

SMALL GROUP RESOURCE

Hang in there!

SCRIPTURE READING:

Genesis 37 to 50

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Summarize Joseph's life story. List out the major events and decide whether an event is a spiritual high or low. Why?

Which event in Joseph's life do you think presented the greatest challenge to Joseph's relationship with God? Why?

How does God show His faithfulness to Joseph through all of these events?

How does Joseph show his faithfulness to God through all these events?

How does unfaithfulness impact our world?

Why are people so reluctant to make commitments?

How would your family be different if every member of the family was faithful?

What or who is at the root of faithfulness? (Think about the opposite. What or who is at the root of unfaithfulness?)

What would need to change in your life to have you growing into a more faithful person?

What commitments have you made that you are not keeping? How would a greater focus on the Holy Spirit change that situation?

PRAYER FOCUS:

Praise God for His faithfulness

Agree with God about times when you have been unfaithful

Thank God for times when His Spirit has produced in you faithfulness beyond your capability

Ask God to give you the strength to keep the commitments you have made

FAMILY RESOURCE

Big idea: HANG IN THERE!!!

READ GENESIS 37:3-4 & 12-13 & 18-28

Make pictures of the good and bad parts of Joseph's life. Who is the favorite in your family? Why? Everyone put on their favorite clothes and have a fashion parade.

Be sure to tell everyone where/how you got your clothes!!

READ GENESIS 39:2-4 & 6-20

Make pictures of the good and bad parts of Joseph's life. Make a chart of your household chores and put a star next to the ones you complete.

READ GENESIS 39:20-23

Make pictures of the good and bad parts of Joseph's life. Make a wonderful dinner that you have to eat alone in your room.

READ GENESIS 41:15-16 & 39-57

Make pictures of the good and bad parts of Joseph's life. Make a BIG dinner and save the leftovers for your next meal.

READ GENESIS 45:4-11

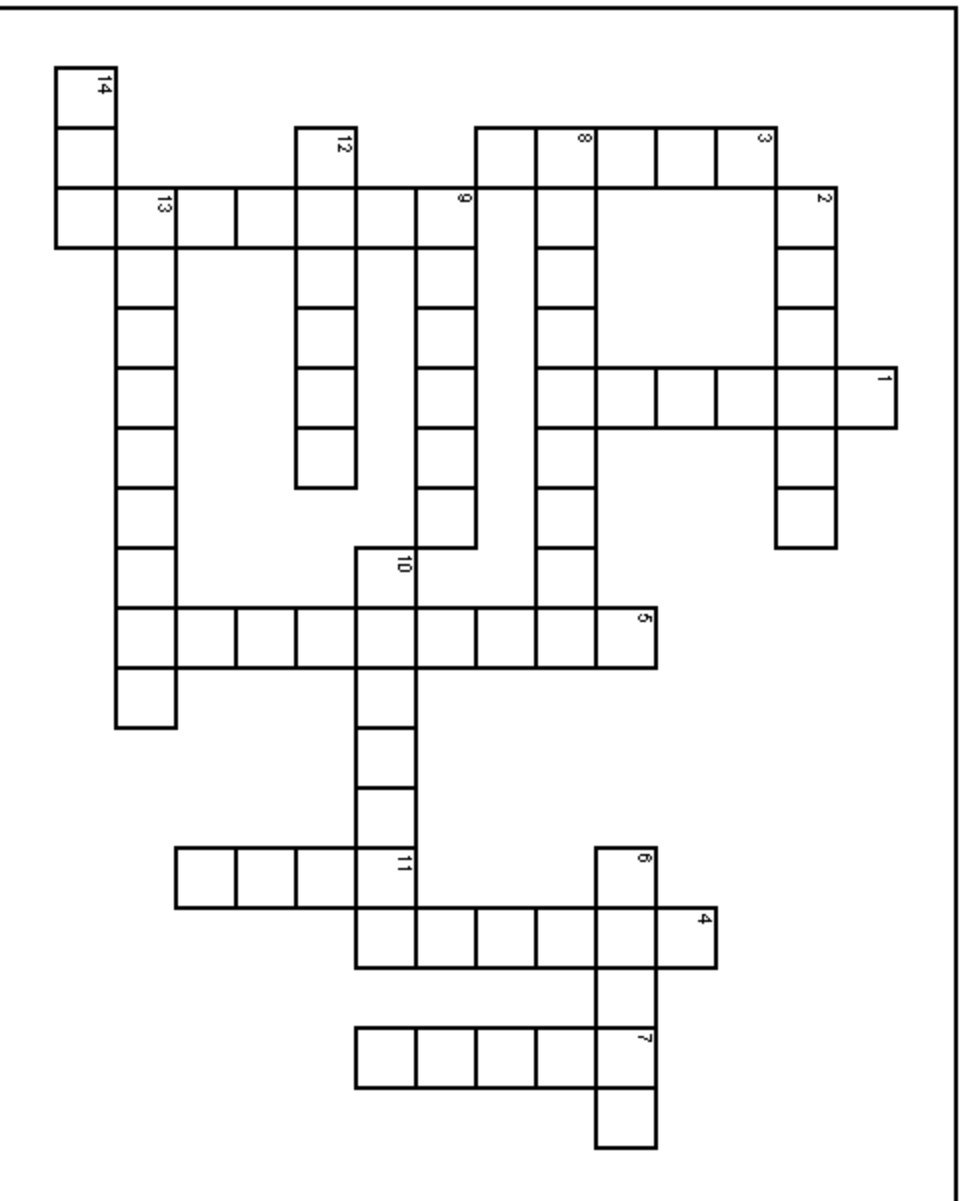
Make pictures of the good and bad parts of Joseph's life. What might have happened if Joseph hadn't trusted God? Have a "whole family" hug.

