

February 1

Genesis 47:1-12

In these verses, we read that Joseph's family settles in a region of Egypt known as Goshen.

Question to Consider:

Have you ever moved to a new home and had to make new friends? What was that like? Remember your own experience next time you meet someone who is new to your neighborhood and would like to feel welcome.

Prayer:

Dear God, I hope that I will feel welcomed wherever I go. Help me to be welcoming to the people you put in my path so that I will treat them the same way I would want to be treated. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

February 2

Genesis 50:1-14

Joseph's father Jacob (Israel) was old and eventually died in Egypt. These verses tell the story of Joseph burying his father in his homeland of Canaan.

Question to Consider:

Bring to mind someone you loved who has died and is with God now. Who was it? What do you remember most about that person?

Prayer:

Loving God, I thank you for the people I have loved who are with you now. And, I pray for the people who are still here, and that I will do a better job of loving and caring for them. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

February 3

Genesis 50:15-26

These concluding verses of the book of Genesis tell the story of Joseph's last days and then his death.

Question to Consider:

Joseph said to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." Can you think of a time in your life when someone intended to do harm to another person, but in the end things turned out well?

Prayer:

Gracious God, you are always working for good, and can even bring good out of circumstances that are bad. I pray that I will always willingly work with you as you work for good. In Jesus' name, Amen.

February 4

Exodus 1:6-22

These verses tell of hard times in Egypt for the Israelites. Joseph and the rest of his generation had died and years later were forgotten. The Egyptians, who were afraid of the Israelites, forced them into slavery.

Question to Consider:

The midwives disobeyed Pharaoh's command to kill Israelite baby boys because they feared and honored God. Would you be willing to disobey the command of an earthly leader if you knew that the command was in violation of what God would have you do?

Prayer:

All powerful God, the time may come when I am forced to choose between obeying someone's command or following you. Please help me to have the courage to follow you. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

February 5

Exodus 2:1-10

These verses tell the story of the birth of Moses.

Question to Consider:

Pharaoh's daughter knew of his command to kill Israelite baby boys, but out of compassion and caring she chose to see to it that Moses was cared for, and then she adopted him. What kind of situation or circumstance might prompt you to take a risk in order to care for someone else?

Prayer:

God of love, there is great need all around me. Help me to see as you see, to love as you love, and to care for others as you would have me do. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.