

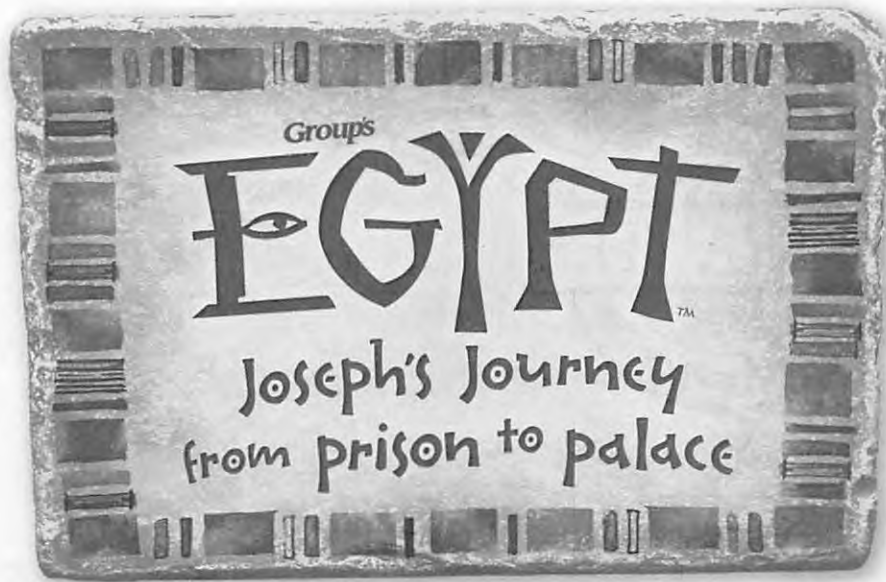
family time

Leader Manual

Groups
EGYPT

Joseph's Journey
from prison to palace





FAMILY TIME

Leader Manual



Loveland, Colorado
group.com/vbs



Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's



Relational

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What learners experience through discussion and action sticks with them up to 9 times longer than what they simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.



Group's Holy Land Adventure®
Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace

Family Time Leader Manual
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Credits

A big thanks to our amazing Holy Land Adventure Team: Jody Brolsma, Stephen Caine, Ardeth Carlson, Becky Chaplin, Shelly Dillon, Cindy Hansen, Elisa Hansen, Kerri Iserman, Kari K. Monson, Amy Nappa, Michael Paustian, Mike Porter, Jenn Schmidt, Joani Schultz, and Rodney Stewart.

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If I lived in ancient
Egypt, I would have
loved...






...the animals!
maybe i could've
worked in the
stables.

Kari Monson

...the eyeliner
and the jewelry!

Kerri Iserman

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Groups
EGYPT

You'll reinforce Bible learning in a big way because the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each activity. That's why each center is so important to the overall learning experience.

Bible Point, Story & Verse

Family Time
(small group time)

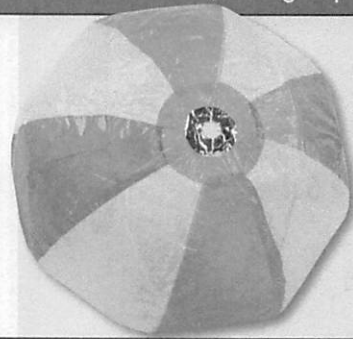


Day 1

bible point: God gives us hope.

bible story: Joseph interprets dreams in prison.
(Genesis 40:1-23)

bible verse: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11)



Inflate a paper balloon to explore how hope fills their hearts.



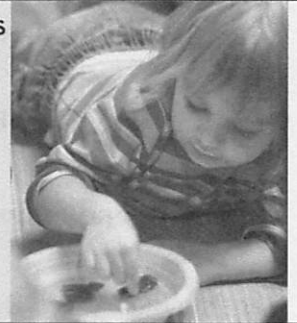
Day 2

bible point: God gives us special abilities.

bible story: Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge.
(Genesis 41:1-40)

bible verse: "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."
(Romans 12:6)

Watch colorful capsules transform into cute critters...just like their special gifts "bloom"!



Day 3

bible point: God gives us wisdom.

bible story: Joseph leads Egypt through famine.
(Genesis 41:41-42:5)

bible verse: "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you."
(James 1:5)



Rely on a friend's wisdom to guide them through a maze.



Day 4

bible point: God gives us forgiveness.

bible story: Joseph forgives his brothers.
(Genesis 42:6-45:15)

bible verse: "But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love."
(Nehemiah 9:17)

Compare God's forgiveness to an ink stain that vanishes!

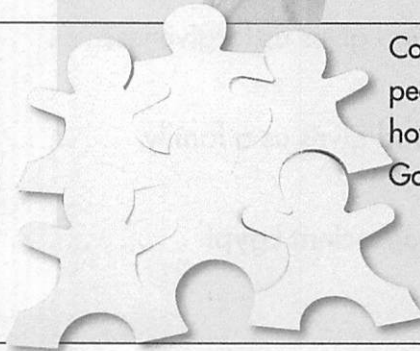


Day 5

bible point: God gives us a family.

bible story: Joseph settles his family in Egypt.
(Genesis 45:16-47:27)

bible verse: "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus."
(Galatians 3:26)



Connect paper people to explore how they're part of God's family.

Explore the entire program at a glance. Refer to the chart to see how each center's activities supplement other activities to make the story of Joseph come to life at your church!

Joseph's Journey

Pyramid Playground

Marketplace Shops



Meet Joseph in prison, and use a flickery light to explore how God gave Joseph hope.



Wrap up a few crazy mummy games.



Visit a variety of shops every day:

Barbershop & Salon

Get a surprise as they find Joseph living in the palace.



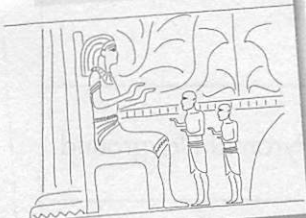
"Hunt" with lassos and hula hoops, and catch a few watermelon "fish."



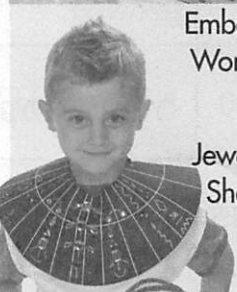
Toy Shop

Brickmaking

Learn about Joseph's important job, and see how God has given him wisdom.



Relay a wet sponge, untangle a web of arms, and follow the Pharaoh.



Embalmer's Workshop

Jewelry Shop



Meet with an upset Joseph, and explore what anger and forgiveness feel like.



Tag a toe and tug of war...goofy, giggly, low-tech games!

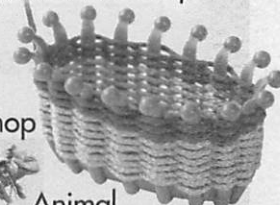


Operation Kid-to-Kid™ Tent



Hieroglyphic Artist's Shop

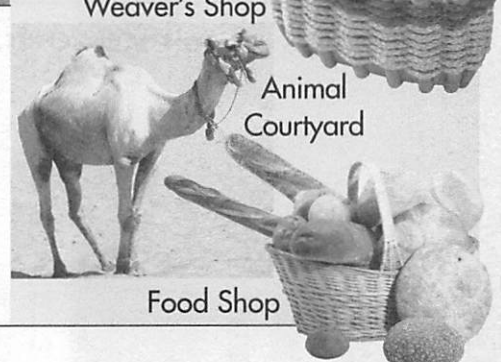
Basket Weaver's Shop



Celebrate with Joseph as he anticipates his family's journey to Egypt.



Travel like ancient Egyptians on foot, on water, and in carts.



Food Shop

Animal Courtyard

Groups
EGYPT

Joseph's Journey
from prison to palace

SAMPLE
Daily Schedule
and Announcements

day 1

Bible Point: God gives us hope.

Time	Group A Families:	Group B Families:	Group C Families:	Group D Families:
	amarna	per-bastet	giza	sais
	zoan	medinet el-fayum	asyut	pithom
9:00-9:15	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration
9:15-9:30	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time
9:30-9:45	Joseph	Pyramid Playground	Visit Marketplace	
9:45-10:00	Pyramid Playground	Joseph		
10:00-10:15	Visit Marketplace		Joseph	Pyramid Playground
10:15-10:30			Pyramid Playground	Joseph
10:30-10:45	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time	Family Time
10:45-11:00	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration	Celebration

today's announcements:



Welcome to Egypt!

We're glad you're a part of this exciting Holy Land Adventure! As a Family Leader, you'll direct a group of up to 10 children and adults (your Egyptian Family) through experiences that have an authentic, traditional Bible-times feel. As Egyptian Families explore the culture of ancient Egypt, you'll guide them in activities and discussions that help them connect Bible truths to real life. You'll build lasting relationships with kids and adults as you bring God's Word to life in new and powerful ways.



What's a Family Leader?

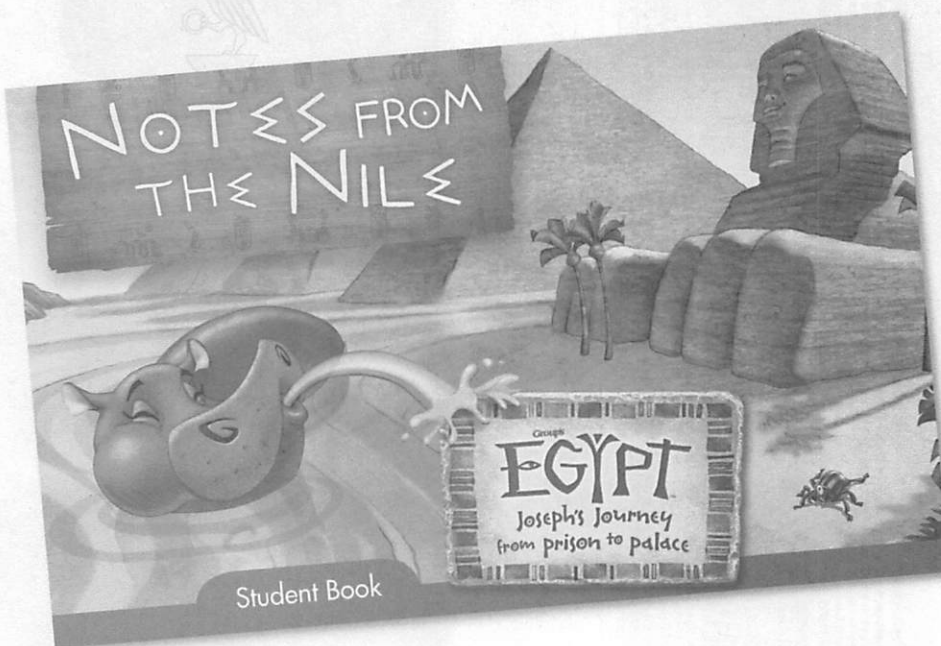
Family Leaders are the heart and soul of your Egypt VBS. The time children and adults spend with their Egyptian Families will be the most memorable, life-changing, and thought-provoking time of the entire program! While you don't have to plan or prepare materials, this leader manual contains the information you need to have a successful Family Time and helps you feel ready for a great Holy Land Adventure. Your leadership is a vital element to the success of this program. Here are a few tips to get you started.

A Family Leader is a friend and a helper who

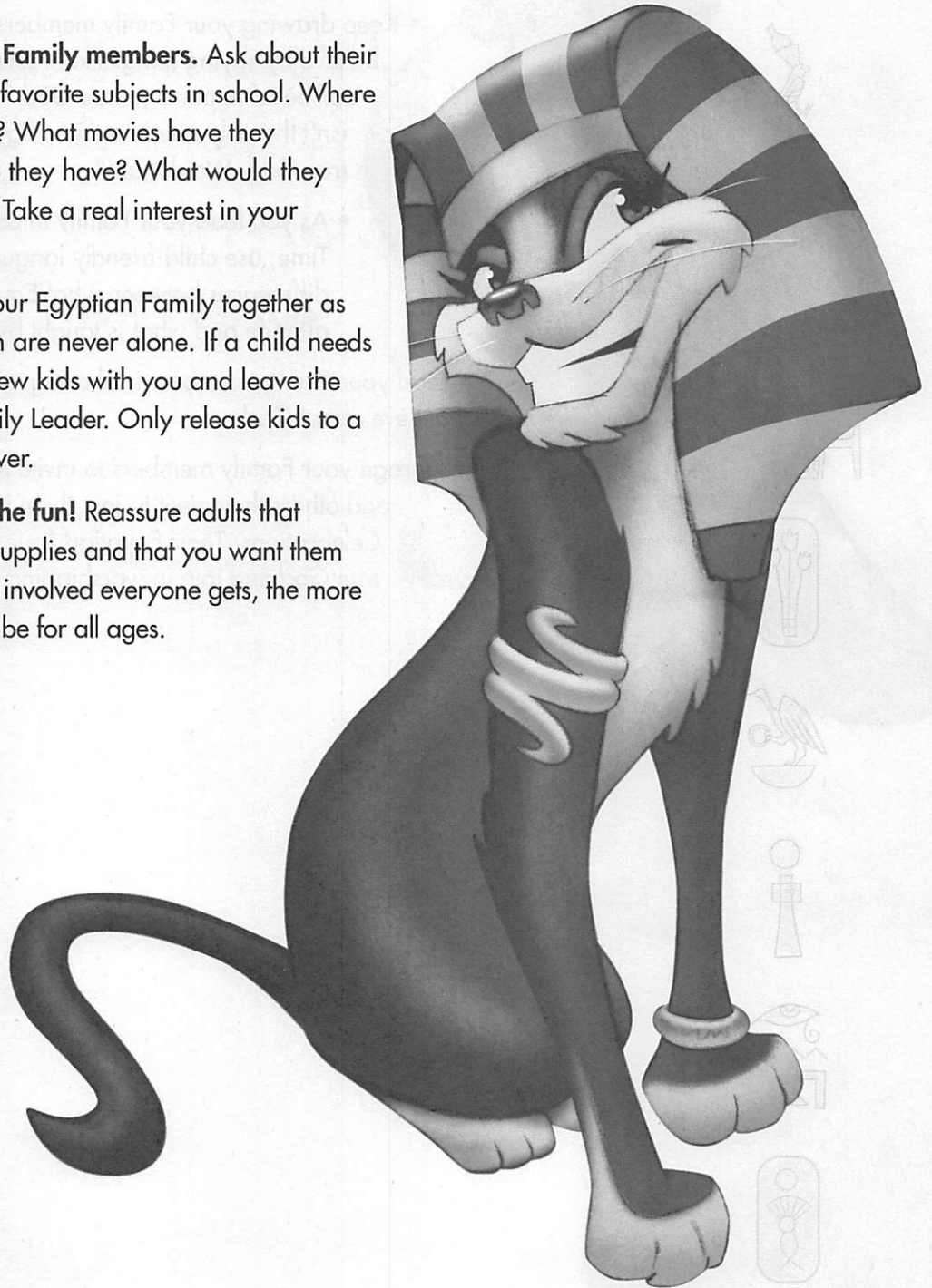
- ✓ draws others into discussions as much as possible,
- ✓ offers choices and asks questions,
- ✓ encourages Family members,
- ✓ participates in all of the Holy Land Adventure activities with their Egyptian Family, and
- ✓ helps and encourages other staff members.

- **Attend scheduled staff training.** Your Egypt Director will set up training for all staff who will serve. Plan to attend this important meeting so you can get the big picture of how your role fits into this exciting and unique program.
- **Familiarize yourself with this manual.** Read each day's Bible background, Scripture, and activities. That way you'll be prepared to give your Family members accurate information and not have to refer to the instructions as you're leading each activity.

- **Use your Bible.** It's important for Family members to see you looking up passages and reading them directly from God's Word to help them connect their experiences to Scripture. It's a good idea to mark each day's Bible passages ahead of time so you can turn to them quickly.
- **Check out the Notes from the Nile Student Book.** Each day Family members (kids *and* adults) will get a page from Notes from the Nile. The student book helps connect what everyone learns in ancient Egypt to everyday life.



- **Listen to the music ahead of time.** While you won't be leading the singing during the opening and closing Celebration times, it's a good idea to be familiar with the music so you can sing along with ease.
- **Smile!** Be a friendly face that Egyptian Family members look forward to seeing. It's likely that you'll have Family members who are new to your church, so be sure to welcome everyone with friendliness and warmth.
- **Call each person by name.** This is one of the easiest ways to affirm and encourage the people in your Family. Make sure each member feels valued and welcomed.
- **Get to know your Egyptian Family members.** Ask about their families, hobbies, and kids' favorite subjects in school. Where have they been on vacation? What movies have they recently seen? What pets do they have? What would they pack on a trip to the moon? Take a real interest in your Family members' lives.
- **Keep children safe.** Keep your Egyptian Family together as much as possible so children are never alone. If a child needs to use the restroom, take a few kids with you and leave the rest with your Assistant Family Leader. Only release kids to a parent or authorized caregiver.
- **Encourage adults to join in the fun!** Reassure adults that shopkeepers have plenty of supplies and that you want them to participate, too. The more involved everyone gets, the more meaningful the program will be for all ages.



Remember that you are the voice of truth!

Throughout the week, your Egyptian Family members will learn that Joseph believed in one true God, but the ancient Egyptians believed in a large number of gods. The Marketplace shopkeepers, helpers, Pyramid Playground Leader, and Joseph's guard play the roles of ancient Egyptians who believe in many, many gods (and some other *strange* ideas).

- Keep drawing your Family members back to the truth of what we believe by saying things like: "Let's always be ready to share our belief in our one true God." Or "You know what? Joseph isn't the only one in ancient Egypt who believes in the one true God. We do too!"
- As you lead your Family in conversation during Family Time, use child-friendly language to point out the differences between what Egyptians believed about the afterlife and what is taught by the Bible.
- Lead your Family members in sharing with shopkeepers the things you believe about God.
- Encourage your Family members to invite Marketplace shopkeepers and others they meet to join them in the opening and closing Celebrations. Their Egyptian "guests" can learn about our *one true God* and join in worshipping and praising him!

What's an Egyptian Family?

An Egyptian Family is a group of up to 10 people led by a Family Leader (that's you) and an Assistant Family Leader. Each small-group Egyptian Family has a Family name, based on ancient Egyptian city names.