MEMORY VERSE:

But the _____ of _____ is _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against _____ things _____ is _____ law.
Galatians 5:22-23

Joseph is Faithful

All clues are from the NIV version of the Bible.



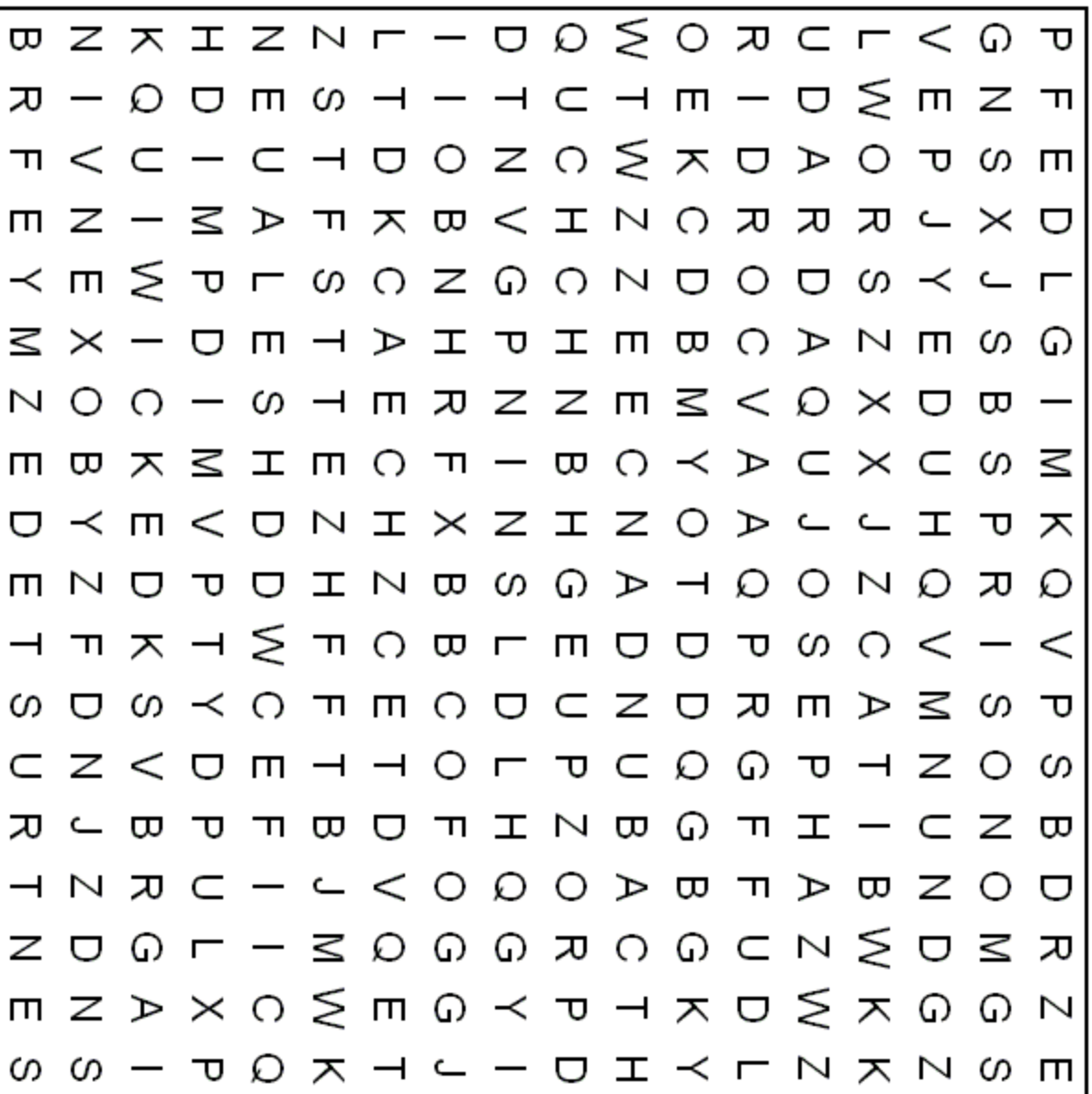
Across

2. a time when no crops grow (Genesis 41:53)
6. didn't like (Genesis 37:4)
8. plenty (Genesis 41:48)
9. jail (Genesis 39:20)
10. deep well (Genesis 37:20)
12. the favorite son (Genesis 37:3)
13. given (Genesis 39:8)
14. He knows what dreams mean (Genesis 41:16)

Down

1. evil (Genesis 39:9)
3. a sleep story (Genesis 41:15)
4. jail boss (Genesis 39:22)
5. needy (Genesis 45:11)
7. country in north Africa (Genesis 37:25)
9. planned (Genesis 37:18)
11. special coat (Genesis 37:3)

Joseph is Faithful



famine

Egypt

prison

dream

abundance

robe

entrusted

wicked

warden

Joseph

destitute

plotted

cistern

God

hated

Joseph is Faithful

1. ERMDA _ _ _ _ _
2. GEPTY _ _ _ _ _
3. RUETDTNSE _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
4. KEWCID _ _ _ _ _
5. HSOEJP _ _ _ _ _
