

LESSON 4

MOVING TO EGYPT



OBJECTIVES

1. To learn that we, as God's children, must remain separate from the world.
2. To remember that we can rely on God's promises, because He is faithful to us.

MEMORY VERSE

"For the word of the Lord is right, and all His work is done in truth."

(Psalm 33:4)

PRAYER

1. We thank God for gathering us here so that we can worship and learn more about His word.
2. Lord, please help us to understand and follow Your will.
3. And Lord, You have given us loving parents. Please help us learn how to love them back.
4. May You help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Jacob Journeys to Egypt

- Goshen
- Jacob's last days
- Joseph passes away
 - a. What did God say to Jacob whenever he moved?

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One True Church

3. Life Application

- Separate from the World
- Believing in God's Promises

4. Activity—We Are All Travelers



Background Knowledge for Teachers

Jacob's Family in Egypt

The famine forced Jacob to send his sons to Joseph in Egypt, and it eventually led to his entire family moving there. Jacob's move to Egypt marked the beginning of an ages-long sojourn from the promised land, Canaan. Not until his descendants had multiplied into a nation would he finally be buried with his forefathers. However, moving to Egypt held a higher significance than simply that of surviving the famine.

Egyptians were severely prejudiced against shepherds, and Joseph and his family were not spared from that prejudice. Fortunately, their isolation in Goshen was a blessing. Barely four generations after Abraham, the family was already in danger of diluting and losing their beliefs by intermarrying with the Canaanites (Gen 38). Their identity as worshipers of God was preserved with their isolation from both Canaanites due to distance, and Egyptians, due to their prejudices. And so with this preservation, it was not simply a nation that blossomed within Goshen, but a nation that had a unique identity as God's children and the living proof of God's covenant with Abraham.

Embalming

The Egyptians invented the art of embalming to preserve a corpse from decaying. The Hebrews did not practice embalming because the laws forbade them to touch dead bodies. However, the only exceptions in the Bible were the embalming of Jacob (Gen 50:2-3) and Joseph (Gen 50:26) because of their status and the need to preserve them so that burial in their homeland of Canaan was possible.

There are three methods for embalming, differentiated by cost and elaboration. All three methods involved soaking the body in natron. Natron was harvested directly as a salt mixture from dry lakebeds in Ancient Egypt; it has been used for thousands of years as a cleaning product for both the home and human bodies.

The cheapest way was to take the intestines out and soak the body in natron for seventy days. The second method was to dissolve the internal organs by injecting cedar oil, and then placing the body in natron. First-class mummification required the removal of the brain and all the internal organs except the heart. The emptied abdominal cavity was washed and filled with spices. Then, the body was soaked in natron. For all three methods, the body was washed and wrapped from head to foot with bandages of linen cloth smeared with gum. Finally, family members would take the corpse and place it in a human-shaped wooden coffin and leave it upright against the wall of the burial chamber.



Reaching Out to Your Students

To a small child, promises are binding and solemn. Children truly believe that any promises their parents make to them will be fulfilled, and any promises they make to each other are real and serious in nature. For students this age, however, promises are often words not always kept. Adults sometimes fulfill promises on a whim or simply forget them, figuring that the child will not remember the promise. Other times, adults regard their words as having such low significance that they simply forget they made any promises at all. Due in part to this, children often trust their school friends far more than they trust their parents; for this reason, they might not consider keeping themselves separate from the world that they live in. Throughout the lesson, try to emphasize the differences between Egyptians and the Israelites and the parallels between the Israelites and us. Each is entitled with the honor of being God's chosen people, but each are also expected to remain separate from the world.

Having faith in God is a lesson often taught. But another key point that you can use this lesson to emphasize is God's faithfulness to us. Your students' current ability to trust in adults is not as perfect or complete as their trust when they were younger, because they have already begun to learn about the complexities of the world and the deception that often covers it. However, while people might be difficult to trust, it is vital that your students learn that God can always be trusted; He is someone in whom they can have complete faith. God will always keep His promises, whether the promise was made yesterday or one thousand years ago.

