# TREE OF PROMISE

**Memory Verse:** ***"He remembered us when we were in trouble. His love continues forever." Psalms 136:23 (ICB)***
**Big Idea:** ***God's Promise: He will always remember you.***
**Bible Story:** ***Joseph and His Family Reunited | Genesis 43-46***

## **Gear Up -** Arrival

**Greet** children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

**Opening Activities**: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

### *Memory Verse Game – Memory Verse Cup Tower*

**What you'll need:** plastic cups
**How to Play:**

- Kids build a tower out of cups. Each cup will have a word from the memory verse on it and the tower should be built and read from bottom to top.

### *Bible Time – Where in the Bible?*

**What you'll need:** Bibles
**How to play:**

- Give each kid a Bible and begin teaching them how to find different books. Guide with questions and hints.
- **Say:** *"Let's find Genesis. Do you think it is in the Old Testament or New Testament?"* (help them find Genesis in their Bibles)
- **Say:** *"Let's find Matthew. It is the first book in the New Testament."* (help them find Matthew)
- Continue as time allows by calling out Books at the beginning, middle, and end of the Bible.

### *Get-To-Know-You Game – Circle of Friends*

**What you'll need:** No supplies needed
**How to Play:**

- **Form a circle:** Have kids stand or sit in a circle.
- Choose a child to start by ***saying their name and their favorite activity.***
- **Continue around the circle:** The person to their left says their name and favorite activity, and so on, until everyone has had a turn.
- **For older kids:** Start a timer and see how quickly the group can collectively say everyone's name and favorite activity.

## **Gear Up -** Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

**Gather** kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

**PRAY FIRST!** We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

## **Lesson Introduction** – 5 minutes

**Share the Lesson Intro** with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

**Say:** *"Welcome back to KXP! I don't know about you, but I'm totally stuffed from the good food I ate during Thanksgiving. What about you? What was your favorite Thanksgiving food?*

*All this talk about food reminds me of Joseph's story. Last week, we learned how God blessed Joseph and put him in a position of power under Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. Joseph was the governor. He was in charge of many things, and he was responsible for feeding the people. You see, Egypt was in the middle of a seven-year famine. Do you remember what a famine is? It's a time when there is not enough food to feed all the people who need it. But Joseph had been smart because God had shown him what to do. Joseph had stored plenty of food before the famine began, and because of his planning, there was enough for everyone."*

**Play the KXP lesson video** in your classroom.

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## **Bible Story –** 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

### ***Joseph and His Family Reunited | Genesis 43-46***

**But** the famine was still very hard to endure, and Joseph's family in Canaan ran out of food. Their father, Jacob, didn't want to send his youngest son, Benjamin, to Egypt. Still, the brothers reminded him that the ruler (Joseph) said they must bring Benjamin. Jacob finally agreed, and they took Benjamin, along with gifts and money, to Egypt.

When Joseph saw Benjamin, he was so happy! He invited all his brothers to a big meal. He gave Benjamin extra food to show his love. But Joseph wanted to see if his brothers had really changed, so he secretly put his silver cup into Benjamin's bag. When the cup was found, Joseph accused Benjamin of stealing it and said he must stay as a servant. Judah begged Joseph to let Benjamin go home, saying he would stay instead because he didn't want to hurt their father again. Joseph saw that his brothers were sorry, and they had changed.

Joseph couldn't hide his feelings anymore. He began to cry and told them, **"*I am your brother Joseph!*"** His brothers were shocked and scared, but Joseph said this in ***Genesis chapter 45, verse 5: "Now don't be worried. Don't be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you to save people's lives."*** Joseph told them to hurry home and bring their father and families to live in Egypt, where there would be enough food for everyone.

When Jacob heard that Joseph was alive, he could hardly believe it! He thanked God and decided to go see his son. God told Jacob not to be afraid to move to Egypt because He would be with him there.

Jacob and all his family—his sons, their wives, and children—moved to Egypt. Joseph met his father again and hugged him tightly. ***Genesis 46:29 says, "Joseph prepared his chariot and went to meet his father Israel (Jacob) in Goshen. As soon as Joseph saw his father, he hugged his neck. And he cried there for a long time."*** It was a happy reunion after many years apart.

Pharaoh gave Joseph's family a good place to live called **Goshen**, where they had plenty of food and land for their animals. Joseph helped take care of everyone during the famine.

## **Lesson Recap –**15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

**Say:** "*Through it all, God kept His promises to Jacob and Joseph. God always remembered them, and He always remembers us, too. Our memory verse says,* ***"He remembered us when we were in trouble. His love continues forever." Psalm 136:23.***

*We have been studying God's promises all semester long. God promised Adam, Eve, and Noah that He wouldn't give up on them, and He didn't. God promised Abraham and Isaac that He had a purpose for them, and He did. God promised Jacob and Esau that His plan was bigger than their mistakes, and it was. And lastly, we have learned that God promised to always remember Joseph, and He did just that.*

*The most wonderful thing about these promises of God is that they are all still true for us today. God never makes a promise that He doesn't keep! All of His promises are true for us, and they came to life in Jesus. Next week, we will see God's promises in the flesh- in the very real person of Jesus. Get ready for the greatest story ever told! Jesus is coming!*

*We are saying goodbye to November and getting ready for December. I'm so ready for a KXP Christmas! Hope you are too!"*

**Discuss** the following questions with your class. *(This can be done in a large or small group setting.)*

- What position did Pharoah give to Joseph?
- How did Joseph prepare for the famine before it ever happened?
- Why did Jacob send his sons back to Egypt again?
- What object did Joseph hide in Benjamin's sack?
- Which brother offered to stay as a servant so Benjamin could go home?
- How did the brothers react when Joseph revealed himself?
- Why did Joseph say God had sent him to Egypt?
- How did Jacob feel when he heard Joseph was still alive?

**Harder Questions**

- Judah was willing to take Benjamin's place. How can we show love by helping or protecting others?
- Joseph took care of his family when they needed help. What's one way you can help your family today?
- Jacob had to decide whether to move to Egypt. When you need to make a big choice, who helps you?
- God promised to be with Jacob in Egypt. How does knowing God is with you help you feel brave?

**Direct** the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

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## **Close in Prayer** – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

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## **Live It Out** – 5 to 8 minutes | **Family Reunion in Egypt (Paper Chain People)**

**What you'll need:** long, legal-sized paper, scissors, makers

**Leaders:** This craft illustrates Joseph's whole family moving to Egypt (Genesis 46)
**How to make:**

- Fold a strip of paper accordion-style; similarly to cutting a snowflake out of many layers.
- You will need 12 to 14 folds.
- Cut out a simple "gingerbread" person shape, leaving hands connected.
- Unfold to reveal a **connected family chain**.
- Decorate figures as Joseph, Jacob, and the brothers.

**Lesson tie-in:** Even when families are separated or make mistakes, God can bring them back together.

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## **Leave No Trace** – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.