Families give children a taste of ancient Egyptian culture, as well as a warm and welcoming group of friends to hang out with! Plus, the colored Banduras (which coordinate with the Family name posters) help you easily identify who is with which group and where different Families are during your Egypt VBS. The Egyptian Family Names Poster Pack includes the following names:



Amarna



Medinet el-Fayum



Per-Bastet



Zoan



Pithom



Rosetta



Memphis



Sais



Asyut



Giza

If your VBS has more than 100 participants, your Director might form "Households." For example, in the Family of Amarna, you might have the Households of Elephantine, Aswan, and Edfu. These Households would all wear the same color Bandura (as the Family of Amarna) and would be part of the larger Family of Amarna.



field test findings

Your VBS Director will make sure Families contain no more than 10 members and (ideally) two Family Leaders. Through field testing and customer feedback, we've discovered that smaller groups are more manageable and maximize important relationship-building time. We've also discovered it's best when Family Leaders can attend VBS every day and avoid having to get substitutes. Consistent leadership helps Family members get to know each other throughout the week!





Costuming and Supplies

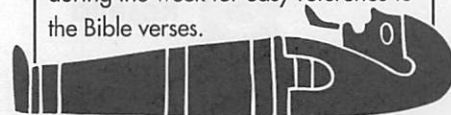
Your Egypt Director will coordinate collecting costumes and supplies. However, you can join in the fun by helping to create your own Egyptian-style costume:

- Find a long white shift-style dress or robe, or make one using the simple patterns on the *Egypt Clip Art & Resources* CD.
- Visit the Barbershop & Salon in the Marketplace and get authentic-looking Egyptian makeup—both men and women wore heavy eye makeup.
- Make a jeweled collar from the Jewelry Shop.
- Wear any other jewelry you can round up (rings, armbands, earrings, ankle bracelets, headbands)—all Egyptians loved their ornamentation!

Your Director will also provide a basket with the Egyptian Family items you need each day, “home base” mats or blankets where your Family will gather, and your Family name poster.

Mummy Musings

You may want to keep one set of Bible Memory Makers with you during the week for easy reference to the Bible verses.



Supply Basket Checklist

Each day your basket will need to be stocked with the following:

- pencil or pen for writing Family members' names and making notes
- marker for writing names on name badges and writing on God Sighting Stones
- Egyptian Family Banduras™* (1 per Family member, including you)
- coin pouches* (1 per Family member)
- silver coins* (3 per Family member)
- the daily schedule showing the order your Family will rotate through the activities (you will get a new one each day)
- Bible for a handy reference
- bookmark to mark each day's Scripture passage
- Family Time Teaching Kit*
- God Sighting Stones* (beginning on Day 2)
- Glue Dots* or masking tape to attach Stone to the pyramid on wall
- Notes from the Nile Student Books* (1 per Family member—even adults)
- Bible Memory Makers®* (1 set per Family member—even adults)
- name badges* (optional)

*available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier

Here's What You'll Do

Before Participants Arrive...

Plan to arrive *at least* 20 minutes early on the first day of the program. When you get there:

- Let the Director know you're there. He or she might have specific instructions or hold a Family Leader meeting.
- Find your Egyptian Family "home base" (mats or blankets where you'll gather for Family Time), and locate your basket of supplies. Check through your supply basket and be sure it has been stocked (or restocked) with all the necessary supplies for that day.
- Make sure your Family name poster is taped to the wall next to your mats.
- Get a list of your Egyptian Family members from the registrar or Director. (This list may change as participants arrive, since some will not have preregistered, so be flexible!)
- Look over your daily schedule to see what's in store for your Egyptian Family today and find out which lettered group you'll travel with.
- Sit near your home base, and welcome participants as they arrive.

When Participants Arrive...

Opening Celebration (15 minutes)

After participants register or sign in each day, they'll join you at your home base.

- Introduce yourself as your Family members gather, and as everyone arrives, be sure they know each other's names. Introduce any newcomers to the group. Help each Family member feel welcome.
- Help everyone put on their colorful Banduras. Tell them this designated color represents their Egyptian Family for the week.
- When the Celebration Leader begins, gather with other participants for opening singing and worship.
- Participate in singing and getting to know everyone.
- When the opening Celebration time is finished, lead your Egyptian Family back to your home base. Prepare your Family members for their trip to ancient Egypt!





Opening Family Time (15 minutes)

Each day you'll have 15 minutes at the beginning of the day designated as Family Time. This is where Egyptian Family members get to know each other as they discuss what life must have been like in ancient Egypt. If you have extra time, take a few minutes to work on your Family cheer. Families will *love* sharing these later in the week. When you hear the timekeeper's signal, you will know when it's time to move to the next activity on your daily schedule.

Joseph (15 minutes)

- Lead Families to Joseph's area, and wait outside for the guard to allow you to go in.
- Sit with your Egyptian Family, and encourage everyone to listen and participate.
- Visit with Joseph and learn that although Joseph's brothers intended to harm him, God intended it all for good.



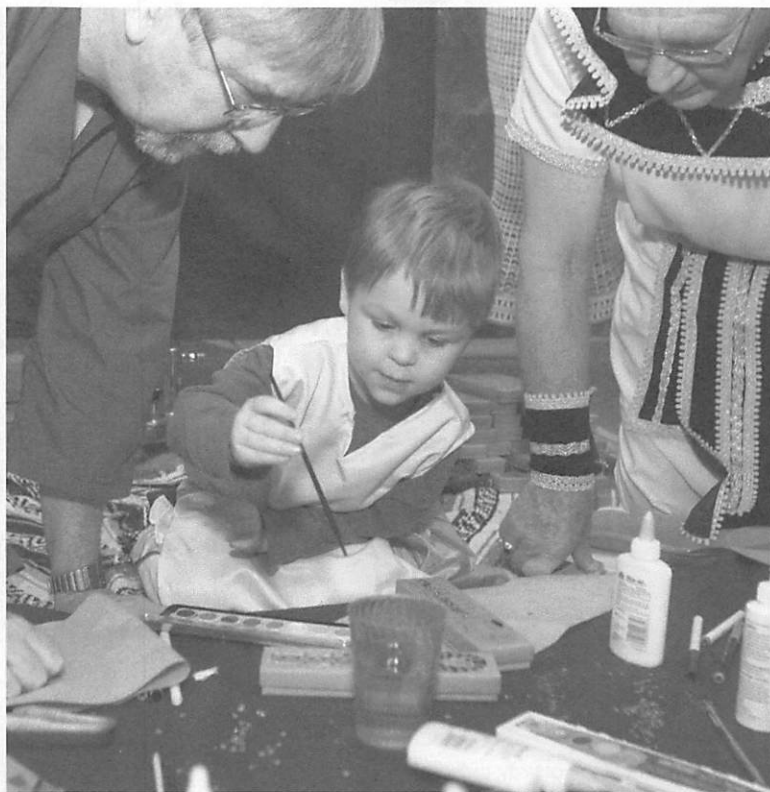
Pyramid Playground (15 minutes)

- Lead your Family to the Pyramid Playground area, and wait for the Pyramid Playground Leader to begin.
- Follow the Pyramid Playground Leader's instructions, and encourage everyone to listen.
- Help younger children with activities, if necessary.
- Participate in the activities wholeheartedly. Your participation will speak volumes to your Egyptian Family!

Marketplace Time (30 minutes)

Each day Egyptian Families will have 30 minutes to explore the shops in the Marketplace. Here, participants can become apprentices at things like designing jewelry, making bricks, and weaving baskets. They can enjoy ancient Egyptian delicacies such as fruit, nuts, veggies, bread, and honey. In the Marketplace, Families get to interact with characters such as barbers, hieroglyphic artists, and embalmers!

- Before heading into the Marketplace, divide your Family into two groups for “exploring.” One group will stay with you, and the other will go with the Assistant Family Leader. Let Family members work together to determine which shops they’ll visit each day.
- In the Marketplace shops, encourage everyone to listen carefully to the shopkeepers. Ask questions about how projects or tasks might be done in ancient Egypt.
- Assist young children with any projects they choose to do. *Families will have 30 minutes, so encourage them to take their time and work at a comfortable pace.*
- Once Family members are working on their own, feel free to become an apprentice yourself! Keep an eye on kids who might need a hand with a certain element of a project. And encourage adults to participate and create their own projects, too.



Closing Family Time (15 minutes)

Before the closing Celebration, you’ll gather with your Egyptian Family at your home base. During this time, Family members will connect what they’ve learned in Egypt to real life through simple object lessons, discussions, and experiences. Follow each day’s outline in the Family Time section of this manual.

- Distribute the day’s page from the Notes from the Nile Student Book. Encourage participants to watch for God when they go home. The list in the student book is just suggestions. Kids and adults love finding their own amazing God Sightings.

field test findings

Each day, every Family member will have three silver coins to spend in the Marketplace. At our field test, we discovered that this helped kids pace themselves and not rush through all the crafts in a couple of days. Plus, kids liked having the grown-up feeling of spending money!



mummy musings

The shops in the Marketplace will be open all week. If your group goes to a shop only to discover it’s full, remind them that they can go another day. Families should have the opportunity to visit each shop at some point during their experience in ancient Egypt.





- Distribute a Bible Memory Maker each day. Bible Memory Makers are “stones,” each with the day’s Bible verse printed on it. Participants will put their Bible Memory Makers in the sculpted paper sarcophagus they make in the Embalmer’s Workshop. At the end of the week, they can take these home as lasting keepsakes, reminding them of their time in Egypt.
- Gather Banduras, coin pouches, and leftover silver coins that were not spent in the Marketplace, so you can use them the next day.
- Give the leftover silver coins to the Director, who will redistribute three coins for each coin pouch every day.

- When you hear the timekeeper’s signal, you will know it’s time to lead your Family members to the closing Celebration. Join them in a closing time of singing and worship.

Mummy Musings

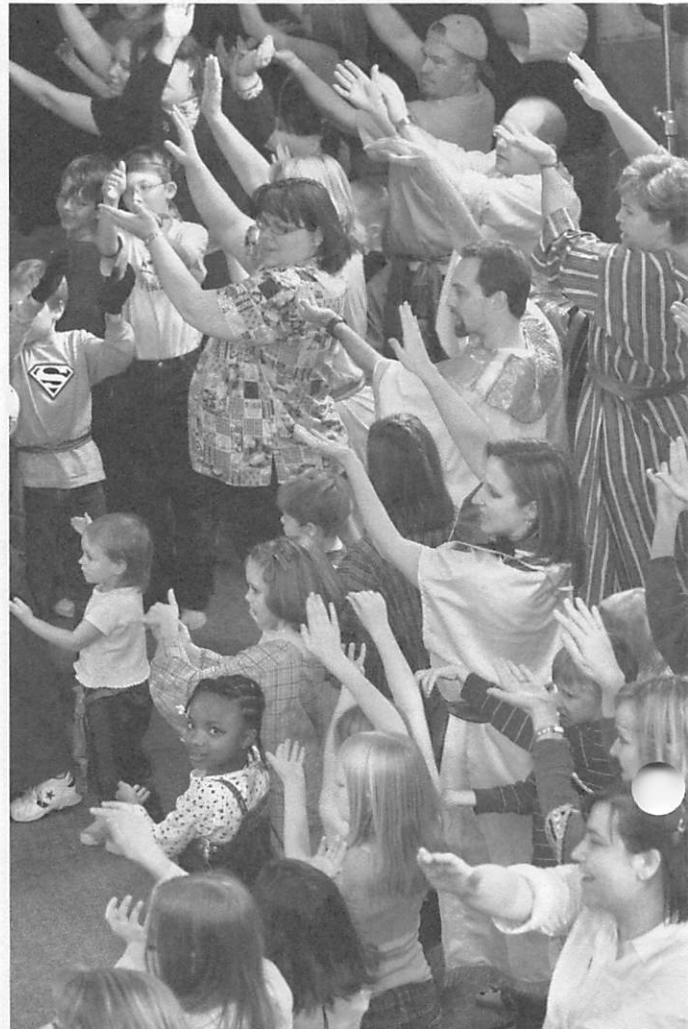
Be sure to distribute the Bible Memory Makers in the special way outlined in this manual. Family members will not only walk away with a keepsake but will also have a lasting memory of a meaningful affirmation or blessing.



Closing Celebration (15 minutes)

You’ll end each day by joining all the other Egyptian Families for a short Celebration.

- Lead your Family to the Celebration area.
- Participate in singing or other activities as directed by the Celebration Leader.
- Keep your Family together until parents or caregivers come for kids. *Do not* let kids wander off on their own! Remember, you’re responsible for their safety.
- Let Family members know you’re looking forward to seeing them tomorrow.
- Be sure participants take home their Marketplace projects and each day’s page from Notes from the Nile.



What Do I Do If...?

- **What do I do if my Family won't stay together between activities?** Work with your Family members to develop special routes and fun ways to travel between stations. Pretend to be Egyptian guards marching in a line, galloping donkeys in a desert caravan, or even a bunch of grapes clustered together! Be creative, and challenge kids and adults to think of new (and cooperative) ways to move from place to place. It's good to discuss with your Family on the first day that "Family togetherness" is important during your time in Egypt.
- **What do I do if older kids are unhappy being grouped with mixed ages?** Highlight older kids' helping roles by telling younger kids, "[Name of older child] is really good at that. Why don't you ask him [or her] to help you?" Older kids will enjoy being respected and looked up to, and younger children won't demand so much of your attention. Plus, older kids learn just as much—or even more—when they help lead younger children during activities. And younger children will thrive on the special friendships they build with older kids! Besides, when you call each group a Family, there's less of an expectation that kids will be with kids of their own ages.
- **What do I do if a Family member won't participate in discussion?** Ask follow-up questions to draw out shy or reluctant Family members. Use phrases such as "What do you mean by that?" or "That sounds interesting! Tell me more."

Accept the answers kids and adults give. Encourage participation by challenging Family members to offer as many different answers as they can think of. If participants offer answers that seem off base or contrary to your church's teaching, take time to follow up with them between activities or after your time in ancient Egypt. If you're not comfortable discussing their questions or concerns, refer them to your Egypt Director or pastor.

If Family members don't respond to your encouragement, don't force them to participate. You may have introspective people in your group who need time to think quietly about the things you're discussing.

- **What do I do if a Family member is too talkative or too active?** To ensure that each person has a turn to share, try going around the circle and giving each member 30 seconds to share a response. Or occasionally ask children and adults to respond with one-word answers. You can even call on people by their birthdays, such as "I'd like anyone with a wintertime birthday to answer this one."
- **What do I do if someone asks me a question I can't answer?** Many families who come to Egypt have never been to church before, so you can expect lots of questions as you help kids and adults learn about God.

field test findings

We were delighted at how easily kids and adults joined together to form one large Egyptian Family. Our Family Leaders found that the dynamics were better in groups that had a larger age span than in those Families made up of kids in a similar age group. Also, having mixed-age groups diminished discipline problems!





If someone asks you a question you can't answer, don't be afraid to admit you don't know. Say something such as "That's a good question. Maybe our church's pastor would know the answer. Why don't we ask our pastor later today?"



• **What do I do if my Family finishes an activity early?**

- Make up an affirming Family cheer that everyone can shout during the opening and closing Celebrations. (This was very popular at our field test!)
- See who can make the silliest face.
- Try to name Marketplace items that start with each letter of the alphabet (apple, blanket, collar, and so on).
- Think of fun ways to affirm and thank each shopkeeper, such as giving them high fives or a round of applause.
- Identify Shopkeepers or other staff members your Family can invite to the closing Celebration.



Operation Kid-to-Kid™

Helping at Home

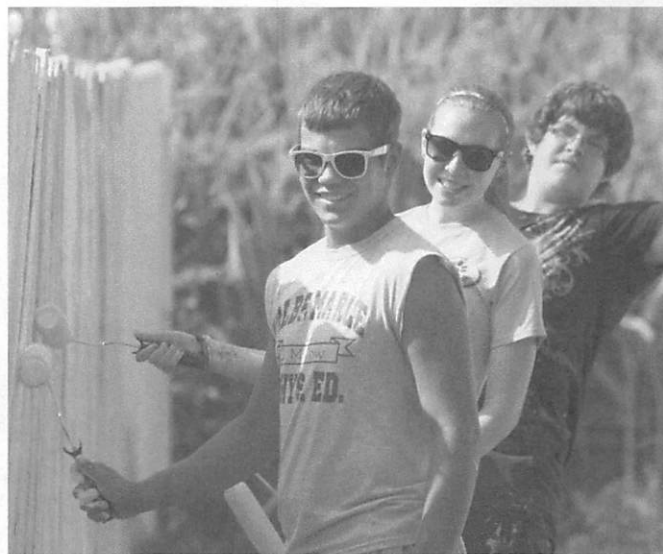
For 18 years, Operation Kid-to-Kid has given kids at Group VBS programs the opportunity to join in service efforts that span the globe—cozy blankets for South America, cuddly Prayer Bears for Africa, and clean water for India.

For 2016, we're turning our attention a little closer to home.

Across North America, countless struggling families lack one of the most basic needs—a safe, sound place to live. A needy family may have to choose between putting food on the table and fixing a leaky roof...or an unsafe porch...or walls that are rotting because of exposed wood. In some cases, families are at risk of losing their home completely because they can't afford basic repairs. And elderly residents may be homebound due to lack of a wheelchair ramp. Children in these homes miss out on a safe place to play, sleep, study, live, and grow.

These are *our* neighbors. People in our city, state, community. This problem isn't across the ocean—it's right in our backyard.

That's why this summer we're mobilizing millions of kids at Group VBS programs like yours to reach out and help hurting kids right here in North America. Through Operation Kid-to-Kid, your kids can help fund basic home repairs that happen through Group Cares.



GROUP CARES

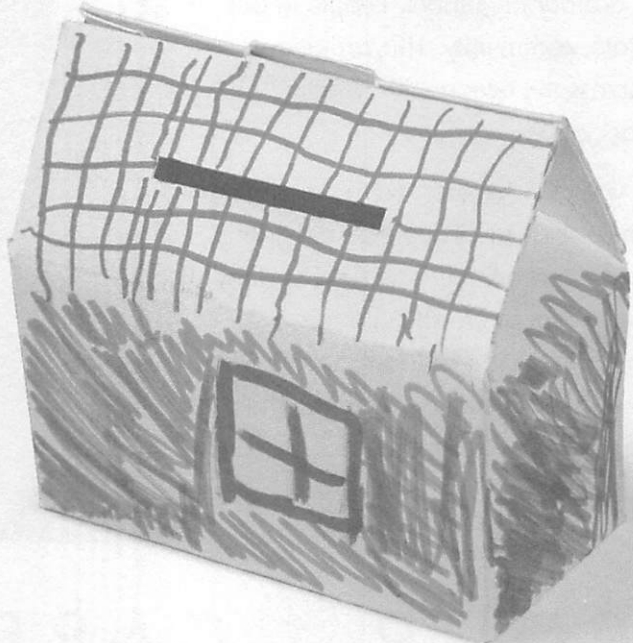
Giving back in Jesus' name

Your Part!