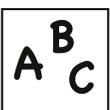


Opener

5 Minutes

In today's lesson, we'll be finishing the story of Joseph. What do we remember about Joseph's story so far? Encourage the students to think back and briefly summarize Joseph's story. Then, depending on how many students there are, pick some key points from his story (e.g., his coat and his dreams, being sold into slavery, serving Potiphar, interpreting dreams, and serving Pharaoh) and assign each student (or pair of students) to come up with a certain set of characteristics that Joseph showed in each scenario. Ask the students to share their scenarios; faith should be a recurring theme. If it isn't, then remind them how Joseph's faith stood out throughout his entire life.

As we can see, Joseph showed a lot of faith throughout his entire life. But what does it mean to have faith? The Bible says that God is also faithful, so having faith doesn't just mean believing in Him. Faith also means to have **confidence and trust** in something or someone. We're going to learn about Jacob and Joseph's last years, and as we learn the rest of the story, let's try to think about their faithfulness to God, and God's faithfulness to them.



Vocabulary

embalming: the process of preserving a body to prevent/slow decay
repulsive: disgusting, detestable



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

We learned last week that when Joseph's brothers were sent to Egypt to find food, they met him without realizing that it was Joseph. Following many trials, and a certain measure of grief on Jacob's part, they were finally joyfully reunited. Pharaoh, pleased to hear that Joseph had found his family, sent carts and provisions back with the brothers to help them bring their families to Egypt.

Jacob Journeys to Egypt

Jacob's whole family, including his great grandchildren, had grown to number more than sixty people. It was probably quite a feat to move so many people and their belongings, but with the help of the carts that Pharaoh had sent, they were able to do it.

Jacob's Faith Grows from Disbelief to Belief

At an old age, Jacob learned that he could trust God's promises. He had a journey of faith from disbelief to belief! As Jacob was waiting for his sons to return home from Egypt, he was very worried that something was going to happen to Benjamin, his youngest son.

Meanwhile, in Egypt, after Joseph convinced his brothers of his identity, he explained that the famine would last five more years. He told his brothers to go home to Canaan, pack up their father and families, and move to Egypt. So, they went up out of Egypt. They came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. They told him, "Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is the ruler of the whole land of Egypt." Right then, Jacob was shocked! He didn't believe them (Gen 45:25-26).

Just imagine Jacob's disbelief! His beloved son Joseph was alive and master over Egypt! Later, Jacob finally believed that Joseph was waiting in Egypt, and he decided to go there. But before he left Canaan, he stopped at a special place called Beersheba (Gen 46:1-4).

Jacob knew that God had also promised that his family would live in Canaan. Now that Jacob was planning to take his family out of Canaan, Jacob wanted to hear from God. He wanted to be sure that he was doing what God wanted him to do. God spoke to him that night.

"I am God. I am the God of your father," He said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt. There I will make you in to a great nation. I will go down to Egypt with you. You can be sure that I will bring you back again. And when you die, Joseph will close your eyes with his own hand."

Right there, God spoke very clearly to Jacob, telling him that he could move to Egypt. You can imagine Jacob was confident that he was doing God's will.

Just as He had promised Abraham, God told Jacob that a great nation would rise out of his sons, in Egypt. God also comforted Jacob with the reassurance that His long-lost son Joseph would be with him when he died. Jacob was probably worried about what would happen to his family in Egypt, but with this vision, God reassured Jacob and renewed His promise.

Jacob Meets Joseph!

Jacob had not seen Joseph in many years. As Jacob's caravan arrived at Egypt, Judah went ahead to tell Joseph that they had arrived. Joseph met his family in an area of Egypt called Goshen. In Genesis 46:30, Jacob said to Joseph, "I have seen for myself that you are still alive. Now I'm ready to die." For all these years, Joseph longed to see his father! God used this long, difficult time to mold not only Joseph, but also Jacob. God is not slow in keeping His promises; He simply uses every opportunity to work everything out for His people to know Him.

