

From the heart

*Joseph, now an important official in Egypt, reveals himself to his brothers, who sold him into slavery. They had come to Egypt to buy grain because of a famine. **

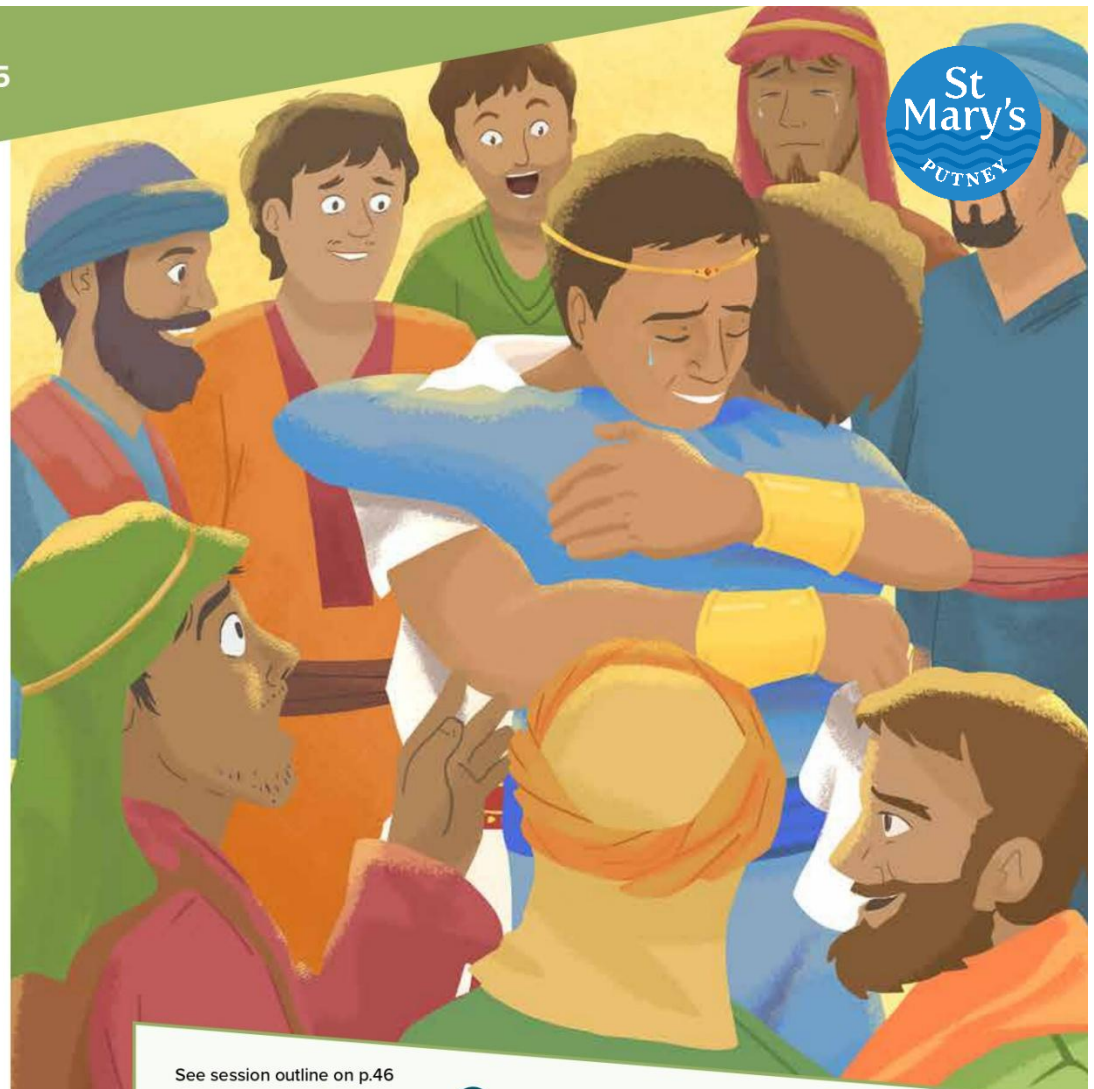
The 11 sons of Israel had been summoned into Pharaoh's courts and they were terrified ♦. Pharaoh's chief adviser seemed to hate them and, although they had done nothing wrong, he had made it appear as though they were thieves, looking to steal from the palace.

Pharaoh's adviser stood in front of the brothers, looking fierce ♦. He sent everyone else out of the room and then, to the great surprise of the cowering men, he began to weep ♦. 'Don't you recognise me?' he stammered, between sobs. 'I'm your brother Joseph, who you sold into slavery.'

Joseph's brothers were stunned, but still scared ♦. Now that Joseph was so powerful, he might want to take revenge on them. 'I know what you're thinking,' Joseph said. 'You think you're responsible for sending me to Egypt, but it was God all along. God sent me here to save Egypt from famine and to save you too. You're here because you're starving and Egypt is the only country that still has food. Well, that's down to God, who helped me to organise farming and food storage here. * There are still five years of famine to come but, thanks to God, the country will not starve. And neither will you.' ♦

Then Joseph revealed his plan to his brothers. 'You must bring our father, Israel, here and I will provide for all of you. As you can see, I am a very important man here and I will make sure you have everything you need.' * When he finished speaking, Joseph began to cry again, hugging his younger brother Benjamin as he wept. ♦

Turn over
for some
fun activities!!



St
Mary's
PUTNEY

See session outline on p.46

Stop and share

Read the story and pause at the * to share these points with the children.

- * Famine is a widespread shortage of food, which puts many people at risk of extreme hunger, illness or death.
- * In Genesis 41:1-49, God helped Joseph interpret Pharaoh's dream, which led to Joseph being put in charge of storing up food for Egypt during the years of plenty. This meant that there were reserves during the years of famine.
- * This fulfils the dreams that Joseph had in Genesis 37:5-11 (last week), that angered his brothers in the first place.

To explore the ♦, see **Share the Word**, p.46.

POSTCARD



Imagine you are one of Joseph's brothers.
Write a postcard to Jacob telling him about your surprising day.

Write

Name _____

Roots Activity sheet



Genesis 45:1-15

Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers, and rescues them from famine.



Joseph forgives his brothers and saves them from hunger.



Draw something or someone that makes you happy, or cheers you up when you are sad.



How did Joseph's brothers feel when they realised who he really was?

Circle all the feelings they might have felt.

Use a different colour to circle how Joseph felt.



Roots Colouring sheet

From the heart



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