Each Egyptian Family will be able to visit the Operation Kid-to-Kid Tent in the Marketplace and learn more about this close-to-home mission project. In the Operation Kid-to-Kid Tent, each participant will get to craft a special Change-a-Home bank. Kids and adults will keep the banks at home to collect money for Operation Kid-to-Kid. At the end of the week, families can bring their donations to the Operation Kid-to-Kid Tent and deposit the money in the tool box.

Ideally, each person should bring in about \$5. Remind kids that *many* other churches all over the country are joining together for this project. We trust that God takes every penny donated to Operation Kid-to-Kid and multiplies it to help those in need.

Just think, when your VBS families participate, you'll join other VBS programs, and together you could contribute *hundreds of thousands* of dollars to help provide safe homes for children and their families, right here in the United States! Operation Kid-to-Kid is a practical, meaningful way to demonstrate God's love through giving and service. (For more information about the impact of Operation Kid-to-Kid, check out ok2k.org.)



God Sightings®

It's easy to read incredible, true stories in the Bible and quietly wonder why God doesn't do those things today. But God *is* active in our everyday lives... we just have to learn to look. At Egypt, Families will be encouraged to look for evidence of God in things like

- a sunset,
- a rainstorm,
- a laugh,
- a kind word,
- a tasty snack.

We call those things God Sightings, and yes, even *preschoolers* can make them part of life. It's faith-building...and easy.

God Sighting Stones

In ancient Egypt, people built things like pyramids as monuments or memorials to their kings. We serve the one true God—the one true King! With God Sightings, the Egyptian Families will create a visual tribute or monument to God, as a reminder of all the ways he's active in our lives.

At the end of Day 1, the Celebration Leader will explain that God Sightings are evidence of the one true God—all around us every day! He or she will challenge kids and adults to start looking for things that God has done or made, or to practice sharing God's love and *being* a God Sighting.

Beginning on Day 2, after the Celebration Leader dismisses Egyptian Families to head to Family Time, Families will spend about 5 minutes sharing God Sightings they've discovered in the previous day. Family Leaders will write the God Sightings on the God Sighting Stone, using single words or short phrases.

field fest findings

Part of our field test included testing the idea of God Sightings. We weren't sure if kids would "get it" or be excited about it. The result? Wow! Kids *couldn't stop* talking about God Sightings. Parents shared that their kids—preschoolers to middle schoolers—pointed out God Sightings for *months* after VBS. It was amazing!

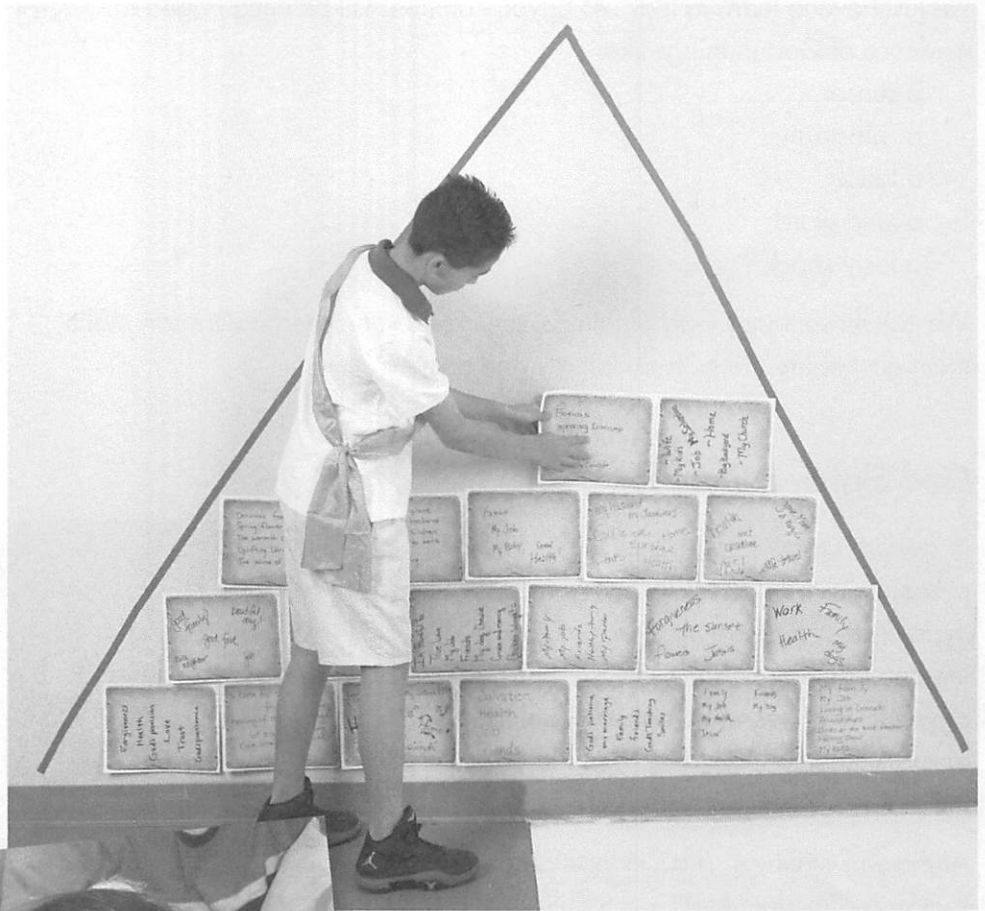


field test findings

We've discovered that the God Sighting ideas given on each day's student book page are a good launching point, giving younger children an idea of what a God Sighting might be. After a day or so, kids get it and may not need these prompts. While kids aren't limited to the God Sightings on the list, younger children will appreciate the additional examples of God Sightings.



Then one Family member will take the God Sighting Stone and tape it to the pyramid shape on a wall in the Celebration area. They'll begin to "build" a monument to the one true God. This is such a cool (and often tear-inducing) tribute to God's power and grace in our lives.



DAY 1

Bible Point:

 **God gives us hope.**

Bible Story:

Joseph interprets dreams in prison. (Genesis 40:1-23)

Bible Verse:

“For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’” (Jeremiah 29:11)

Joseph lived a life filled with dramatic highs and disheartening lows. The favored son of Jacob, Joseph sported an elaborate robe and had prophetic dreams. These dreams, however, made him hugely unpopular with his already-jealous brothers. Filled with hatred, Joseph’s brothers threw him in a well, then sold him to a caravan of Ishmaelite traders who were headed to Egypt.

As a slave in Egypt, Joseph gained favor and prosperity with his master...for a while. Then he was wrongly accused and shipped off to Pharaoh’s prison. Even in the hopeless depths of an Egyptian prison, things started looking up for Joseph. The warden put him in charge, and “the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did” (Genesis 39:23, NIV). When two prisoners had strange dreams, Joseph offered to tell them what the dreams meant. All he asked was this: “Please remember me and do me a favor when things go well for you. Mention me to Pharaoh, so he might let me out of this place.” The man whose dream foretold great success *did* get out of prison and gain favor with Pharaoh. But he promptly forgot about Joseph. For two long years, Joseph sat in the same prison cell, forgotten.

Has it ever felt like you’re always facing a new disappointment, setback, or failure? Others get ahead, and you’re still sitting in the Egyptian prison. There’s hope, my friend! God is pouring out blessings daily. He’s *promised* us “a future and a hope.” And while you may not succeed in all you do, you can rely on a faithful God who loves you more than you can imagine. Today, help the kids and adults at your VBS realize that no matter how despairing life seems, we have the promise of hope from our Heavenly Father.

Did You Know...

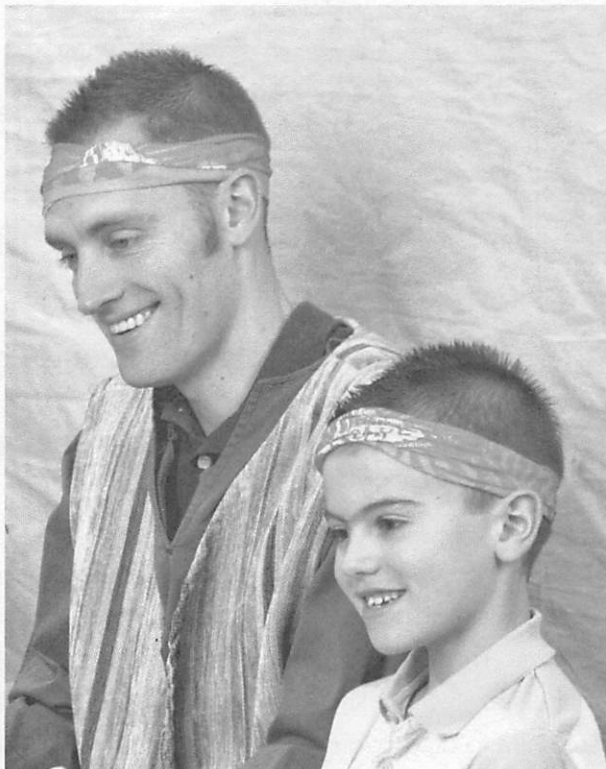
Joseph is the first prisoner mentioned in the Bible.



Day 1 Opening Family Time

1. Welcome Egyptian Family members.

Gather your Family on your home base blanket, and introduce yourself (if you haven't already). Make sure each Family member has a name badge and a colorful Bandura from registration. Say: **Our Banduras will represent our Egyptian Family for the week. Every time you see a Bandura this color, you'll see one of our Egyptian Family members!** Point to the Family name poster, and tell kids and adults their Egyptian Family name for the week. (See the information on this manual's back cover that tells about your Family name.)



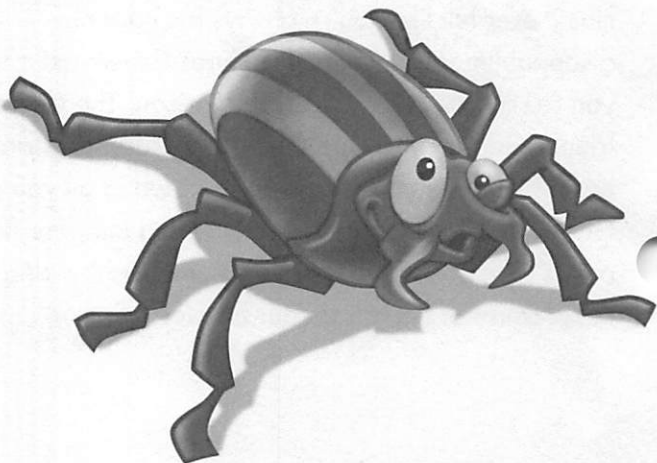
for day 1 you'll need...

- map (see page 25)
- Day 1 schedule
- Bible marked at Jeremiah 29:11
- Paper Balloon (in the Family Time Teaching Kit)
- Day 1 Bible Memory Makers® (1 per Family member)
- Day 1 Notes from the Nile pages (1 per Family member)

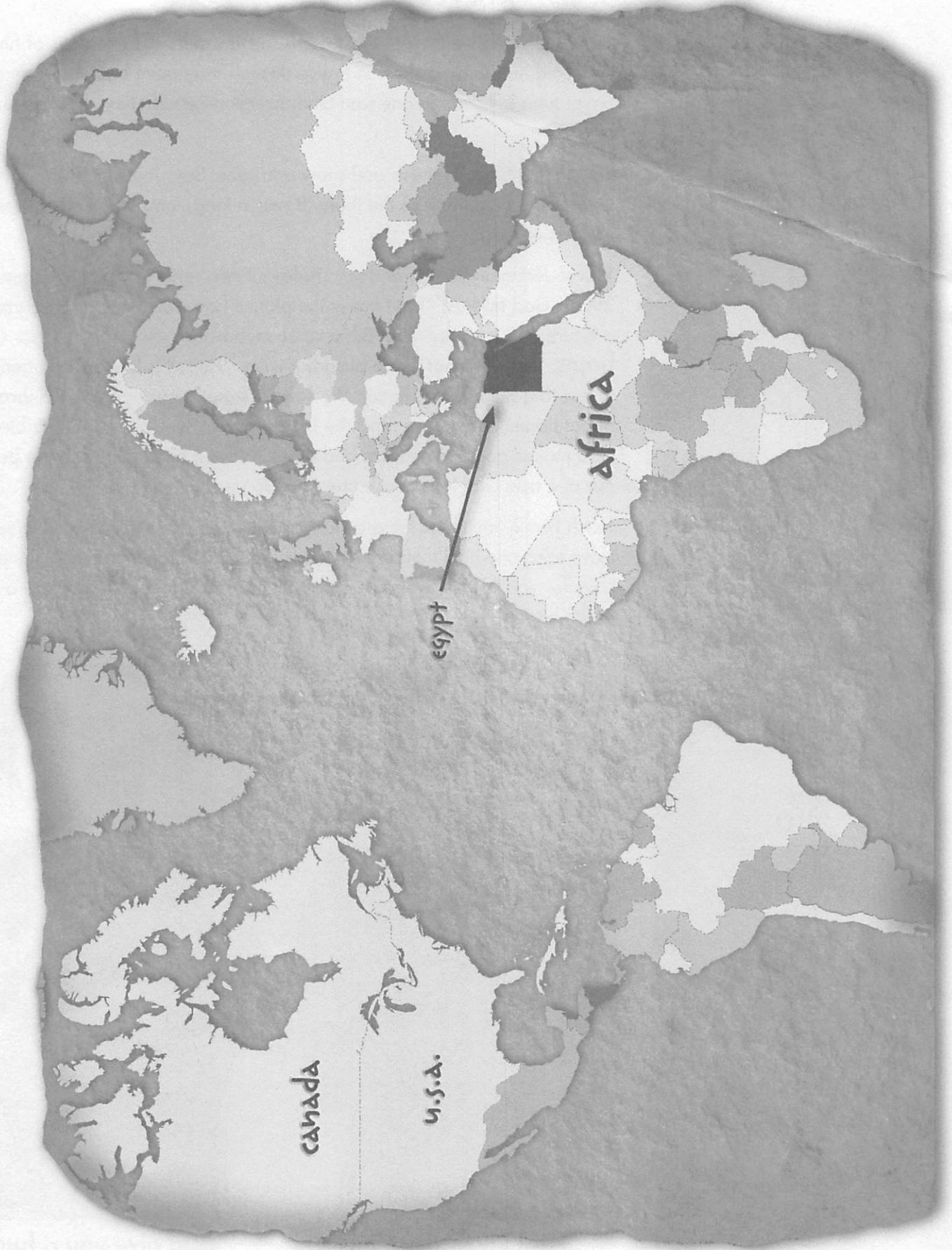
2. Where's Egypt?

Say: **All week, we'll pretend to go back into Bible times and be a Family in ancient—very old—Egypt!** Show everyone the map. Point to your town, and then point to Egypt. **Egypt is a desert land in northeast Africa. It is very, very, very, very hot there!**

Before we go on our incredible adventure, let's get to know each other. Let's take turns saying our names and telling about the warmest place we've ever visited. Start by telling about the warmest place you ever visited.




map of egypt



3. Teach today's Bible verse.

Say: This week we'll visit with Joseph. His brothers were jealous of him, and they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. Joseph may have been the only one in Egypt who believed in one true God. Everyone else believed in lots and lots of gods.

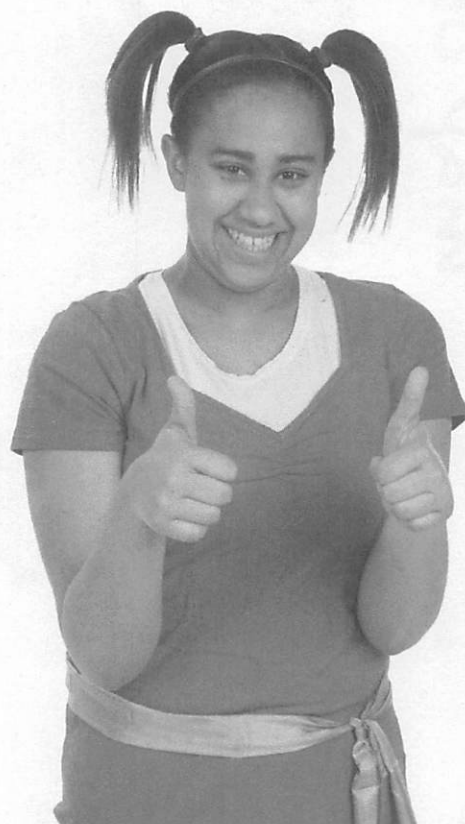
Open the Bible to Genesis and show everyone. Say: Joseph's story happened toward the beginning of the Bible. It was a long, long time before Jesus walked on earth.

Turn to Jeremiah 29:11, and say: Today's Bible verse is found in Jeremiah 29:11. God tells us: "For I know the plans I have for you... to give you a future and a hope." That Bible verse means that  God gives us hope. "Hope" is not like a birthday wish. "Hope" is like encouragement—things that help us feel better. We sang a song in our opening Celebration about hope. When we sang "The Lord's Plans," we sang today's Bible Verse! God makes good come from bad times. We can always have hope because our one true God loves each one of us so much.

Teach Family members these actions to help them remember the Bible verse: Have everyone hold their hands like an open book for "For I know the plans I have for you." Have everyone give a thumbs-up sign for "to give you a future and a hope."



"For I know the plans I have for you..."



"...to give you a future and a hope."

4. Get ready to caravan!

Bring out the schedule and say: **Today we'll play Bible-times games, eat Bible-times food, and visit Joseph in Pharaoh's prison. We'll find out that God makes good come from bad.** Tell your Family members where you will be going first today. The shopkeepers, Joseph, and the Pyramid Playground Leader will repeat their activities several times each day with a different group of Families each time.

Say: **When we go to another country, their money is different from ours. Since we'll be going to Egypt, we'll need some Egyptian coins to spend. We'll get to spend this money when we visit the shops in Egypt today.** Give each Family member the coin pouch with the three coins.