Trust In the Lord: Do Not Lean on Your Own Understanding

It is so important for us to know that we need to seek after God when we make decisions (Prov 3:5-6). Many people tend to believe they should only go to God for the big, "important" things. Others tend to believe that God doesn't care, nor should He be bothered about the little things and trivial decisions that we make every day. However, we should not have this kind of mindset; we should bring everything to God. Even the small things, such as everyday decisions, should involve a prayer to God. If we learn to walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit will guide us and show us how to make the right decisions. Most importantly, we must ask God for wisdom daily. James 1:5 records that if you need wisdom, ask God, and He will give it to you.

Let's go back to our story. Upon arriving in Egypt, Jacob, after more than ten years, was finally reunited with the son who he had thought was long dead. Joseph was so happy to see his father that he wept! However, after their joyful meeting, Joseph gave some peculiar instructions to his family. He specifically told them to tell Pharaoh that they were shepherds.

Goshen

Did you know? As it says in Genesis 46:34, Egyptians considered shepherds as detestable. Actually, they also

considered Hebrews to be repulsive, and would never eat with them at the same table, much less Hebrews that were also shepherds. If Joseph knew this, why do you think he told his brothers to tell Pharaoh something that would prejudice the entire country against them? After all, Egypt would be their home for an indefinite amount of time. Joseph also mentions Goshen in verse 34, but why Goshen? Let's read what happens next in Genesis 47:3-11 to learn why.

Goshen was the perfect land for Joseph's family. With the River Nile running through it, the land was well-watered, ideal for pasturing animals. Because of Joseph's wisdom, his family could live in the best land of Egypt. However, it was not simply the land that made this place ideal for them. The location was also very isolated from the rest of Egypt. With their detested occupation and isolated land, they could preserve their beliefs without any of the Egyptians interfering or corrupting their religion. God was truly preserving His people from the influence of Gentiles!

Jacob's Last Days

Now, with his family in Goshen, Joseph could provide all the food that they needed—after all, he was the one in charge of the storehouses—and they all lived comfortably for the length of the famine. Jacob was overjoyed enough simply to see Joseph, but God blessed him even more and allowed Jacob to be with Joseph for an additional seventeen years! However, Jacob was to pass away soon with all of his sons at his side. Before he died though, he spoke to his family, and blessed each of his sons, including Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh.

Moreover, there is one thing in particular that Jacob insisted on before he died. Let's read Genesis 47:29-31. Many years before Jacob, Abraham demanded that his servant make a vow, with his hand under Abraham's thigh, just like what Jacob requested of Joseph. This action emphasized how serious the vow was, and the importance of the request. Why do you think it was so important for Jacob to be buried with his fathers outside of Egypt?

Well, soon after blessing his sons, Jacob died at the age of 147. Let's read what happened in Genesis 50:1-13. It was not just Joseph's family, but also many Egyptians who mourned the passing of Jacob. It was probably an incredible funeral procession with hundreds of people! But the most important thing was that Jacob's family brought him outside of Egypt, and buried him in Canaan with his forefathers. Previously, we thought about why it was important for Jacob to be buried with his forefathers. Do you remember God's words to Jacob at the beginning of today's story? God told Jacob that He would make his descendants a great nation in Egypt. But there is also another promise that God gave that began with Jacob's grandfather, Abraham. Let's read the promise together in

Genesis 12:7. The main reason Jacob wanted to be buried in Canaan was because of his faith. By asking to be buried in Canaan, Jacob showed his firm belief that God would eventually lead his descendants into that land, just as He had promised Abraham so many years ago. What an amazingly strong faith!

God Always Keeps His Promise

Before Jacob had even been born, God promised to bless and grow his family (Gen 12:1-3). God promised that He would be with Jacob, and that Jacob would have a very large family. 100 years later, God told Jacob the promise again. Did God keep His promise? Let's read Genesis 47:27. "So Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions there and grew and multiplied exceedingly." What does this teach us about God's character? God always keeps His promises!

What can we learn from the life of Joseph and Jacob? We need to trust God's promises! God gives us many wonderful promises that we do not even deserve, but as long as we live out God's teachings, God will show us His promises!