6. PTLEDOT _ _ _ _ _ _ _
7. PONRSI _ _ _ _ _
8. AIFEMN _ _ _ _ _
9. ODG _ _ _
10. NERICTS _ _ _ _ _ _ _
11. RNWEAD _ _ _ _ _
12. EAHTD _ _ _ _ _
13. REBO _ _ _ _
14. TTIESED TU _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _
15. CNBAUNAED _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Courtesy of www.mygrandmatime.com You may use and reprint these materials for your own non-profit use.

Additional Bible verses:

Proverbs 3:3; Lamentations 3:19-24

Bible Verse in sign: But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, **FAITHFULNESS** - the sign indicates putting our head in a solid place.

What one word is in all these verses?

Hint - Joseph had one!

(This makes a good Bible drill too!)

Acts 8:29
 Genesis 41:43
 Zechariah 6:2
 Exodus 14:6
 Micah 1:13
 Judges 4:15
 Ezekiel 23:15
 2 Samuel 15:1
 Isaiah 5:28
 1 Kings 4:26
 2 Kings 2:11
 1 Chronicles 18:4
 2 Chronicles 18:30
 Psalm 76:6

GAMES:

Have a "stand" contest. How long can you hold a position? Take turns choosing the positions. We need to learn to "stand" on the inside too.