5. Give Family members a "mission" to accomplish in the Marketplace.

Say: **Pretty soon we will hear a signal (tell Family members what to listen for) to tell us that the Marketplace is open. When it's our turn to visit the shops in the Marketplace, let's look for someone who might need hope. Let's encourage the person with a smile, hug, or handshake.**

When you hear the timekeeper's signal, say: **Now, onward to Egypt!**



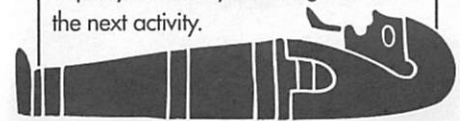
field test findings

We gave Egyptian Families a mission to accomplish in the Marketplace each day. This gave everyone the opportunity to play their role and kept much of the conversation focused on the day's theme. It also gave participants a way to share their faith in our one true God!



mummy musings

When it's time for your Family to go into the Marketplace, form two smaller groups (you can take one group, while the Assistant Family Leader takes the other), and go to the shops you chose to visit. Remind Family members to stick together with their adult leader. It's easier to help your kids interact with the shopkeepers and much easier to pull your Family back together for the next activity.



Day 1 Closing Family Time

1. Circle up and review.

Gather in a circle on the home base blanket. Talk about the day's events. Ask:

- **We just spent one day in ancient Egypt! What do you think it *really* would have been like to live back then?** (Fun; scary; lonely; I'd miss my TV.)



2. Bring out the uninflated Paper Balloon.

Say: **Today we learned about Joseph, who was in prison. Joseph's brothers did a mean thing and sold him to be a slave in Egypt. When that first happened, Joseph must have felt sad and hopeless.** Bring out the uninflated Paper Balloon. Hold it up, then say: **This flat balloon looks sad and hopeless to me!** Ask:

- **When was a time you felt hopeless?**

You go first—hold the flat balloon, and share a hopeless time such as when an elderly parent was sick. Then pass the balloon around the circle. As each person holds it, he or she will share a hopeless time. Family members might share: "When my homework is hard," "When my family had to move," "When my best friend didn't want to be my friend anymore," "When my parents got divorced," and so on.

After everyone has shared, hold the flat balloon and ask:

- **When you feel hopeless, what makes you feel better?** (Prayers; friends coming over; parents giving hugs.)

Say: **When we feel hopeless, all of these things make us feel better.** Repeat some of the things Family members said. **But you know what? 🦅 God gives us hope.** God gives us caring friends. God gives us loving parents. God gives us his Word—the Bible. We learned today that Joseph’s hope grew bigger and bigger because Joseph knew God was with him. God makes good come from bad.

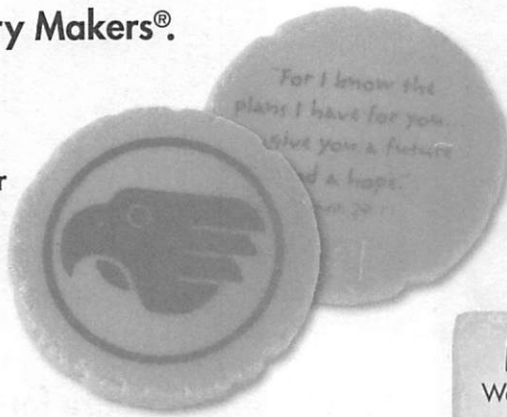
Tell Family members that you’ll name three or four of the things they mentioned earlier that make them feel hopeless. After each thing you name, have everyone shout 🦅 **God gives us hope,** as you inflate the balloon with a puff of air.

Once the balloon is inflated, say: 🦅 **God gives us hope. When bad things happen, our hope can grow bigger and bigger. We know God makes good come from bad.** Gently roll the Paper Balloon on the floor to a person, and say: [Name], **God gives you hope.** Then that person will gently roll it on the floor to another, and say: “[Name], God gives you hope.” Continue until everyone is affirmed. Hold the inflated Paper Balloon and say: **We’ve just encouraged everyone in our Family! God can use us to bring hope to others.** Put the Paper Balloon out of the way.

3. Bring out the Day 1 Bible Memory Makers®.

Say: Each day in ancient Egypt, we will get a Bible Memory Maker to help us remember what we learned. Today’s Bible Memory Maker is a hawk. Hold up the Hawk Bible Memory Maker. **Hawks spread their wings and fly! Sometimes when we are filled with hope, we feel like we can fly!** Read the day’s Bible verse on it (Jeremiah 29:11): **“For I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future and a hope.”** This Bible verse means that 🦅 **God gives us hope.**

Go around the circle, give each person a Bible Memory Maker, and say: [Name], **God gives you a future and a hope.** After each of the Family members receives the affirmation, have them “spread their wings,” and place their arms on the shoulders of the people on either side of them. Once everyone has received a Bible Memory Maker and are linked in a circle, say a prayer. Thank God for giving each person a future and a hope.



mummy musings

If the Paper Balloon deflates a bit during the sharing, hold it up and say: **Throughout our life, we will have times when we might feel hopeless again.** Then puff air into it again and say: **Always remember that 🦅 God gives us hope.** God gives us family and friends to encourage us. God encourages us in his Word that he has wonderful plans for us.




field test findings

We’ve discovered that it’s incredibly powerful for each Family member to hear his or her name in an encouraging, affirming way. Take the time to make this activity an experience of God’s warmth and love.

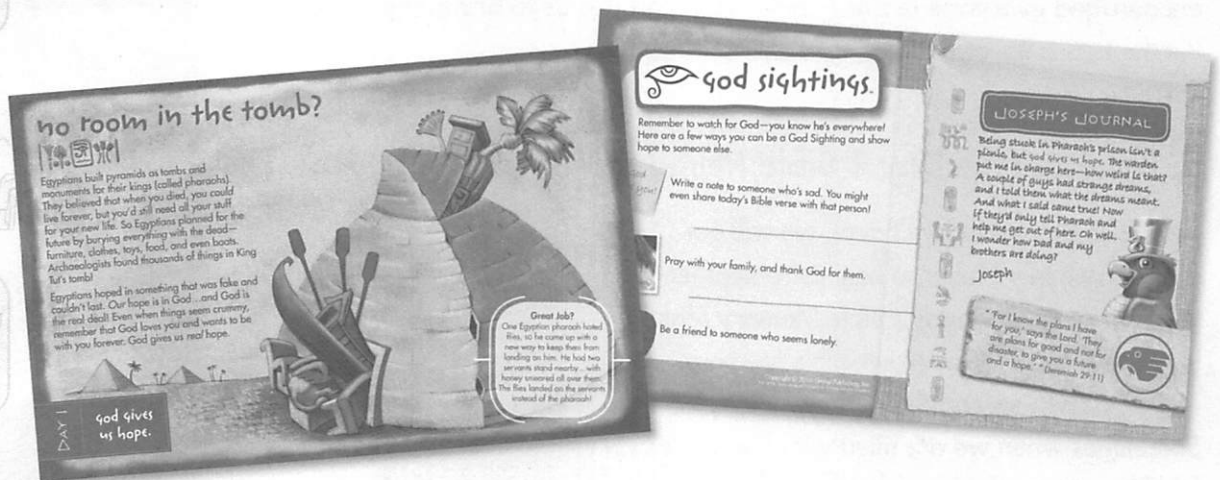


4. Distribute the Day 1 Notes from the Nile pages.

Say: Isn't it wonderful that  God gives us hope? When we see the awesome things God has done for us, we feel hopeful! All week long we are going to keep our eyes open and watch for ways we see God active in our lives—those are called God Sightings. A God Sighting might be a hug, or a hawk, or a beautiful sunset, or a person being kind to you. You'll be like detectives, looking for clues or evidence of God! Ask:

- Where do you think you might see God after you leave ancient Egypt?

You share an idea first, such as hearing a child say a nighttime prayer. Explain that the page from Notes from the Nile gives examples of where everyone might look for evidence of God. After everyone shares an idea, say: **We'll talk about our God Sightings when we meet again tomorrow. I can't wait to hear how—and where—you see God. In fact, you are God Sightings to me! Your smiles have made me happy. I have enjoyed my first day in ancient Egypt with you!**



5. Pray, and prepare for the closing Celebration.

When you hear the timekeeper's signal, wrap up your Family Time.

- Say a prayer asking God to help Family members share God's hope and love with others.
- Collect everyone's Banduras, coin pouches and leftover coins, and the Day 1 Bible Memory Makers, and put them in the basket. If your Family members have already visited the Embalmer's Workshop and have their sculpted paper sarcophagus, they can put their Bible Memory Maker in that and leave it in the basket, too.
- Have participants leave their Day 1 Notes from the Nile page and craft projects from the Marketplace on the home base blanket until after the Celebration time. Make sure everyone comes back to the home base blanket to get those before leaving.

my my musings

If you finish early, you could roll the Paper Balloon around the circle again. Let each person catch the balloon and then share what he or she thinks will happen to Joseph tomorrow in ancient Egypt.



DAY 2

Bible Point:

 **God gives us special abilities.**

Bible Story:

Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge. (Genesis 41:1-40)

Bible Verse:

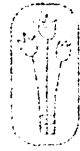
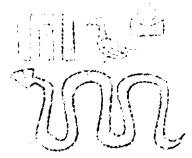
"In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well." (Romans 12:6)

After interpreting dreams for the baker (who was executed) and the cupbearer (who prospered but then forgot about Joseph), Joseph stayed in prison for two full years. During those years, it's possible that Joseph questioned God's faithfulness or cried out for reassurance of God's presence. Or maybe he maintained a rock-solid trust in God. The Bible doesn't tell us, but we can imagine that it was a dark, faith-stretching time.

Then Pharaoh had two mysterious dreams that no one could interpret. The forgetful cupbearer suddenly remembered the man who'd accurately decoded his own puzzling dream. Pharaoh called for Joseph, who boldly said: "It is beyond my power to do this...but God can tell you what it means." Although Joseph acted as the mouthpiece—using his God-given ability to understand dreams—he credited God with the message. It's an understatement to say that Pharaoh was impressed. "Clearly no one else is as intelligent or wise as you are," he told Joseph. Wow! Pharaoh immediately made Joseph second in command, with incredible power and responsibility. Through God's timing and God's gifting, Joseph's special abilities helped Pharaoh ease an entire nation through seven years of severe famine.

Looking more closely at the story of Joseph, you can't help but notice the fact that Joseph used his special ability to interpret dreams *wherever* he could. Whether in prison or in Pharaoh's court, Joseph faithfully did what God enabled him to do. Today, God still gives each person unique abilities. It's easy for us to spot those abilities in others—the woman who can whip up an amazing meal, that middle-schooler who can make anyone smile, the senior citizen whose prayers are so comforting, or the guy who understands computers. Those are all special abilities, given by God and useful for serving him. Imagine the impact if we *all* used our gifts in any circumstance. What could we accomplish in God's name? Use today's activities to encourage kids and adults to discover (and celebrate) their special abilities and to explore ways to use those gifts to serve God.

Did You Know...
Egyptians kept detailed dream books, which supposedly offered a "key" to understanding dreams. Joseph didn't need a book...God told him what dreams meant!





for day 2 you'll need...

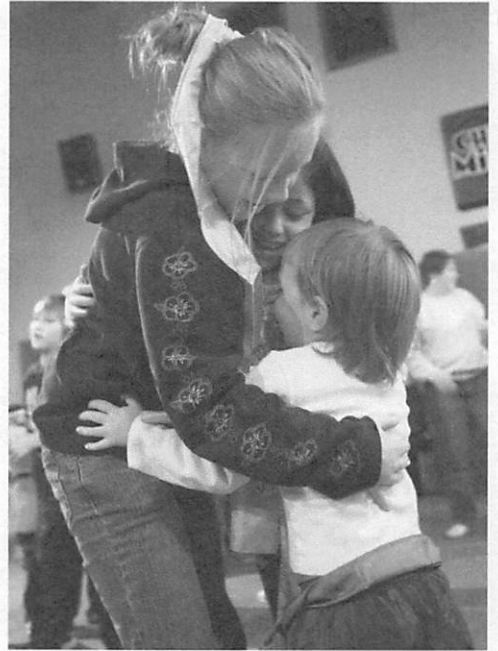
- Day 2 schedule
- Bible marked at Romans 12:6
- Surprise Capsules (in the Family Time Teaching Kit)
- bowl of warm water (the Director will provide this)
- Day 2 Bible Memory Makers® (1 per Family member)
- Day 2 Notes from the Nile pages (1 per Family member)

Day 2 Opening Family Time

1. Welcome Egyptian Family members, and share God Sightings.

Gather in a circle on your home base blanket, and make sure everyone is wearing an Egyptian Family colored Bandura. Introduce any new Egyptian Family members.

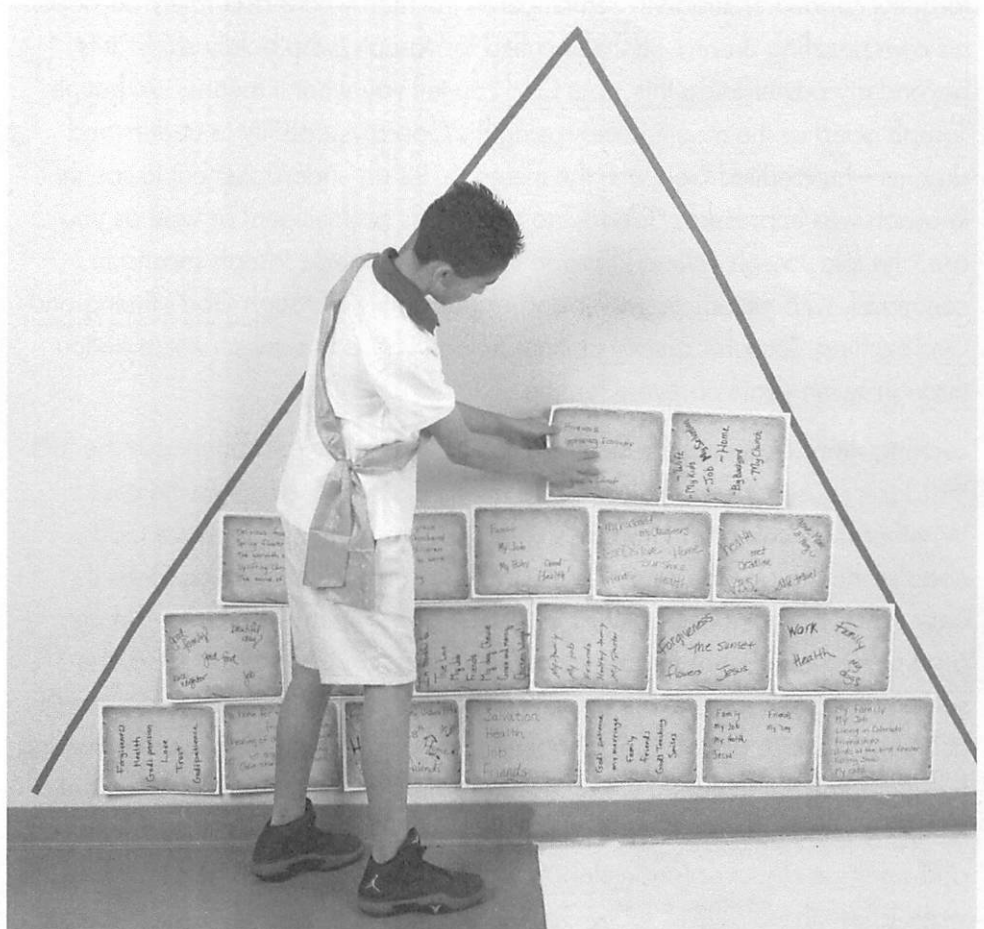
Say: **It's so great to see you again in ancient Egypt!** Ask everyone how they saw God in action since you were last in ancient Egypt. Write on the God Sighting Stone, using single words or short phrases. Then have one Family member tape the God Sighting Stone to the pyramid outline on the God Sighting wall.




Say: **Our one true God is alive and active in our lives. I can't wait to see how big our pyramid grows throughout the week!**

Mummy Musings

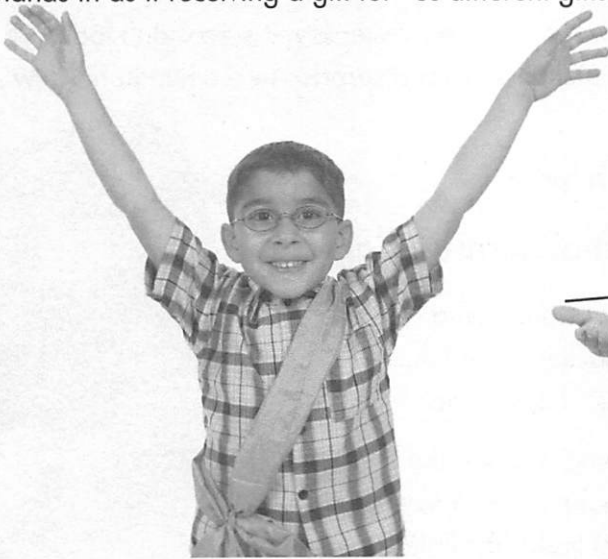
Check that your supply basket has been restocked with any necessary supplies. Ask your Director if you will have any newcomers. Make sure you have enough Bible Memory Makers, student books, silver coins, and coin pouches for everyone.



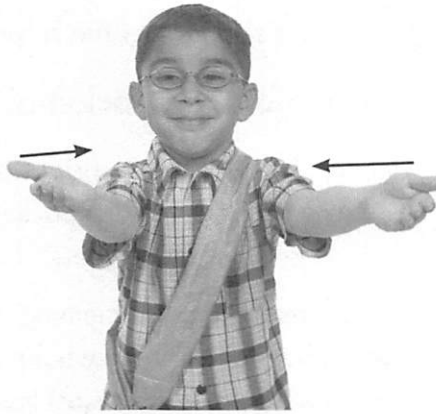
2. Teach today's Bible verse.

Say: I'm excited to visit with Joseph again today and learn more of his story from the Bible. Open the Bible. Today's Bible verse is found in Romans 12:6: "God has given us different gifts." That Bible verse means that  God gives us special abilities.

Teach Family members these actions to help them remember the Bible verse. Have everyone raise their hands high for "God has given," then bring their hands in as if receiving a gift for "us different gifts."



"God has given..."




"...us different gifts."

3. Get ready to caravan!

Say: I'm thankful for our wonderful Egyptian Family and that God has given us different gifts. We'll have so much fun together this week. One fun thing we can do as a Family is think of a Family cheer based on our Family name. So let's be thinking of that over the next few days.