Joseph Passes Away

So the family buried Jacob in Canaan, but after his death, Joseph's brothers were all worried that he might try and take revenge, now that their father was gone. Let's read about their worries in Genesis 50:15-21. Joseph once again reassured and comforted them, because he knew that being sold into slavery and traveling to Egypt was all part of God's plan. Joseph truly had a generous heart, and bore no ill feelings towards them!

Let's read the rest of the story in Genesis 50:22-26. Joseph was blessed with 110 years before passing away. Although this was not as long as his father's 147 years, Joseph demonstrated the same remarkable faith: he believed with his whole heart that God would fulfill the promise that He had made to Abraham hundreds of years ago. Can you imagine keeping a promise for hundreds and hundreds of years? Oftentimes, we might make a promise and forget about it later on; however, God always remembers His promises. God remembered the promise He had made, even reminding Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob of it! And just like his father, Joseph proved that he firmly believed that, in the far future, their descendants would leave the land of Egypt and receive the promised land of Canaan.

To conclude, remember when we discussed how Joseph showed faith throughout his life? Here, we can see proof of God's trustworthiness in keeping His promises, and consequently, we know that if we are faithful to Him, then He is also faithful to us. This means that **as long as we keep our hearts separate from the world around us, then God will always keep His promise of eternal life to us.**



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True Church

Just as the Israelites were the chosen people of God, we, too, are God's special children, picked out from among the world to belong to Him. We must always remember this and keep ourselves separate from the world. Our church preaches the truth, and because of this, we must hold on to the teachings in the Bible and not deviate from the truth.

One True God

Joseph went through a lot of suffering and difficulties before he was appointed governor. At no point did Joseph complain to or curse God. Thus, God continued to bring him success in everything he did. God had a plan for him and his family. Joseph didn't go to Egypt in vain—it was to save his family. Sometimes, we may not know what God has in store for us, but we need to know that He is the true and living God. He's always watching and guiding us. We need to believe in God's promises and put our trust in Him always.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. Joseph told his brothers to tell Pharaoh that they practiced a specific occupation. What was this occupation, and why did he tell them to say that?** Shepherding. He knew Egyptians didn't like shepherds. He told them to say that so that they could live in Goshen, isolated from the Egyptians.
- 2. Where did Jacob instruct his children to bury him?** Canaan.
- 3. Before Jacob left Canaan, what did God say to him in the vision?** "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes."
- 4. Joseph had already forgiven his brothers, so why did they ask for forgiveness from Joseph after their father's death?** They were afraid that Joseph might take revenge on them after the death of their father.



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. Separate from the World

Objective: To learn how important it is to stay separate from the world.

[Explain the following to the students, and then hand out the worksheet for them to fill in. Once they are finished, share their answers as a group.]

Jacob and Joseph both knew that their stay in Egypt was only temporary, so they isolated themselves in Goshen. And they were right, because God fulfilled His promise hundreds of years later: Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt to return to their true homeland, Canaan. In the same way, we are also living temporarily on earth. One day, God will bring us to our true home in heaven with Him. We must always remain separate from the world around us so that we don't lose our heavenly home. But being separate doesn't mean locking ourselves up in a room and ignoring the world. It means upholding the teachings of the Bible. For example, instead of attending birthday parties or visiting our friend's house on Saturdays, we attend church, because it is Sabbath day.

If remaining separate from the world means upholding the teachings of the Bible, what are some ways we can keep ourselves separated? Look up each verse and write down what it says we should do.

Verse	We should...
Ephesians 5:15	Live wisely.
2 Corinthians 5:7	Walk by faith.
Matthew 28:20	Teach the Truth to others.
Galatians 5:13	Serve one another.
Hebrews 3:13	Exhort one another.
2 Corinthians 9:7	Give cheerfully.
Luke 6:36	Be merciful.

Now pick two of the above teachings, and write down examples of how you can follow these teachings at home, at school, or at church. Give as many examples as you can!

Answers will vary. Encourage the students to be practical with their answers. They should write things they can actually do or practice. (Examples: learning to think before they speak for living wisely, asking their parents to pray with them every night for walking by faith, praying before lunch at school even if they're embarrassed for teaching the Truth, or making small gifts for each other in the class for giving cheerfully.)

