

Being Mindful of the Pain of Others

Parents: Often our minds are full of our own concerns and needs. Selflessness is something that doesn't always come easy. Teaching our kiddos to be mindful of the pain of others and to show empathy is important. In our story, Joseph's father dies. Joseph had every reason to be angry with his brothers, remembering how they mistreated him, but instead, he was thoughtful of their pain and pointed them to God.

Read: Genesis 50:1-21 Joseph threw himself on his father and wept over him and kissed him. Then Joseph directed the physicians in his service to embalm his father Israel. So the physicians embalmed him, taking a full forty days, for that was the time required for embalming. And the Egyptians mourned for him seventy days. When the days of mourning had passed, Joseph said to Pharaoh's court, "If I have found favor in your eyes, speak to Pharaoh for me. Tell him, 'My father made me swear an oath and said, "I am about to die; bury me in the tomb I dug for myself in the land of Canaan." Now let me go up and bury my father; then I will return.'" Pharaoh said, "Go up and bury your father, as he made you swear to do." So Joseph went up to bury his father. All Pharaoh's officials accompanied him—the dignitaries of his court and all the dignitaries of Egypt— besides all the members of Joseph's household and his brothers and those belonging to his father's household. Only their children and their flocks and herds were left in Goshen. Chariots and horsemen also went up with him. It was a very large company. When they reached the threshing floor of Atad, near the Jordan, they lamented loudly and bitterly; and there Joseph observed a seven-day period of mourning for his father. When the Canaanites who lived there saw the mourning at the threshing floor of Atad, they said, "The Egyptians are holding a solemn ceremony of mourning." That is why that place near the Jordan is called Abel Mizraim. So Jacob's sons did as he had commanded them: They carried him to the land of Canaan and buried him in the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre, which Abraham had bought along with the field as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite. After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, together with his brothers and all the others who had gone with him to bury his father. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept. His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Discuss: What happened to Joseph's father? *He died.*

How did the Egyptians show they were sad for Joseph and mindful of his pain? *They mourned this loss for 70 days.*

How did Pharaoh treat Joseph? *He allowed Joseph to go bury his father and sent important people to go with him to do that.*

Why were Joseph's brothers afraid? *They had treated Joseph poorly and they were afraid Joseph would be very angry now that their dad was no longer alive.*

How did Joseph respond? *He told them not to be afraid and reminded them that God worked all things out for good.*



Key Point: God is Mindful of Us

God is Mindful (Hands up to heaven)
Of Us (Arms wrapped around yourself)

Family Activity: Color and cut out Jacob and his sons and tape or glue each one to a popsicle stick. Create your own puppet show about the verses we read today. Take a photo/video and share it with us at andrea@cwlk.church.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for your love and forgiveness. We know that we do things wrong all the time, but You love us and work those things out for good. Help us to think of others more than we think of ourselves and point others to You. We thank You and we love You. Amen.

Next Steps: Memorize Genesis 50:20, "...You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives".



Naphtali



Judah



Issachar



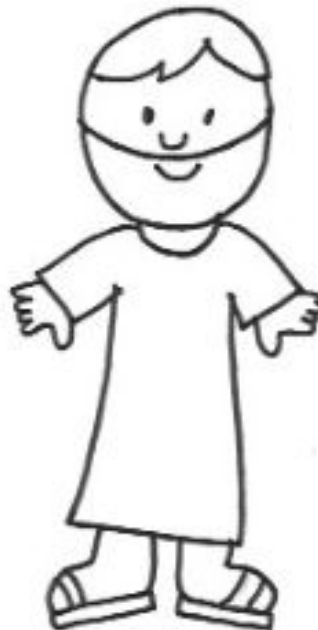
Zebulun



Joseph



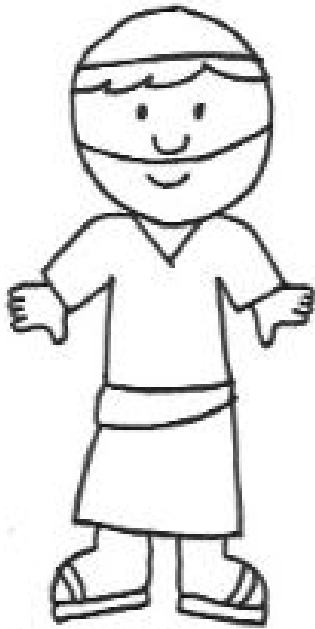
Benjamin



Asher



Jacob



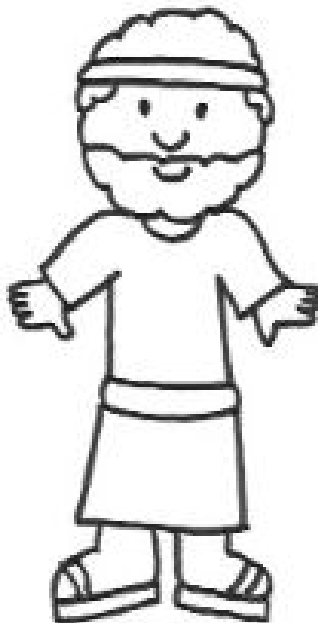
Reuben



Simeon



Levi



Dan



Gad