Bring out today's schedule. Tell your Family members where you will be going first today. Give each Family member a coin pouch with three coins to spend in ancient Egypt.

4. Give Family members a "mission" to accomplish in the Marketplace.

Say: When it's our turn to visit the shops today, let's look for someone with a special ability and give a compliment. Maybe we can thank the Animal Courtyard keeper for taking such good care of the animals. Or we can compliment the hieroglyphic artist on writing such excellent letters. Remember to tell them that our one true  God gives us special abilities.

When you hear the timekeeper's signal, say: Now, onward to Egypt!

field test findings

Use any extra time you have with your Egyptian Family to come up with a Family cheer. Family cheers were a big hit at our field test! The cheers ranged from simple to zany:

Per-Bastet!

Egyptian cat!

Meow!

One Family wrapped their leader in their colored belts as they rapped...

This is the mummy rap

Our name is Sais

We'll wrap you once

We'll wrap you twice

Yo, Sais



Day 2 Closing Family Time

1. Circle up and review.

Gather in a circle on the home base blanket. Talk about the day's events.

Say: **Pharaoh was so impressed with Joseph's special ability to understand dreams that Pharaoh put Joseph in charge. So Joseph went from the prison to the palace!**

When we first saw Joseph in prison yesterday, it sure didn't look like he had many special abilities! What a surprise to see him in his new royal "digs"!

Let's see another fun surprise.

2. Bring out the packet of Surprise Capsules.

Hold up the packet of Surprise Capsules so everyone can see. Pass the packet around the circle, and let everyone guess what's inside.

Say: **Hmmm. I know something is inside the packet, but I don't know what it is yet. It sure doesn't look like much. It just looks like little pellets...I wonder what else is in there.**

Set a bowl of warm water in the center of the circle. Open the packet, and pour the contents into the bowl of warm water. It might take a few minutes for the critters to appear, so be patient. While you are waiting, let each person share an ability he or she wishes he or she had that would appear *now*!

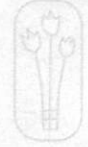
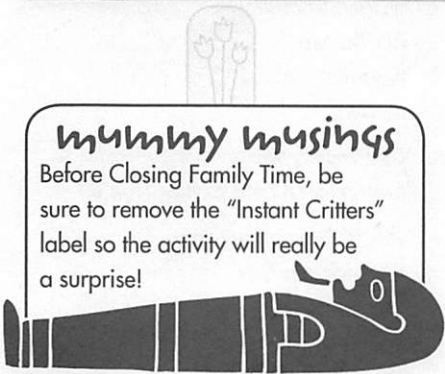
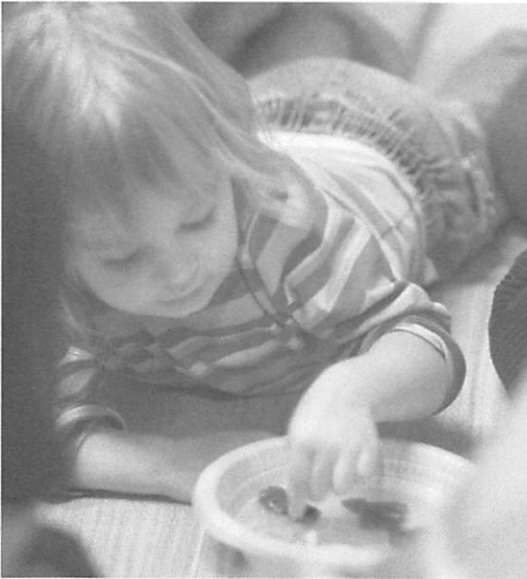
Encourage everyone to shout out what they see as the critters appear. You might hear, "Oh look! It's a cow." Or "I think it's a dog. No, wait—it's a horse!"

After all the critters have appeared, ask:

- **What was fun about this activity?** (I didn't know what was inside; I was surprised to see the animals; I liked guessing what would happen.)
- **What did you think when you saw what was inside the pellets?** (I was surprised; I guessed it right away.)

Say: **At first we didn't know what was inside the little packet of pellets. Just like you may not know what special ability is inside of you...or maybe you do!**

- **What do you think your special ability is?** (I'm kind to people; I can run fast; I'm smart at math.)
- **Who helps you find out your special ability?** (My parents; my teachers.)



- **Why does God give us special abilities?** (So we can help others; so we can have fun; so we can use them to tell others about God.)

Say: **When we feel like there's nothing special about us, we need to trust God and wait. We might be surprised at what's inside! Joseph had to wait for years in prison before Pharaoh noticed his special ability. Joseph trusted God and went from the prison to the palace.**

Put the bowl out of the way.

3. Bring out the Day 2 Bible Memory Makers®.

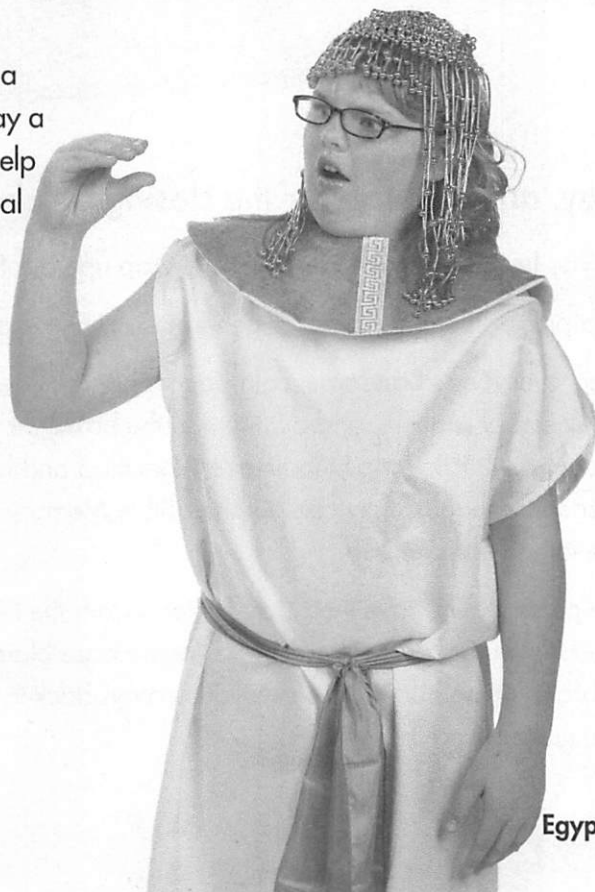
Hold up a Day 2 Bible Memory Maker, and show everyone the cobra.

Say: **This snake is called a cobra...and he can move without legs. God gave snakes that special ability. But this cobra also has a "hood" that pops up and scares off enemies—that's an awesome special ability to defend itself!**

Read the Bible verse on the Bible Memory Maker: **Romans 12:6 says "God has given us different gifts."**

Have each of the Family members make an open-mouthed snake with their hand. Say: **I'm going to feed your snake!** Go to each of the Family members, place a Bible Memory Maker in their hand, and say: **[Name], God has given you special abilities.**

After everyone receives a Bible Memory Maker, say a prayer, asking God to help everyone use their special abilities to show others his love.



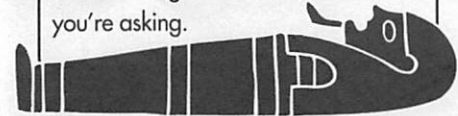
field test findings

Everyone loved watching the pellets float in the water and guessing what was going to appear! While a teenager was waiting for the critters to appear, he said, "This is like me. I'm a late bloomer!"



mummy musings

Whenever you ask Family members a question that requires deeper thinking, it's a good idea to say, "I'll go first." Your story may spark a memory for a Family member, encouraging him or her to share. Or sometimes people just need that extra minute to think back on something that connects with what you're asking.



mummy musings

If you know Family members well enough, say a special ability you see in them. For example: **[Name], God has given you the special ability to make people smile.** You also could have parents give Bible Memory Makers to their children as they affirm them.



4. Distribute the Day 2 Notes from the Nile pages.

Say: Isn't it wonderful that  God gives us special abilities?

God gives us so many wonderful things. We just need to keep our eyes open and watch for them. All week long in ancient Egypt, we are going to watch for ways we see God active in our lives—God Sightings. A God Sighting might be someone complimenting you for being so helpful. Or maybe a nice person lets you go first in line at the grocery store. Ask:

- Where do you think you might see God after you leave ancient Egypt today?

Share an idea first, and then let everyone else share. Say: We'll talk about our God Sightings when we meet again tomorrow. I can't wait to hear how—and where—you see God. In fact, you are God Sightings to me. You shared so many good ideas in our discussions. Wow! I thank God for you!



5. Pray, and prepare for the closing Celebration.

When you hear the timekeeper's signal, wrap up your Family Time.

- Say a prayer thanking God for generously giving special gifts and abilities.
- Collect everyone's Banduras, coin pouches and leftover coins, and the Day 2 Bible Memory Makers, and put them in the basket. If your Family members have already visited the Embalmer's Workshop and have their sculpted paper sarcophagus, they can put their Bible Memory Maker in that and leave it in the basket, too.
- Have participants leave their Day 2 Notes from the Nile page and craft projects from the Marketplace on the home base blanket until after the Celebration time. Make sure everyone comes back to the home base blanket to get those before leaving.

DAY 3

Bible Point:

 **God gives us wisdom.**

Bible Story:

Joseph leads Egypt through famine. (Genesis 41:41–42:5)

Bible Verse:

**"If you need wisdom, ask our generous God,
and he will give it to you."** (James 1:5)

In the blink of an eye, Joseph moved from prison to the palace...and a place of incredible power. While Pharaoh gave Joseph a new job, clothes, jewelry, a name, and a wife, *God* gave Joseph incredible wisdom to save Egypt from famine. For seven years, Joseph wisely and consistently gathered one-fifth of the crops grown in Egypt. And those were seven *abundant* years! Joseph collected so much grain that it was "like sand on the seashore. Finally he stopped keeping records because there was too much to measure" (Genesis 41:49). Amazing! But soon, the famine that God foretold came to Egypt.

Egyptian farmers relied on the annual flooding of the Nile River. The floodwaters deposited rich, black soil on the banks of the Nile, where farmers planted their crops. Without the floods, famine would be imminent. This famine was so severe, so far-reaching, that people in Canaan (200 miles away) felt it, too. Joseph's father, Jacob, urged his sons to travel to Egypt and purchase grain. (You can see where this is going, right?) Soon Joseph would *really* need God's wisdom, as God orchestrated the circumstances that let Joseph face his brothers...the same brothers who sold him into slavery so many years ago.

The kids and adults who come to your VBS may not feel very wise. Kids often struggle to choose good friends or might be having a hard time in school. And adults facing job changes or challenging relationships are likely to tell you that wisdom feels out of their grasp. Wouldn't it be easier if God just *told* us what to do? Maybe, but God has given us incredible resources to solve problems. He's likely surrounded you with a wealth of wise people you can turn to for insight. And challenges are an amazing opportunity to tune in to God and rely on *his* ways and wisdom. God's Word assures us that if we need wisdom, all we need to do is ask. Today, encourage kids and adults to seek God's wisdom...and then act on it!

Did You Know...

Joseph's job description might have been like a "Grand Vizier" or "Overseer of the Royal Estates," something that non-Egyptians rarely held. And Joseph married into a powerful priestly family, furthering his influence in Egypt.



for day 3 you'll need...

- Day 3 schedule
- Bible marked at James 1:5
- Partner Mazes (1 for every 2 people, from the Family Time Teaching Kit)
- crayons
- Day 3 Bible Memory Makers® (1 per Family member)
- Day 3 Notes from the Nile pages (1 per Family member)



Day 3 Opening Family Time

1. Welcome Egyptian Family members, and share God Sightings.

Gather in a circle on your home base blanket. Say: **Welcome back to another day in ancient Egypt. I'm so glad you are here!**

Ask everyone how they saw God in action since you were last in ancient Egypt. Write on the God Sighting Stone, using single words or short phrases. Then have one Family member tape the God Sighting Stone to the pyramid on the God Sightings wall.

Say: **Our one true God is alive and active in our lives. Our pyramid is growing and growing already! I can't wait to see it at the end of the week!**



2. Teach today's Bible verse.

Say: **I'm so excited to be here in ancient Egypt. Let's hear what today's Bible verse is! Open the Bible. Today's Bible verse is found in James 1:5: "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God."**

Teach Family members these actions to help them remember the Bible verse. Have everyone point to their foreheads for "If you need wisdom," then make praying hands and look up for "ask our generous God."

"If you need wisdom..."



"...ask our generous God."



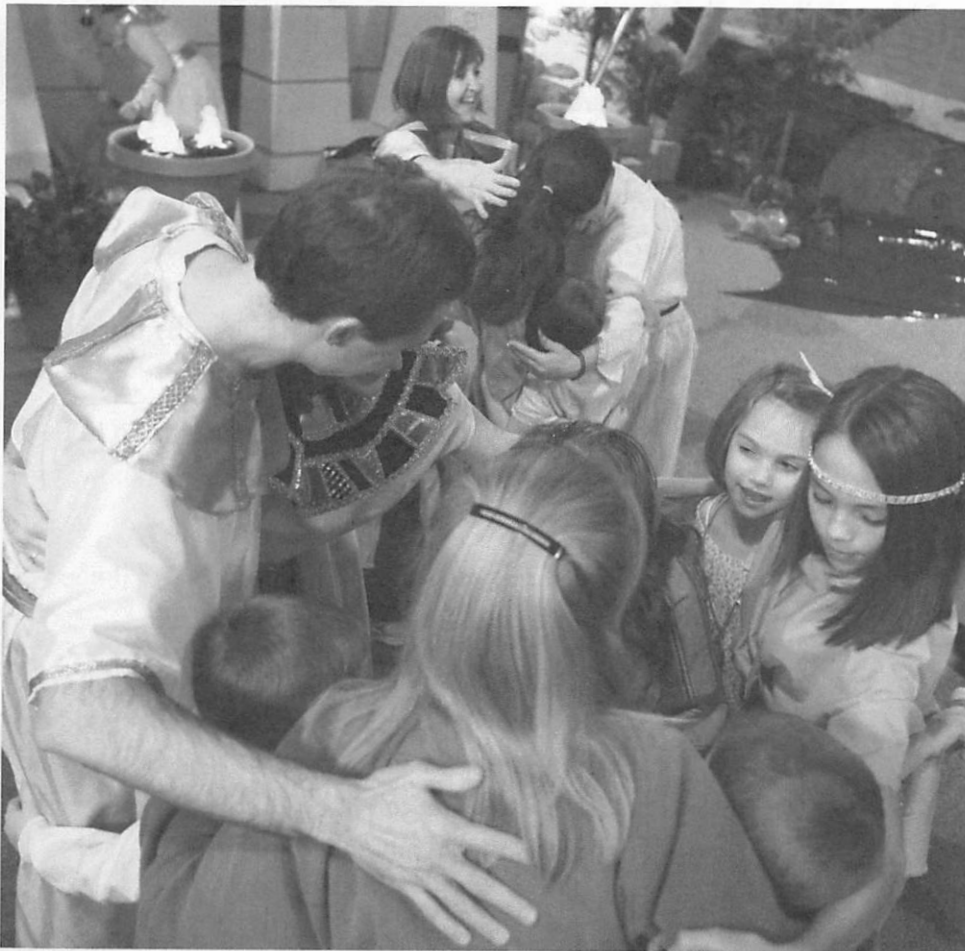
3. Get ready to caravan!

Say: I'm so thankful that our generous God gave us such an awesome Egyptian Family! Let's take some time throughout today to make our Family cheer!

Bring out today's schedule. Tell your Family members where you will be going first today. Give each Family member a coin pouch with three coins to spend in ancient Egypt.

4. Give Family members a "mission" to accomplish in the Marketplace.

Say: When it's our turn to visit the shops, let's get to know the shopkeepers. Today let's compliment a shopkeeper for his or her wisdom. Maybe we can say to the embalmer: "Wow! You know so much. Our one true God has given you knowledge to do your job!"



field test findings

Here's a fun cheer from our field test Family from Giza:

We're from Giza (pounding motion with fists)

We built the Sphinx

We don't wrap mummies

'Cause that job stinks! (pinch nose)

Or how about this one from Asyut:

Asyut, Asyut

We love Jesus (hands make "wolf claws")

Asyut, Asyut,

We love you

Aawooooo (howl like a wolf)



Day 3 Closing Family Time

1. Circle up and review.

Gather in a circle on the home base blanket. Talk about the day's events. Say: **God gave Joseph wisdom and knowledge to lead Egypt through the time of famine when they couldn't grow any food. Because God gave Joseph wisdom, Joseph had the Egyptians store food when the years were good. Then when the years were bad, they could eat the food they stored. It's a good thing that 🐱 God gives us wisdom!**

The ancient Egyptian people listened to Joseph and followed what he said to do. Let's see what it's like to need to listen to someone else.

2. Bring out the Partner Mazes.

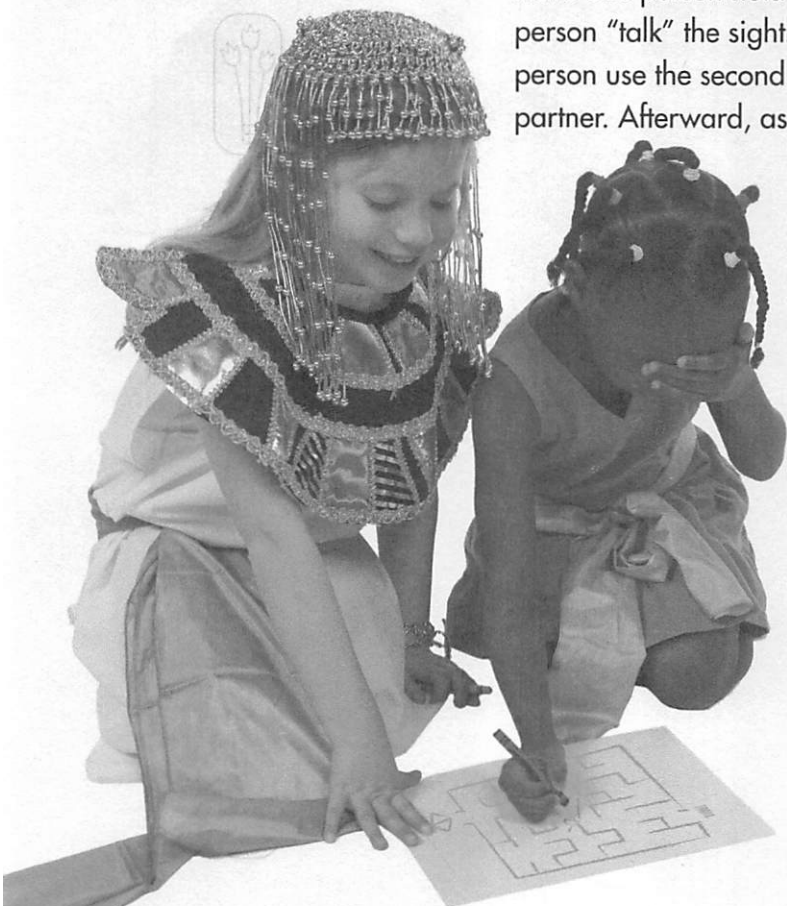
Say: We know that God gave Joseph wisdom and that people listened to him. Joseph listened to God for wisdom. Because the Egyptians listened to Joseph, they lived through the tough time in Egypt when crops wouldn't grow. Let's try an activity where we listen to someone who can see... someone who knows where we are going!