Have a watermelon seed spitting contest.

Empty the cistern, QUICK! - relay - Have 2 teams try and empty a water bucket before Joseph is thrown in it.

Play Fruit Match.

Play Fruit Bingo.

MUSIC:

Galatians 5:22-23

(Words & music by Gary Pailor. C. 2001 Gospel Light, Ventura, CA 93006)

Let Love Never Leave You

(Music by Darla Price. C. 1996 Gospel Light, Ventura, CA 93006)

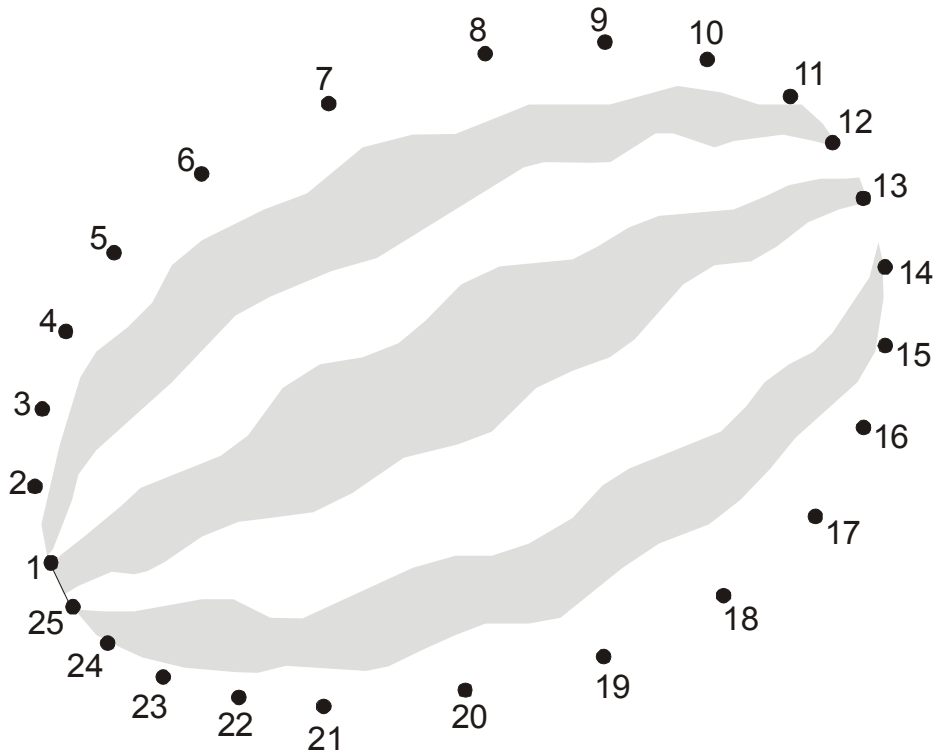
Planting on the farm

(Words & music by Rob Evans. C. 1994 Gospel Light, Ventura, CA 93006)

FAITHFULNESS- The seeds in the watermelon is what shows us that it will continue to be fruitful.

Eat some watermelon.

Better yet, **SHARE** some watermelon with someone else!



CRAFTS:

Start a plant from seed. How faithful can you be in watering/growing it? What changes will occur in the plant (outgrow the pot, plant in yard, frost, etc.) that you will need to be ready for?

Blow up and decorate (felt pens) a balloon as a person. Give it a "coat of many colors" just like Joseph had. Make cardstock feet for your balloon and tape the "tied" end to it so it can stand up.

Use playdough to make colorful clothing.

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Have each family member talk about one hard choice they had to make that day. What made it a hard choice? How did they feel after they made their choice?

Tell each other the things that you have completed that day. God is happy when we complete what needs to be done.

Make a promise at the first of the week that each of you will do by next Sunday.

Make it a family goal to be ready and on time for everything this week! You'll have to work hard on your schedule and everyone will have to be willing to work together.

Make a salad in a watermelon "basket" and give it away.

You'll find more learning resources about the Fruit of the Spirit at www.mygrandmatime.com