

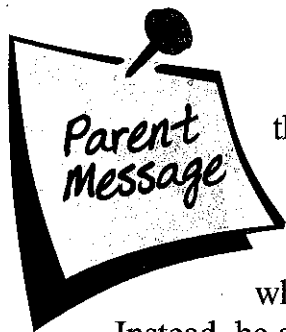
all part of God's plan."

Then Joseph said, "Leave here quickly and go back to my father. Tell him that I am alive and that God has made me ruler of Egypt. Tell him that I want all of you to come and live here in Egypt. Then I can take care of you during the bad years that are still coming. Here I can make sure that you'll have plenty to eat."

Joseph then put his arms around his brother Benjamin and kissed him. He did the same with all his brothers. And after that the brothers talked with him for a long time.

When the brothers left for home, Joseph gave them carts and wagons for their families to ride in on their trip back to Egypt. He also gave rich gifts to his brothers and sent gifts along for his father as well.

As soon as the 11 brothers reached home, they told Jacob, "Joseph is still alive! He is ruler over all of Egypt!" At first Jacob could not believe this good news. But after his sons told him everything Joseph had said and showed him the wagons Joseph had sent, Jacob said, "My son Joseph is alive! I will go to see him before I die."



Joseph showed his brothers—the brothers who had hated him and sold him as a slave—that he had forgiven them. Joseph could have gotten revenge for what his brothers did to him.

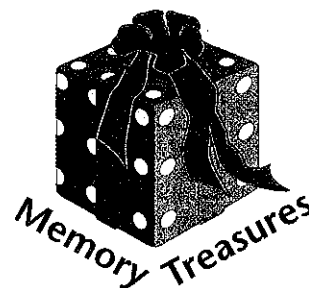
Instead, he showed them love. He even offered them a new home in Egypt where he would care for them during the famine.

Encourage the members of your family to follow Joseph's example by willingly forgiving each other. Work at making the words "I forgive you" part of your family's vocabulary. Be ready to share these words with your child when he shows sorrow for disobeying you. When a sibling hurts him, teach him to say these words instead of retaliating in anger or holding a grudge. If a member of your family is struggling to forgive someone, encourage him to think about the sins he has committed for which Jesus willingly shed his blood. Remembering the love Jesus has shown him will make it easier for him to forgive others.

### Prayer

Dear Lord, you have forgiven the sins we do each day.  
Now we can live in heaven, for you have shown the way.

When others sin against us, help us forgive, like you,  
By showing love and kindness in all we say and do. Amen.



**\*\* Ephesians 4:32**

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

### \* The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

### \*\* Hymn 490:1

Love in Christ is strong and living,  
Binding faithful hearts in one;  
Love in Christ is true and giving—  
May his will in us be done!