Give every two people one Partner Maze and two crayons of different colors. Have one person hold a crayon and close his or her eyes. Have the other person "talk" the sightless person through the maze. Then switch—let the other person use the second crayon and be guided through the maze by his or her partner. Afterward, ask:

- How did you feel while you were trying to get through the maze? (Confused; I don't know; in the dark.)
- What did you learn from this activity? (I needed to focus; I needed to listen to my guide.)

Say: Sometimes in life, we don't know which way to go. If we listen to God—our guide—he will help us. Read the Bible and pray. Ask God to send other people who can help. God will tell us which direction to go in our lives. God loves us, and 🐱 **God gives us wisdom!**

Put the Partner Mazes and crayons out of the way.

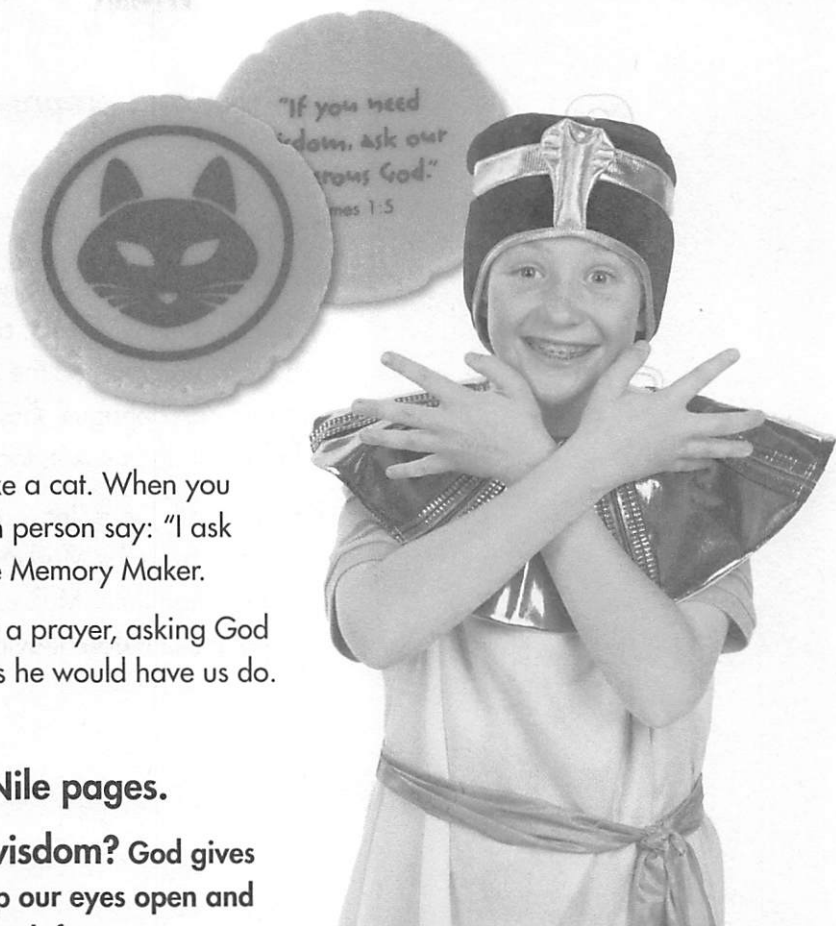


3. Bring out the Day 3 Bible Memory Makers®.


Hold up a Day 3 Bible Memory Maker, and show everyone the cat. Say: **We all know cats are wise. In fact, you can't tell a cat anything, because the cat already knows!** Read the Bible verse on the Bible Memory Maker: **James 1:5 says "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God."**

Have each of the Family members make whiskers like a cat. When you give each person a Bible Memory Maker, have each person say: "I ask God to give me wisdom," and then receive the Bible Memory Maker.

After everyone receives a Bible Memory Maker, say a prayer, asking God to help everyone receive God's wisdom to live life as he would have us do.

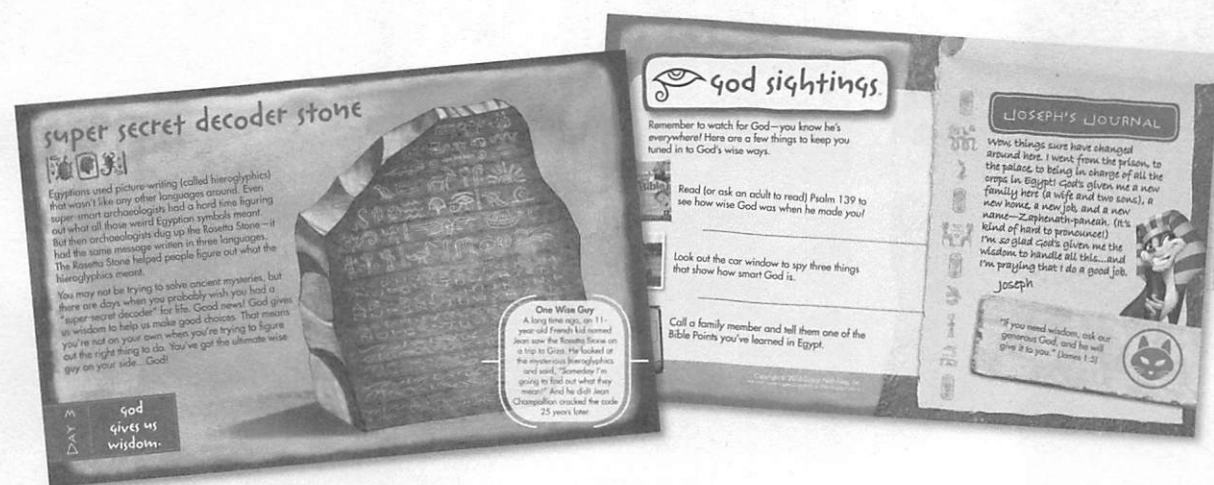
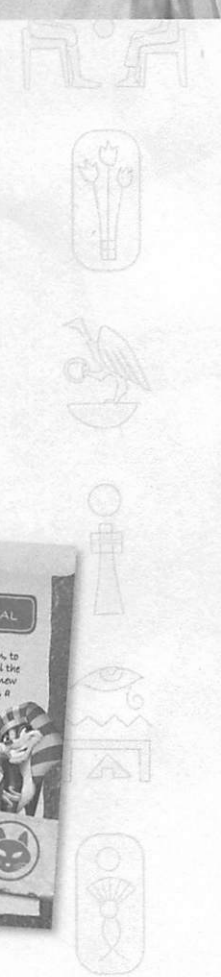


4. Distribute the Day 3 Notes from the Nile pages.

Say: **Isn't it wonderful that  God gives us wisdom? God gives us so many wonderful things. We just need to keep our eyes open and watch for them. All week long, we are going to watch for ways we see God active in our lives—God Sightings. A God Sighting might be a beautiful tree in your backyard or a yummy meal at your dinner table! Ask:**

- **Where do you think you might see God after you leave ancient Egypt today?** Share an idea first, and then let everyone else share.

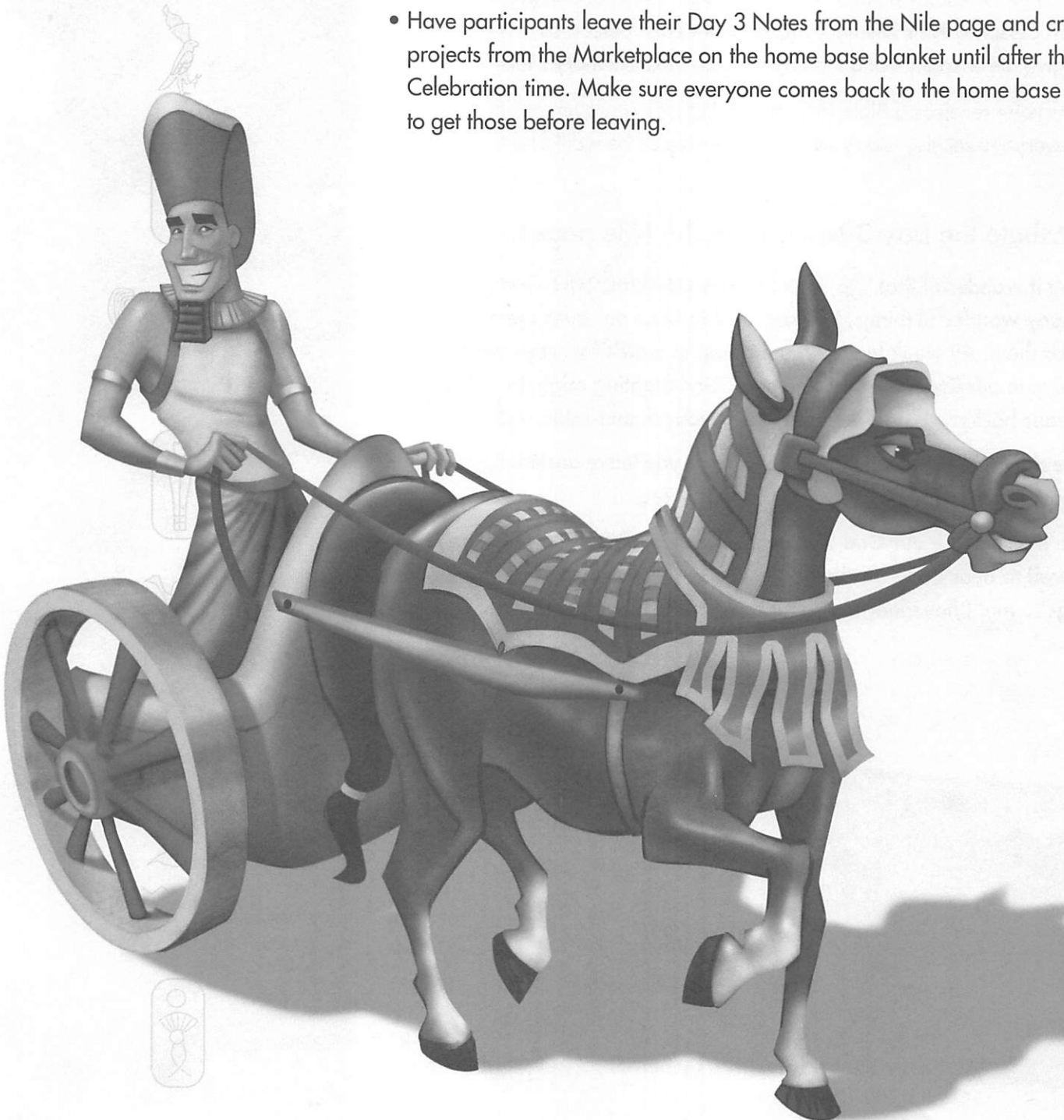
Say: **We'll talk about our God Sightings when we meet again tomorrow. I can't wait to hear how—and where—you see God. In fact, you are God Sightings to me! I have learned so much about God today, because of you! I love you!**



5. Pray, and prepare for the closing Celebration.

When you hear the timekeeper's signal, wrap up your Family Time.

- Say a prayer thanking God for loving us and giving each of us wisdom.
- Collect everyone's Banduras, coin pouches and leftover coins, and the Day 3 Bible Memory Makers, and put them in the basket. If your Family members have already visited the Embalmer's Workshop and have their sculpted paper sarcophagus, they can put their Bible Memory Maker in that and leave it in the basket, too.
- Have participants leave their Day 3 Notes from the Nile page and craft projects from the Marketplace on the home base blanket until after the Celebration time. Make sure everyone comes back to the home base blanket to get those before leaving.



DAY 4

Bible Point:

 **God gives us forgiveness.**

Bible Story:

Joseph forgives his brothers. (Genesis 42:6–45:15)

Bible Verse:

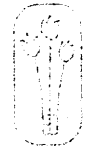
**“But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful,
slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love.”**

(Nehemiah 9:17)

In dire need of food, Joseph’s 10 older brothers head to Egypt. Once Joseph’s brothers arrive in Egypt, the story begins twisting and turning like the plot of a modern-day soap opera. Joseph recognizes his brothers at once, calls them spies, and puts them in prison for three days. Huh? Scripture isn’t clear why Joseph seems to manipulate his brothers so much. Perhaps it’s simply because he’s human and overwhelmed with emotion. Or he wants them to stick around for a while so he can decide what to do.

Joseph orders his brother Simeon to be tied up while the rest of the brothers return to Canaan with plenty of food and a task—bring back Benjamin as proof that they’re *not* spies. But when the food runs out, the brothers must return to Egypt or die of starvation. To appease Joseph, Jacob’s sons fill their grain sacks with gifts of honey, nuts, and perfume. Joseph fills their sacks with more grain but slips a silver cup into Benjamin’s sack and sends guards to retrieve the “stolen” cup. Judah begs for mercy for his little brother. As Joseph witnesses the love and transformation in his brothers, he can’t stand the charade any longer. Weeping, he reveals his identity and tells his brothers not to worry. “It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives” (Genesis 45:5). Joseph’s mercy reunites a family in an unexpected way.

Think about a time when you were unexpectedly forgiven. How did it feel? How did you respond? What effect did it have? Forgiveness is powerful. It’s humbling and healing, surprising and sweet. It can be hard to give and (sometimes) hard to accept. Today’s Bible story illustrates the power of forgiveness between people...but how much greater is *God’s* forgiveness? Because of God’s incredible love for us, he forgives us completely and offers us new and eternal life. Forgiveness is God’s greatest gift, for without it we could never have relationship with him. Share the life-changing message of *God’s* forgiveness with the kids and adults at your program.



Did You Know...
The silver cup Joseph placed in Benjamin’s grain sack was traditionally used for divination—or telling the future.



Day 4 Opening Family Time

1. Welcome Egyptian Family members, and share God Sightings®.


Gather in a circle on your home base blanket, and make sure everyone is wearing an Egyptian Family colored Bandura.

Ask everyone how they saw God in action since you were last in ancient Egypt. Write on the God Sighting Stone, using single words or short phrases. Then have one Family member tape the God Sighting Stone to the pyramid on the God Sighting wall.

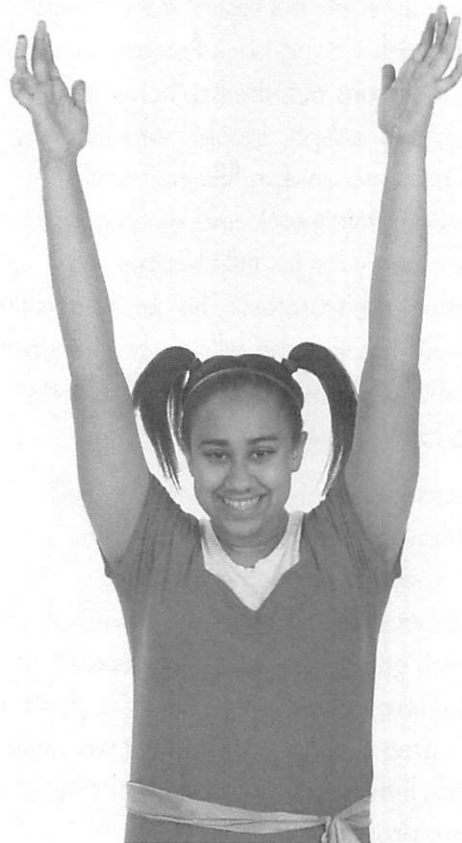
Say: **The opening Celebration was so much fun! I am so impressed with how our pyramid is growing and growing! So many awesome God Sightings, such a wonderful God!**

2. Teach today's Bible verse.

Say: **This is the fourth time we get to visit with Joseph and learn more of his story from the Bible.**

Open the Bible, and say: **Today we'll discover that  God gives us forgiveness. Let's see what God's Word—the Bible—tells us about forgiveness. Nehemiah 9:17 says: "But you are a God of forgiveness."**

Teach Family members these actions to help them remember the Bible verse. Have everyone hold their hands up high for "you are a God." Then have them sign "forgive" for "of forgiveness" — brush one palm across the other for "forgive."



"You are a God..."



"...of forgiveness."



**for day 4
you'll need...**

- Day 4 schedule
- Bible marked at Nehemiah 9:17
- Vanishing Ink Marker (in the Family Time Teaching Kit)
- sponge
- bowl of warm water (the Director will arrange for this)
- Day 4 Bible Memory Makers® (1 per Family member)
- Day 4 Notes from the Nile pages (1 per Family member)



3. Get ready to caravan!

Say: **I thank God for his forgiveness, and I thank God for you. Let's celebrate each other by practicing our Family cheer!** If you haven't made one up yet, take a moment and do so now.

Bring out today's schedule. Ask your Family members what shops they'd like to visit. Give each Family member a coin pouch with three coins to spend when they visit the Marketplace.