2. Believing in God's Promises

Objective: To learn that we can trust in God's promises, and be assured that He will keep all of them, no matter how long ago He made them.

To believe in God's promises means to have faith in God. But sometimes, it's difficult to remember to trust God, and easy to question God's promises. But throughout the Bible, God has proven that He is faithful to His chosen people, and never forgets the promises that He makes, such as making Abraham's descendants "as many as the stars in the sky," and giving the land of Canaan to them.

God has also promised us many things. But what kind of promises has He made? Refer to the verses below, and write down what God has promised His children.

Jeremiah 29:11

God promises to prosper us, and give us a future, and a hope.

Matthew 11:28-29

God promises that those who are burdened will have rest.

Philippians 4:19

God promises that He will supply all of our need.

Romans 8:38-39

God promises that nothing will separate us from the love of God.

Romans 10:9

God promises that if we believe His Truth, we will be saved.



Activity

We Are All Travelers

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To remind students that we are all merely travelers, staying temporarily on this earth.

Materials

- Construction paper
- Activity template, one for each student
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers, pens and pencils
- Decorations (e.g. stickers, glitter, etc.), optional

Instructions

1. In the first box, have the students draw themselves as if they were travelers or adventurers (e.g., with traveling cloaks or big backpacks).
2. In the second box, have them draw what they imagine their permanent home in heaven might look like (e.g., a city floating on clouds or perhaps a golden city).
3. Allow them to color and decorate the pictures however they wish.
4. Cut out the boxes and glue them to a piece of construction paper, which will serve as a picture frame. Make sure they leave enough space so that they can write out the following verse:

