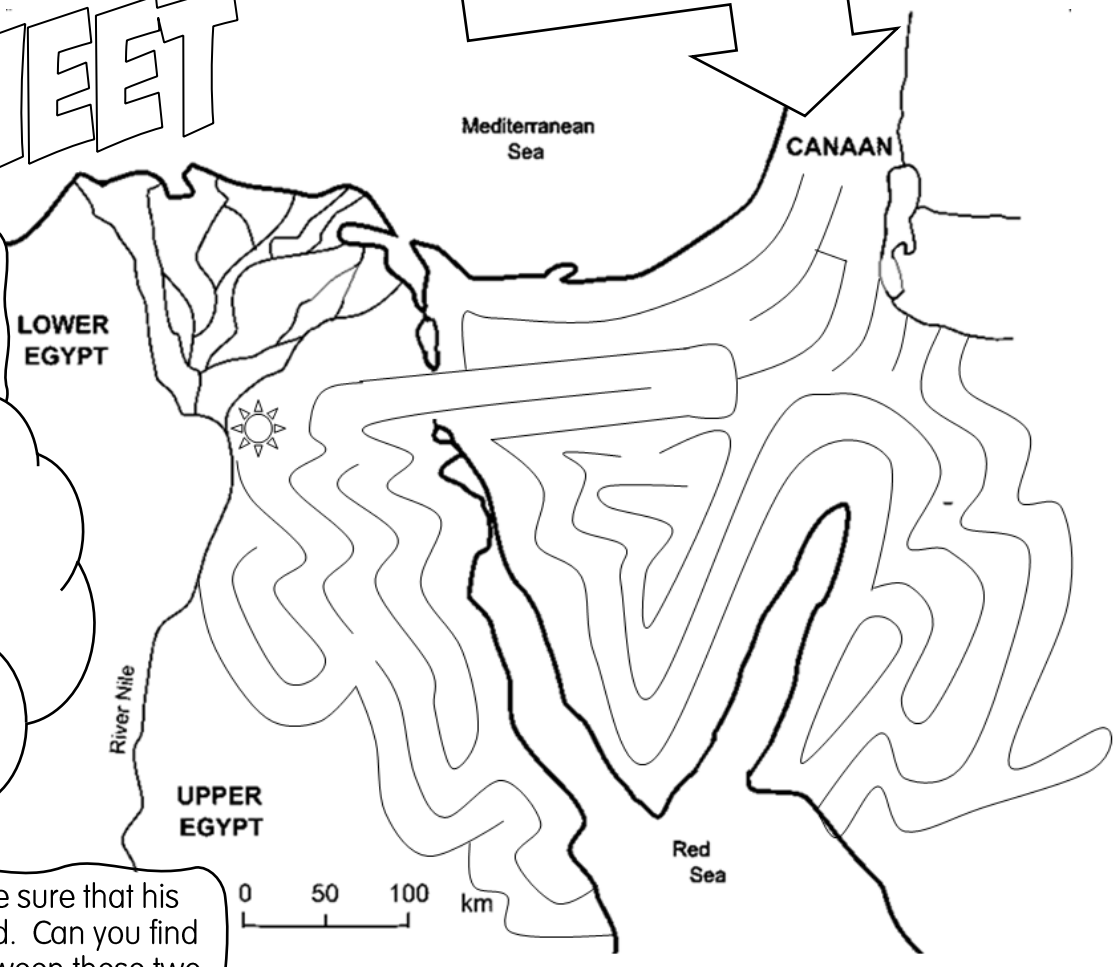
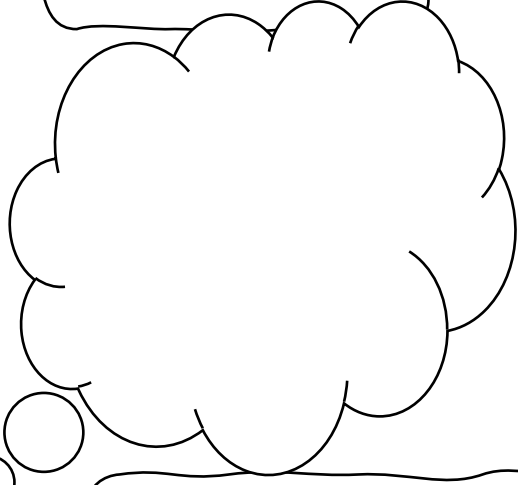
Thank you to Krista Hamrick for allowing us to share her beautiful Joseph colouring sheet this week. You can buy more of her colouring sheets on her Etsy shop <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/KristaHamrick> including a gorgeous colouring sheet covering the whole life of Joseph.



PUZZLE SHEET

Joseph's brothers had to travel all the way from Canaan to Egypt where Joseph was. Can you find a path from Canaan all the way to the ☀ in Egypt?

Can you remember what Joseph dreamed at the beginning of the story? Draw it here:



Joseph wanted to be sure that his brothers had changed. Can you find the 12 differences between these two pictures?