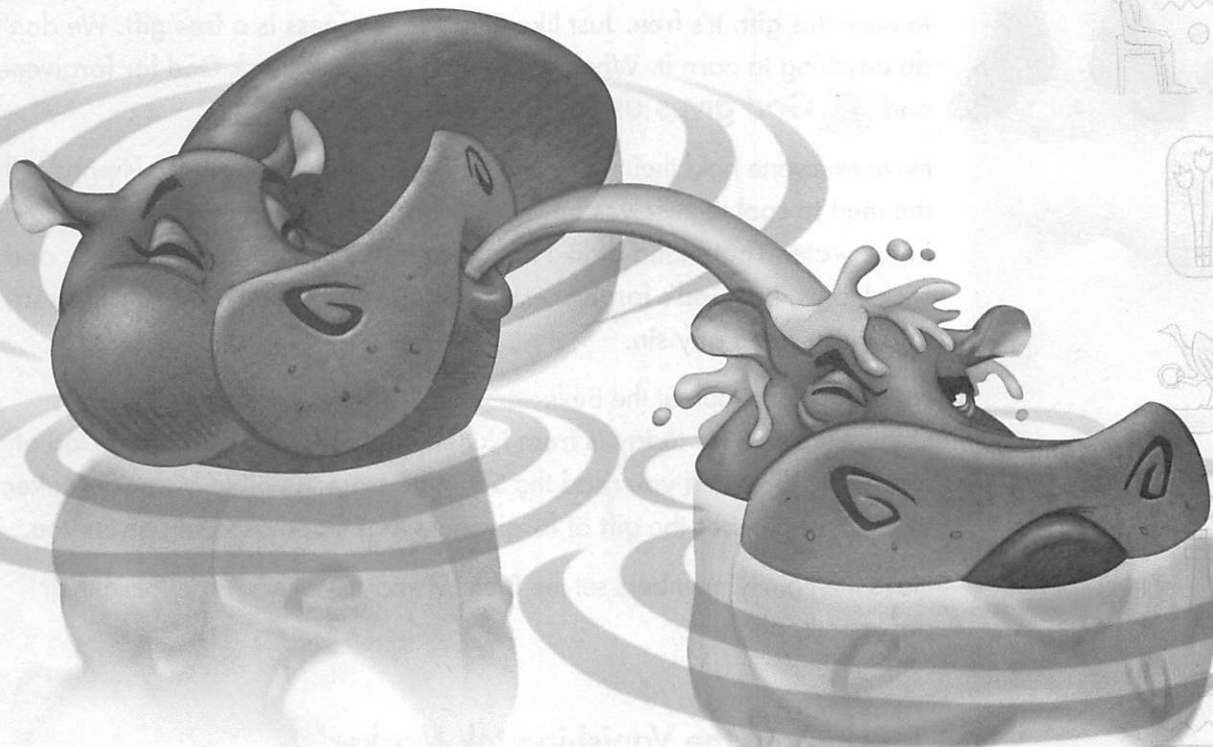
4. Give Family members a "mission" to accomplish in the Marketplace.

Say: **When it's our turn to visit the shops, let's make sure we invite someone to the closing Celebration. Maybe we can invite the embalmer or a person in the food court! Remember to tell them about our one true God!**

Have fun experiencing ancient Egypt with your Egyptian Family!

Memory Musings

If you have extra time as Family members are arriving, have participants take out their Bible Memory Makers and review what they've learned throughout the week in Egypt.



Day 4 Closing Family Time

1. Circle up and review.


Gather in a circle on the home base blanket. Talk about the day's events.

Say: Today we learned that  **God gives us forgiveness.** Ask:

- Why should we forgive others? (God wants us to forgive others; God forgives us.)

2. Bring out the Day 4 Bible Memory Makers®.

Say: Hey...I wonder...if you've ever done something bad, put your hand in the middle of the circle. You don't have to say what it is, just put your hand in the middle. Wait until everyone's hand is in the center. Well, it looks like we've all done something bad. It looks like we all need forgiveness!

Place a Bible Memory Maker in each person's hand. You didn't do anything to earn this gift. It's free. Just like God's forgiveness is a free gift. We don't do anything to earn it. When we do bad things, we ask God for forgiveness, and  **God gives us forgiveness.**

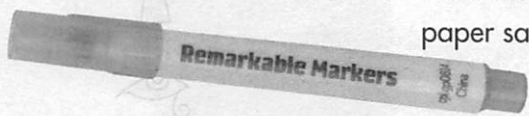
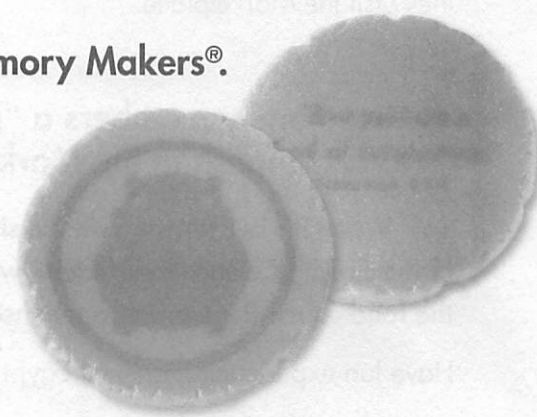
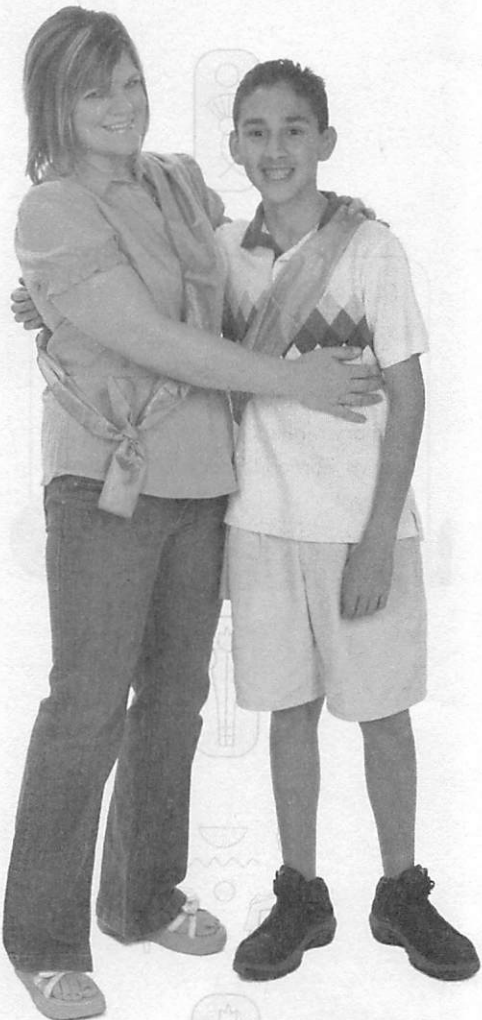
Have everyone hold their "free gift" and look at the hippo. Say: Hippos roll in the mud to cool themselves off. Ew! Dirty! Then they need to be cleaned off in the water. That's kind of like forgiveness. Sin is like mud—it's ugly, and it sticks to us. But God's forgiveness through Jesus is like water. It cleans us, and it can clean any sin.

Have everyone look at the Bible verse on the Bible Memory Maker. Say: Our Bible verse for today is from Nehemiah 9:17. "But you are a God of forgiveness." When you read the Scripture from the Bible Memory Maker, you can remember the gift of forgiveness that God has freely given you.

Have the Family members set the Bible Memory Makers aside (or in their paper sarcophagus).

3. Bring out the Vanishing Ink Marker.

Say: Hippos aside...let's try another way to see dirty sin and God's cleansing forgiveness. Think of one thing you've done wrong. (You don't have to say it out loud.)



Hold up the Vanishing Ink Marker. Say: **Let's pretend the ink from this pen is "sin."** Use the pen and place a small mark on your hand. Kids will see you do this and most likely say: "Don't put that on your hand! That won't come off!"

Say: **Sometimes we think sin is "dark." But sometimes sin doesn't look too bad!** Point to the ink mark and say: **Look! What a nice, bright color!**

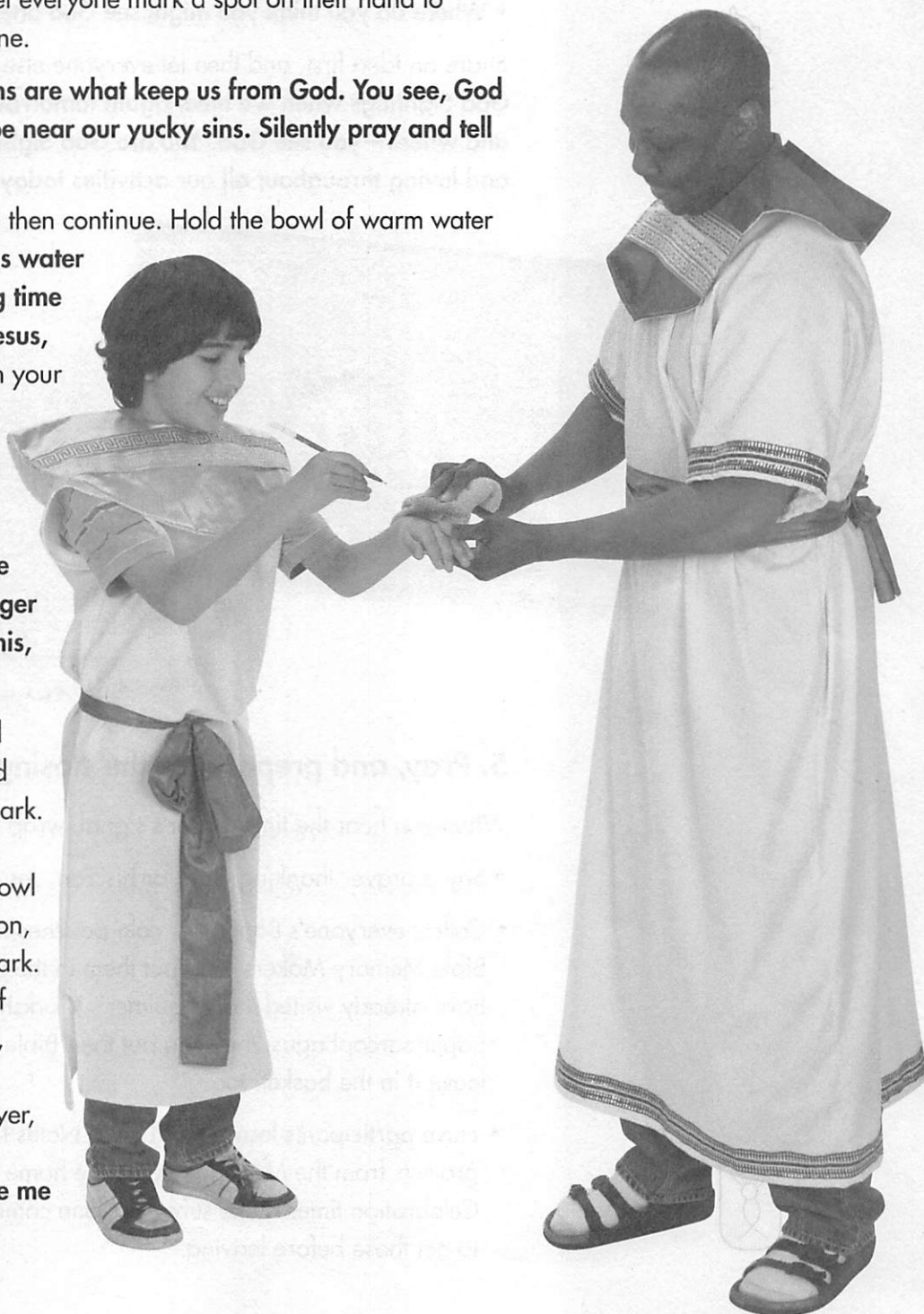
We might think, "Oh, nobody will care if I steal this pack of gum. There's a whole lot more gum where that came from." Or "It's just one bad word. All my friends are saying it."

Pass the pen around the circle. Let everyone mark a spot on their hand to represent a bad thing they've done.

Say: **Our sin marks us. Those sins are what keep us from God. You see, God is perfect and sinless. He can't be near our yucky sins. Silently pray and tell God you're sorry for your sin.**

Pause for about 10 seconds, and then continue. Hold the bowl of warm water and the sponge. **Let's pretend this water is Jesus, God's Son. A long, long time after Joseph lived, God's Son, Jesus, was born.** Motion to the mark on your hand. **Jesus didn't have even one tiny sin on him. Jesus took our sins with him and died on the cross.** Use the sponge to wash away the mark. **Jesus came back to life again. He was stronger than death! Because Jesus did this, he washed away our sins.**

Have the person next to you hold out their hand with the mark, and use the sponge to wash off the mark. Say: **God forgives you, [Name].** Then have that person take the bowl and sponge, repeat the affirmation, and wipe off the next person's mark. Continue until everyone's mark of sin is gone. Join hands and pray, thanking God for his forgiveness and his Son, Jesus. After the prayer, say: **If you want to know more about Jesus and forgiveness, see me after our time in Egypt today.**



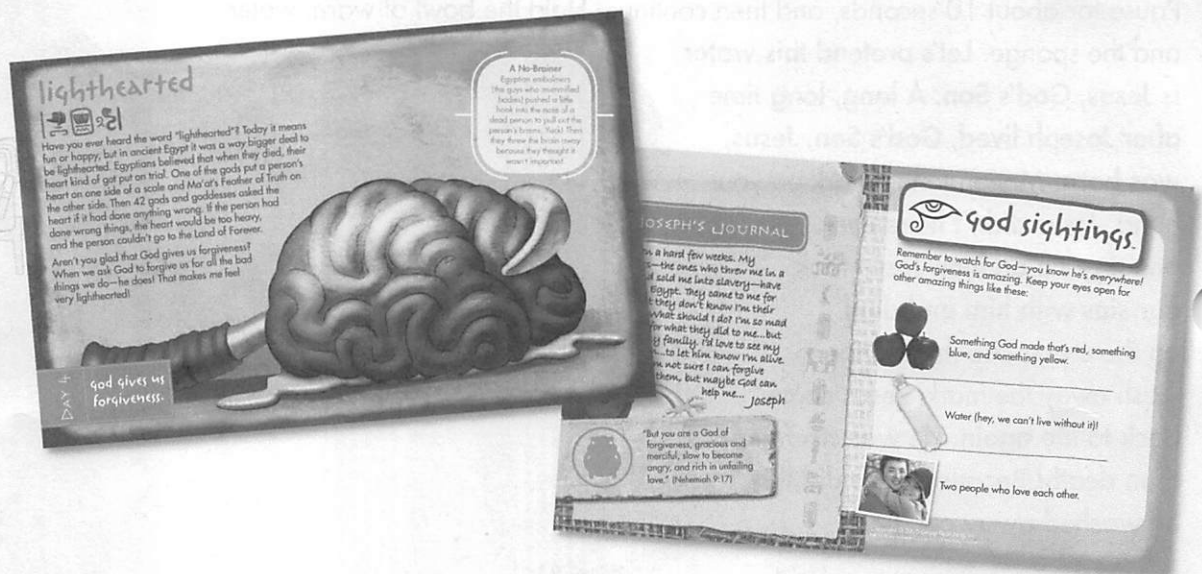
4. Distribute the Day 4 Notes from the Nile pages.

Say: I thank God that through Jesus  God gives us forgiveness.

God gives us so many wonderful things. We just need to keep our eyes open and watch for them. All week long in ancient Egypt, we've been keeping our eyes open and watching for ways we see God active in our lives. A God Sighting might be someone asking you to forgive them for something they did to hurt you. Or maybe you see a cross hanging on a wall, and it reminds you of Jesus. Ask:

- Where do you think you might see God after you leave ancient Egypt today?

Share an idea first, and then let everyone else share. Say: We'll talk about our God Sightings when we meet again tomorrow. I can't wait to hear how—and where—you see God. You are God Sightings to me! You were caring and loving throughout all our activities today.



5. Pray, and prepare for the closing Celebration.

When you hear the timekeeper's signal, wrap up your Family Time.

- Say a prayer thanking God for his Son, Jesus.
- Collect everyone's Banduras, coin pouches and leftover coins, and the Day 4 Bible Memory Makers, and put them in the basket. If your Family members have already visited the Embalmer's Workshop and have their sculpted paper sarcophagus, they can put their Bible Memory Maker in that and leave it in the basket, too.
- Have participants leave their Day 4 Notes from the Nile page and craft projects from the Marketplace on the home base blanket until after the Celebration time. Make sure everyone comes back to the home base blanket to get those before leaving.

Helping Children and Adults Follow Jesus

In ancient Egypt, children and adults don't just hear about God's love; they see it, touch it, sing it, taste it, and put it into action. As they explore your Bible-times setting, families go deeper into their understanding of God. Most importantly, children and adults learn that Jesus came to provide a way for us to live with God forever, because he loves us.

You'll notice that there's no "set" time for participants to make a faith commitment. We feel that the activities in Egypt help children and adults build relationships—with other children, other adults, and Jesus. And since each person is at a different point in his or her relationship with Jesus, programming a time for commitment may be confusing. However, if it's part of your church tradition to include a time for people to make a faith decision, feel free to add it in during the Celebration time at the end of Day 4.

Some children and adults may want to know more about making Jesus part of their lives. If you sense that a person might like to know more about what it means to follow Jesus as a forever friend, give this simple explanation:

God loves us so much that he gave his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us. Jesus died and came back to life again so we could be forgiven for all the wrong things we do. If we ask him, Jesus will come into our lives. He will always be with us and help us make the right choices. If we believe in Jesus and ask him to forgive us, someday we'll live with him forever in heaven.

You may want to lead the individual in a simple prayer inviting Jesus to be his or her forever friend. You may also want to share one or more of the following Scripture passages. Encourage the person to read the Scripture passages with you from his or her own Bible.

- John 3:16
- Romans 5:8-11
- Romans 6:23
- Ephesians 2:4-8

Be sure to share the news of a child's spiritual development with his or her parent(s).

DAY 5

Bible Point:

 **God gives us a family.**

Bible Story:

Joseph settles his family in Egypt. (Genesis 45:16–47:27)

Bible Verse:

“For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” (Galatians 3:26)

Up to this point, you’ve read about Joseph’s success in Egypt—his rise to fame and power. Yet it’s interesting to note that his heart seems to be with his family. Reread the previous passages, and count how many times you notice Joseph weeping over his mended relationship with his family. Joseph didn’t just *forgive* his brothers, he gave them a new life.

The people living in Canaan, where Joseph’s family lived, suffered from the same famine that gripped Egypt. Joseph knew the famine would last five more years, and he also knew that *he* could provide for his family. In fact, Joseph told his brothers to leave their personal belongings behind, because Pharaoh promised them “the best of the land of Egypt is yours.” He directed his brothers to Goshen, an area of about 900 square miles that was some of the finest land in Egypt. There, Jacob’s sons could live as shepherds, enjoy Pharaoh’s good graces, and be closer to Joseph. In Egypt, the Israelites thrived! “There they acquired property, and they were fruitful, and their population grew rapidly” (Genesis 45:27).