**"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul."
(1 Peter 2:11)**

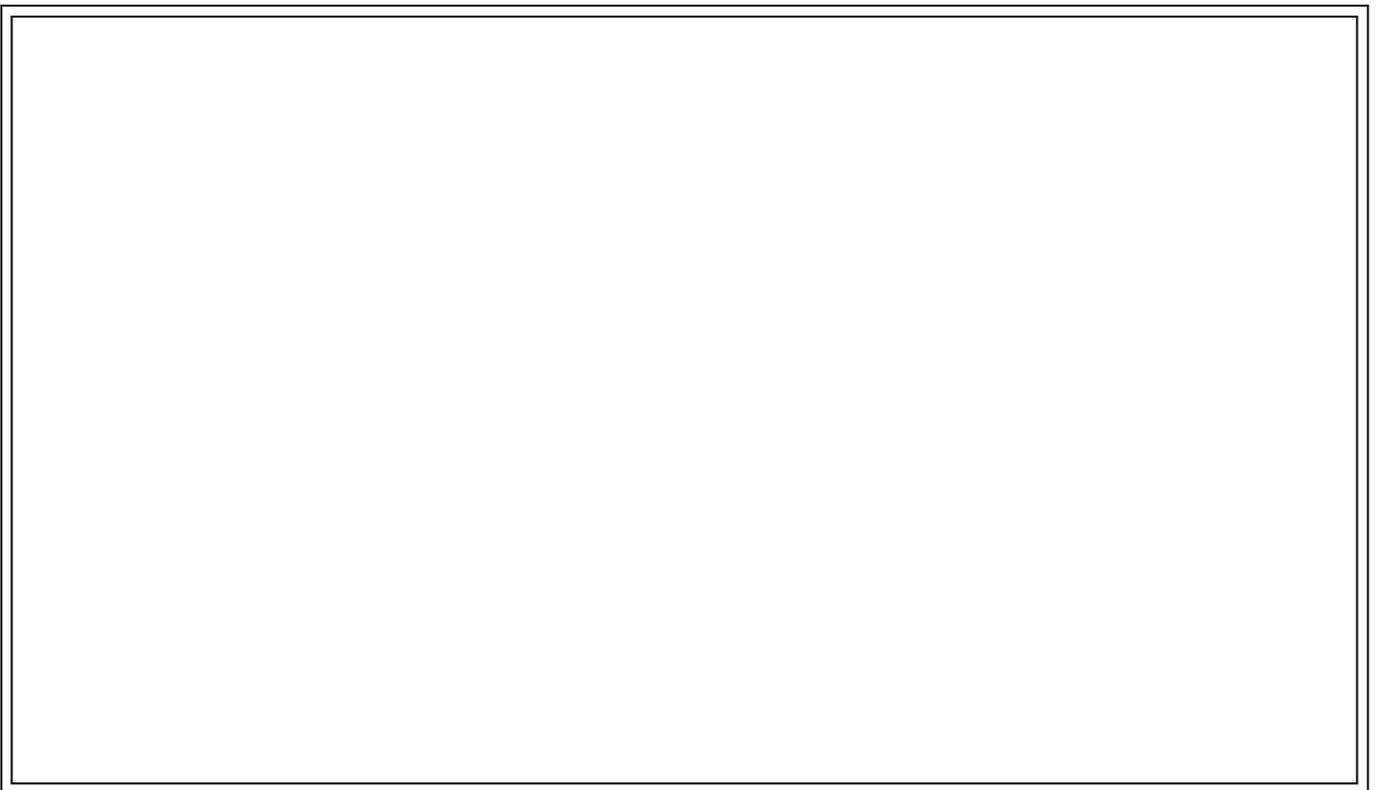
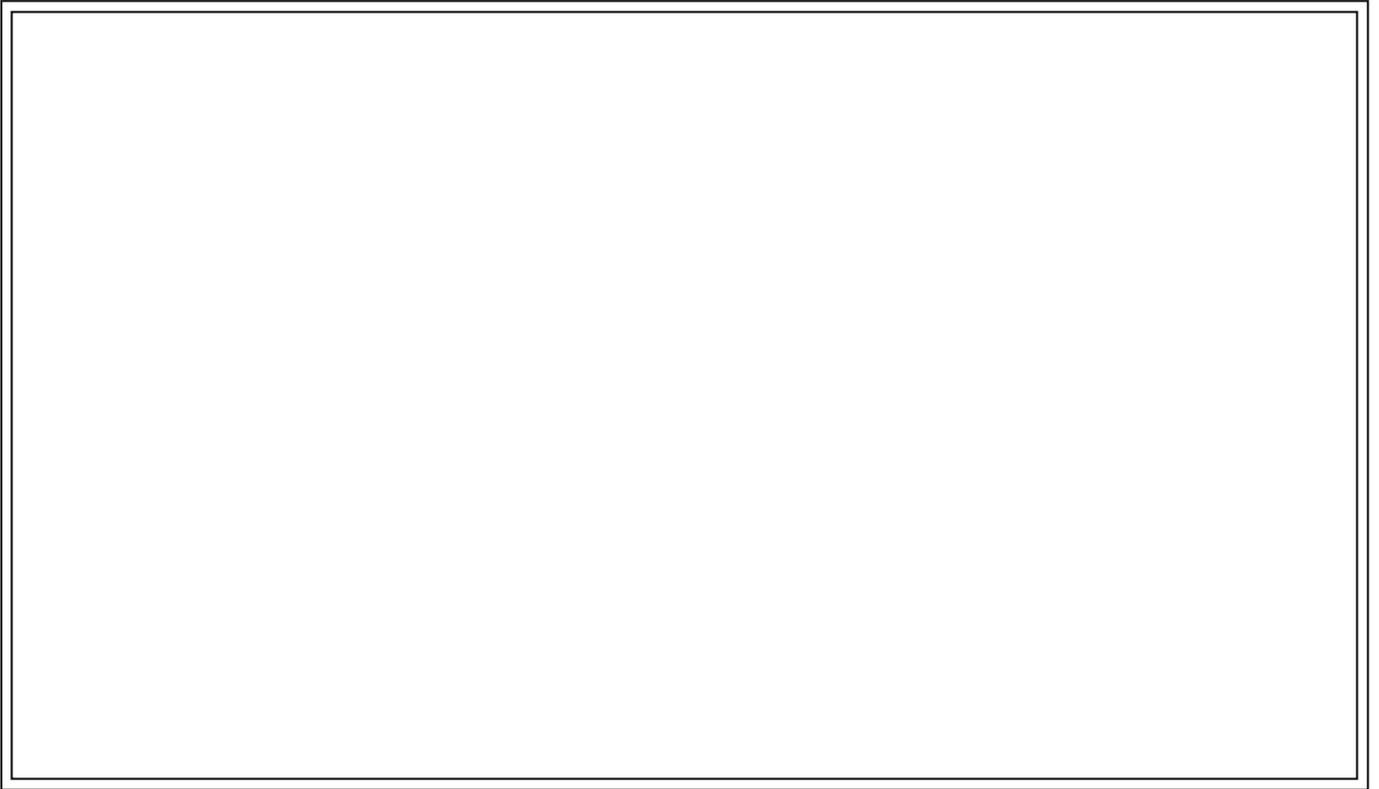


HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. shepherds
2. isolated
3. hand
4. Canaan
5. True
6. False; he died at the age of 110.
7. True
8. They were afraid that Joseph might take revenge on them after the death of their father.
9. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will bring you back again. And Joseph's own hand will close your eyes."
10. Their faith in God; they believed that He would fulfill His promises.
11. separate from the world

BIBLE DISCOVERY WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

1. Fled from Esau
Genesis 28:15 keep, spoken
2. Fled from Laban
Genesis 31:3 Return, will be with you
3. Returned to Bethel
Genesis 35:1 Bethel, altar
4. Went home to Isaac in Mamre
Genesis 35:27 Isaac, dwelt
5. Went down to Egypt
Genesis 46:3 fear, nation



Separate from the World

Jacob and Joseph both knew that their stay in Egypt was only temporary, so they isolated themselves in Goshen. And they were right, because God fulfilled His promise hundreds of years later: Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt to return to their true homeland, Canaan. In the same way, we are also living temporarily on earth. One day, God will bring us to our true home in heaven with Him. We must always remain separate from the world around us so that we don't lose our heavenly home. But being separate doesn't mean locking ourselves up in a room and ignoring the world. It means upholding the teachings of the Bible. For example, instead of attending birthday parties or visiting our friend's house on Saturdays, we attend church, because it is Sabbath day.

If remaining separate from the world means upholding the teachings of the Bible, what are some ways we can keep ourselves separated? Look up each verse and write down what it says we should do.

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Hebrews 3:13	
2 Corinthians 9:7	
Luke 6:36	

Now pick two of the above teachings, and write down examples of how you can follow these teachings at home, at school, or at church. Give as many examples as you can!



Believing in God's Promises

To believe in God's promises means to have faith in God. But sometimes, it's difficult to remember to trust God, and easy to question God's promises. But throughout the Bible, God has proven that He is faithful to His chosen people, and never forgets the promises that He makes, such as making Abraham's descendants "as many as the stars in the sky," and giving the land of Canaan to them.

God has also promised us many things. But what kind of promises has He made? Refer to the verses below, and write down what God has promised His children.

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Philippians 4:19

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Romans 8:38-39

God promises that nothing will _____ us from the _____ of God.

Romans 10:9

God promises that if we _____ His Truth, we will be _____.



E2 Year 1 Book 3 Lesson 4—Moving to Egypt

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Psalm 33:4)**

Fill In the Blank

1. The Egyptians detested shepherds. When Pharaoh asked Joseph's brothers what their occupation was, they answered that they were _____.
2. By living in Goshen, the Israelites could remain _____ from the Egyptians.
3. Jacob made Joseph swear by putting his _____ under Jacob's thigh.
4. Jacob instructed his children to bury him in _____, where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Rebekah were also buried.

True or False

5. As Jacob was traveling to Egypt, God once again spoke to him at Bethel. _____
6. Joseph died at the age of 100. _____
7. The Egyptians mourned the death of Jacob for seventy days. _____

Short Answer

8. Joseph had already forgiven his brothers, so why did they ask for forgiveness from Joseph after their father's death?
9. Before Jacob left Canaan, what did God say to him in the vision?
10. By requesting to be buried in Canaan and not in Egypt, what were Jacob and Joseph demonstrating?
11. We can always trust that God will fulfill His promises, because He is faithful to us. But in the same way the Israelites isolated themselves in Goshen, we must also keep our hearts _____.