God is fervent about his desire for a relationship with us. After all, that’s why he sent Jesus! And when we begin a relationship with God, we become his children...children who are promised an eternal home with a family of believers. God wants to give *us* the best! An enormous “perk” of the Christian walk is that we join God’s family, so we don’t have to be alone. Use today’s activities to remind kids and adults that they can celebrate being part of God’s family.

Did You Know...

The first mention of carts in the Bible is in this passage—when Pharaoh sent them to help Jacob’s family move from Canaan to Egypt.

Day 5 Opening Family Time

1. Welcome Egyptian Family members, and share God Sightings®.

Gather on your home base blanket, and be sure each Family member has a Bandura that corresponds to the color of your Egyptian Family.

Ask everyone how they saw God in action since yesterday. Write on the God Sighting Stone, using single words or short phrases. Then have one Family member tape the God Sighting Stone to the wall that's been prepared earlier.

Say: **Wow! That was so cool in the opening Celebration to see how our pyramid has grown all week long! It's so awesome how much we see God active in our lives every day. Let's keep watching for God today in ancient Egypt so we can add more blocks to the pyramid before the closing Celebration!**



for day 5 you'll need...

- Day 5 schedule
- Bible marked at Galatians 3:26
- People Puzzle Pieces (in the Family Time Teaching Kit)
- markers
- Day 5 Bible Memory Makers® (1 per Family member)
- Day 5 Notes from the Nile pages (1 per Family member)


mummy musings

You'll need two God Sighting Stones for today. So make sure they are in your supply basket. Also, separate the People Puzzle Pieces before your closing Family Time.



2. Teach today's Bible verse.

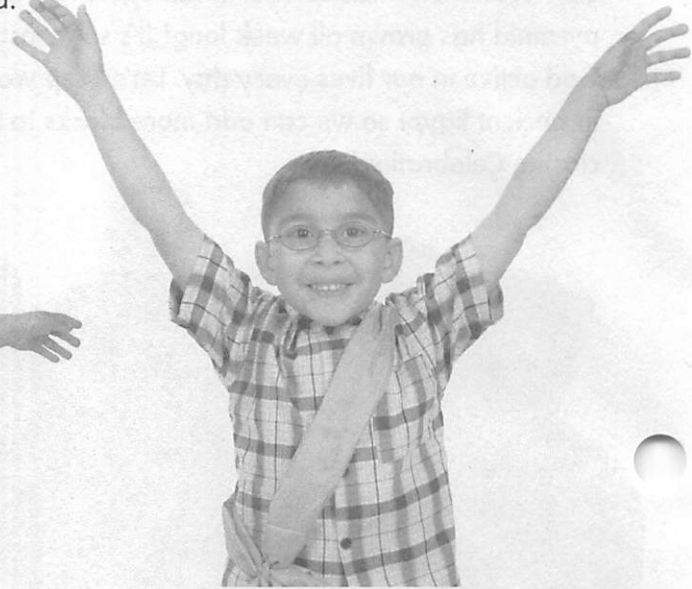
Say: This is the last day we get to visit with Joseph and learn more of his story from the Bible.

Open the Bible, and say: Today we'll discover that  **God gives us a family.** Let's see what God's Word—the Bible—tells us about families. Today's Bible verse is found in Galatians 3:26: "For you are all children of God." Not only do we have our family on earth but we are also part of God's family!

Teach Family members these actions to help them remember the Bible verse. Have everyone spread their arms wide for "For you are all," then raise their arms high for "children of God."



"For you are all..."



"...children of God."

3. Get ready to caravan!

Say: You have been such a wonderful Family this week. Sometime today let's practice our Family cheer. We'll hear all the cheers in the closing Celebration.

Bring out today's schedule. Tell your Family members where you will be going first today. Give each Family member a coin pouch with three coins to spend when they visit the Marketplace.

4. Give Family members a "mission" to accomplish in the Marketplace.

Say: We've had such a great time in ancient Egypt all week. We've met so many good people. When it's our turn to visit the Marketplace, our mission is to tell someone, "Thanks for being part of my family—our one true God's family."

Have fun on your final visit to ancient Egypt.

Memory Musings

Be sure to take time to review the week. It's really easy when you use the Bible Memory Makers to review the Bible verses and the Bible Points.



Day 5 Closing Family Time

1. Circle up and review. Share God Sightings® from the day.

Gather in a circle on the home base blanket. Ask everyone how they saw God in action during their last day in ancient Egypt. Write on the God Sighting Stone, using single words or short phrases. Then have one Family member tape the God Sighting Stone to the pyramid on the God Sighting wall.

Say: **Wow! We have seen so much of God in action this week. We need to keep looking for God every day of our lives!**

Today we learned that  **God gives us a family.** Ask:

- **Do you think Joseph was thankful for his family? Why or why not?** (Yes, because he was lonely; yes, because he missed them; no, because they fight a lot.)
- **Are you thankful for your family? Why or why not?** (Yes, because they take care of me; no, because I fight a lot with my brothers.)
- **Are you thankful to be a part of God's family? Why or why not?** (Yes, because God loves me no matter what; yes, because it's a big family.)



field test findings

The puzzle pieces are a really good review for the entire week. At our field test, one leader didn't follow the manual, and her Egyptian Family didn't get the benefit of a review. We field test for a reason—we make mistakes and fix them so you don't have to make the same mistakes!



2. Bring out the People Puzzle Pieces.

Pile the puzzle pieces in the center of your home base blanket, and then have everyone make a circle around them. Say: **Today we learned that Joseph was reunited with his family. They linked up again after all those years! Motion to the pile of puzzle pieces. Joseph had a pile of brothers! Each brother was different, yet they all were a part of the same family.**



Hold up one puzzle piece. Say: **Remember our first day in ancient Egypt? Joseph was all alone. At first he had no hope. But as a part of God's family, God gives us hope. God makes good come from bad.**

Have each person take a puzzle piece. **The next day, we learned that Pharaoh noticed Joseph had a special ability. Joseph could understand dreams!**

God gives us special abilities, too. On their puzzle piece, have the Family members draw a symbol to show a special ability God gave them. A heart could show the ability to love and care for others; a football or soccer ball could show the ability to play sports; a book could show the ability to read well.

After everyone has drawn a symbol, let them share their special abilities. Then work as a group to put the puzzle together, but have every other person close their eyes while trying.

While Family members are putting the puzzle together, say: **The next two days we learned that God gives us wisdom and God gives us forgiveness. Joseph was wise as he led Egypt and also as he forgave his brothers. We might have to be wise and forgive each other as we make mistakes in figuring out this puzzle!**

Once the puzzle pieces are linked, ask:

- **What was it like to work together to link the puzzle pieces?** (It was fun; it was hard; we worked together well.)
- **How does the puzzle remind you of being a family?** (We have to work together every day; sometimes it's hard to work together; it's fun to be a family.)

Say: **No matter what your earthly family looks like, we are all linked together in God's family. We are all God's children.**

3. Bring out the Bible Memory Makers®.

Say: **We even have a Bible Memory Maker to remind us that we are all linked together in God's family.** Hold up a Day 5 Bible Memory Maker. **This is a bug called a scarab. Look at all its legs! They look like fingers! They can reach out and link to others. The Bible verse is Galatians 3:26: "For you are all children of God." Let's link up like this scarab.**

Give each person a Bible Memory Maker in one hand, and say: **[Name], you are a child of God.** Then have the person reach his or her other hand into the center of the circle. Continue until each Family member has been affirmed and is holding a Bible Memory Maker in one hand and has placed the other hand in the center.

Say: **Hold on to each other's hands in the center of the circle while we pray. Dear God, thank you for linking us together as your children. We love you. Amen.**

Then shout the cheer your Egyptian Family created at some point during the week.

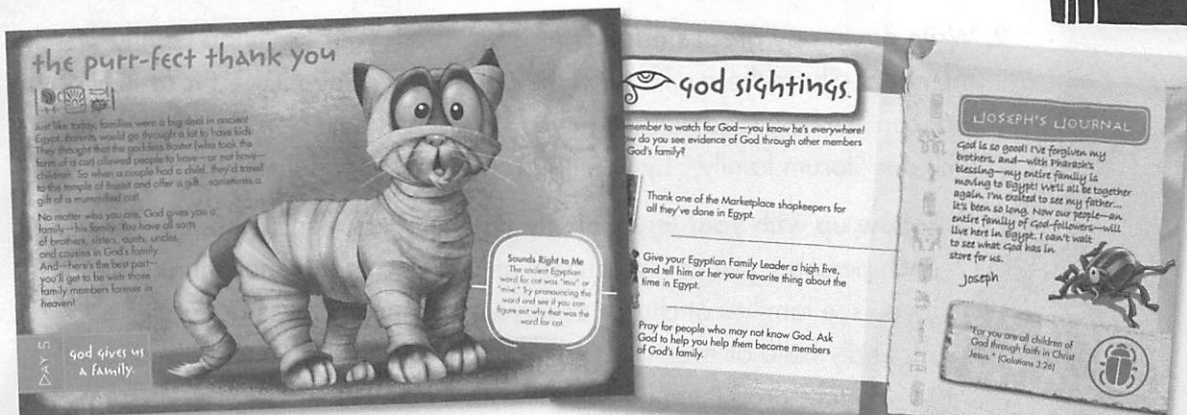
4. Distribute the Day 5 Notes from the Nile pages.

Say: I'm so thankful that  God gives us a family.

God gives us so many wonderful things. We just need to keep our eyes open and watch for them. We'll talk about God Sightings in the closing Celebration today. But let's remember to watch for God every day of our lives! You are God Sightings to me! You have been an awesome Egyptian Family this entire week. Thank you for letting me be a part of it!

Mummy Musings

Give each person the rest of the pages from their Notes from the Nile Student Book. Show them the miniature blocks they can use for God Sighting Stones after they leave Egypt!



5. Pray, and prepare for the closing Celebration.

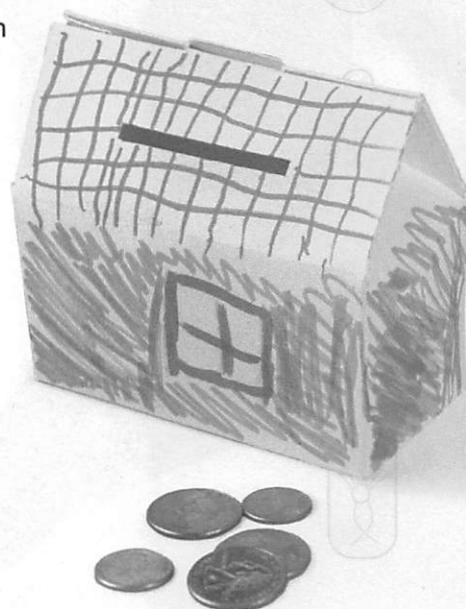
When you hear the timekeeper's signal, wrap up your Family Time.

- Collect everyone's Banduras, coin pouches, and leftover coins, and put them in the basket.
- Have participants leave their Day 5 Notes from the Nile page, craft projects from the Marketplace, and their Bible Memory Makers and paper sarcophagus on the home base blanket until after the Celebration time. Make sure everyone comes back to the home base blanket before leaving so they can take those home.

Join your Family and all the other Egyptian Families as you celebrate an amazing week learning and sharing about our one true God!

Mummy Musings

If you finish early, you could let each person add more details to his or her puzzle piece. Let everyone take their puzzle piece home after their time in ancient Egypt.

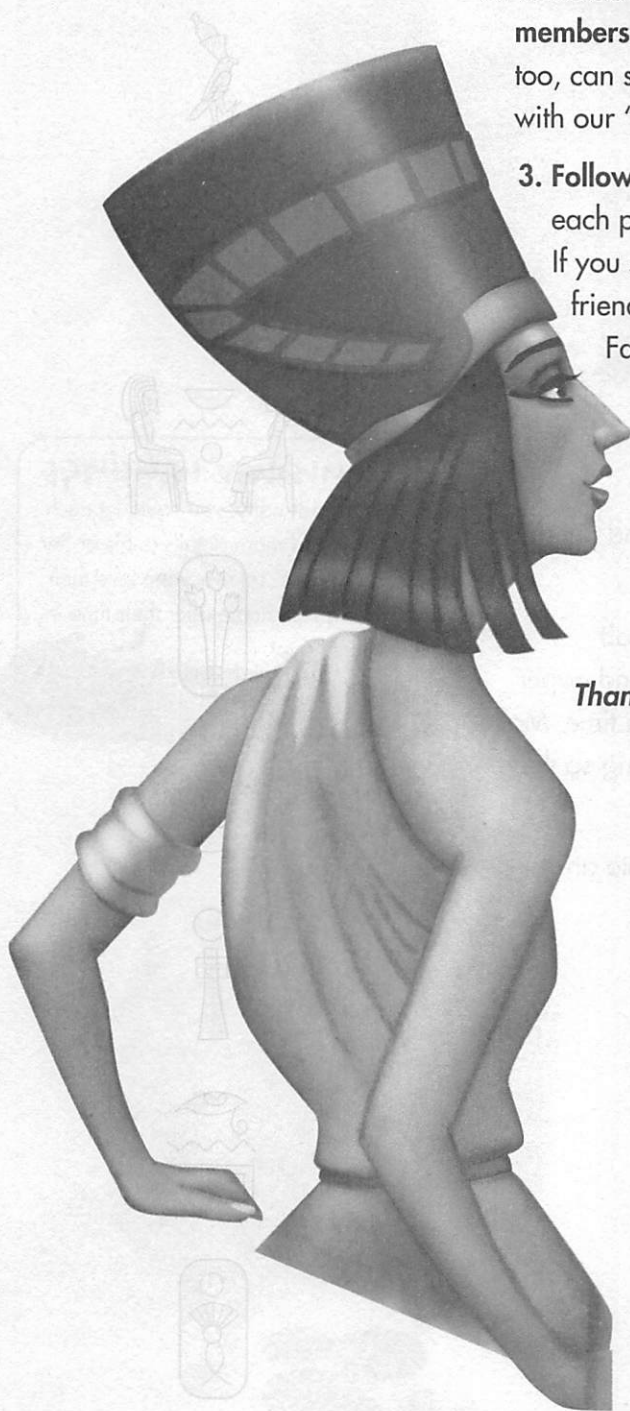


After Your Trip to Ancient Egypt...

Thanks for bringing God's Word to life in new and unforgettable ways! Your love and time added so much to this awesome program. Here are a few tips for wrapping up Egypt and carrying the excitement beyond this week.

- 1. Return your basket to the Egypt Director.** It should contain all Egyptian Family items, your Family poster, your home base blanket, and any other miscellaneous items left from your last Family Time.
- 2. Write down any great stories or insights about your Egyptian Family members.** Share these with your church and your Egypt Director so they, too, can see how God worked in your Egyptian Family. Share your message with our "forum family," by visiting group.com/vbsforums.
- 3. Follow up with your Egyptian Family members.** Send a postcard letting each person know how much you enjoyed getting to know him or her. If you see families at church or in your community, be sure to offer a friendly hello or even a hug. If you took pictures of your Egyptian Family, drop them in the mail with a note thanking everyone for a wonderful week.
- 4. Fill out an evaluation form.** Your Director may have evaluation forms for all staff members to fill out. Your feedback is important. Help us make next year's Holy Land Adventure even more exciting!

Thank you for being part of our Egypt team!



congratulations!

You're about to become
a child's best friend.



This leader manual will show you how!

You're a Family Leader in the Egypt VBS...so what do you do—and how do you do it?

As a Family (small group) Leader, you don't have to plan or prepare materials—but you *are* the heart of your Egypt VBS. The time children spend with your Egyptian Family will be the most memorable, friendship-building, and life-changing of the entire program.

No one knows exactly how ancient Egyptians pronounced words (or even how they spelled them) because their written language didn't include any vowels! But here are our best suggestions:



Amarna

(pronounced "a-MAR-na")

Pharaoh Akhenaten built Amarna along the Nile in middle Egypt, in honor of the sun god Aten.



Per-Bastet

(pronounced "pair BAH-stet")

Also called Bubastis, Per-Bastet means "Domain of Bastet," the cat goddess.



Pithom

(pronounced "PIE-thom")

The city of Pithom is mentioned in the Bible as one of the cities built by the Israelites for the Egyptian Pharaoh. Located in Lower Egypt, the main discoveries here were a number of large honey-combed chambers, which most likely served as granaries (grain storehouses) for the Egyptian army.



Memphis

(pronounced "MEM-fis")

Memphis was an ancient capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt. The name "Memphis" is the Greek version of the Egyptian name of Papi I's pyramid, Men-nefer, meaning "beautiful monument."



Asyut

(pronounced "ahs-YOOT")

Asyut is a very old city and the largest town in upper Egypt. Archaeologists excavating the chambers of nearby rocks have found mummies of wolves. According to legend, an invading army was defeated with the aid of herds of wolves.



Medinet el-Fayum

(pronounced "med-i-net el-FIE-yoom")

Medinet el-Fayum is a city located in an oasis west of the Nile valley. The Greeks called the city Crocodilopolis because people worshipped the fake god Sobek there. Priests fed the crocodiles meat and honey cakes and decked them out with gold ornaments!



Zoan

(pronounced "ZOE-uhn")

Zoan, later called Tanis, was the capital of the Hyksos rulers, or "shepherd kings." Some monuments have been found at the site that lead scholars to consider that its plain was the "land of Rameses" (Genesis 47:11; Exodus 12:37) where the Hebrews moved during Joseph's time.



Rosetta

(pronounced "roe-SET-a")

Rosetta is most associated with the finding of the Rosetta Stone in 1799, a stone that was instrumental in deciphering ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. However, its strategic location on the Rosetta arm of the Nile and the Mediterranean coast made it a very important site for military bases from ancient times.



Sais

(pronounced "SAY-iss")

Sais, known as Zau in ancient Egyptian and today as Sa el-Hagar, is located in Egypt's delta. The city is known from the very beginning of Egyptian history from wooden labels associated with King Aha. (Isn't that a great name?) The goddess Neith, initially a goddess of war, later became associated with funeral wrappings. Murals often show her standing with Isis guarding the funeral bier of the pharaoh.



Giza

(pronounced "GEE-za")

The town of Giza is now a suburb of the metropolis of Cairo and is located right on the banks of the Nile in Lower Egypt. There is also a plateau called Giza which is the site of some of the most impressive monuments in the world, including the Great Sphinx, a huge statue with a lion's body and a man's head.

Groups
Holy Land ADVENTURE



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