



Session 6

**LEADER GUIDE
SAMPLER**

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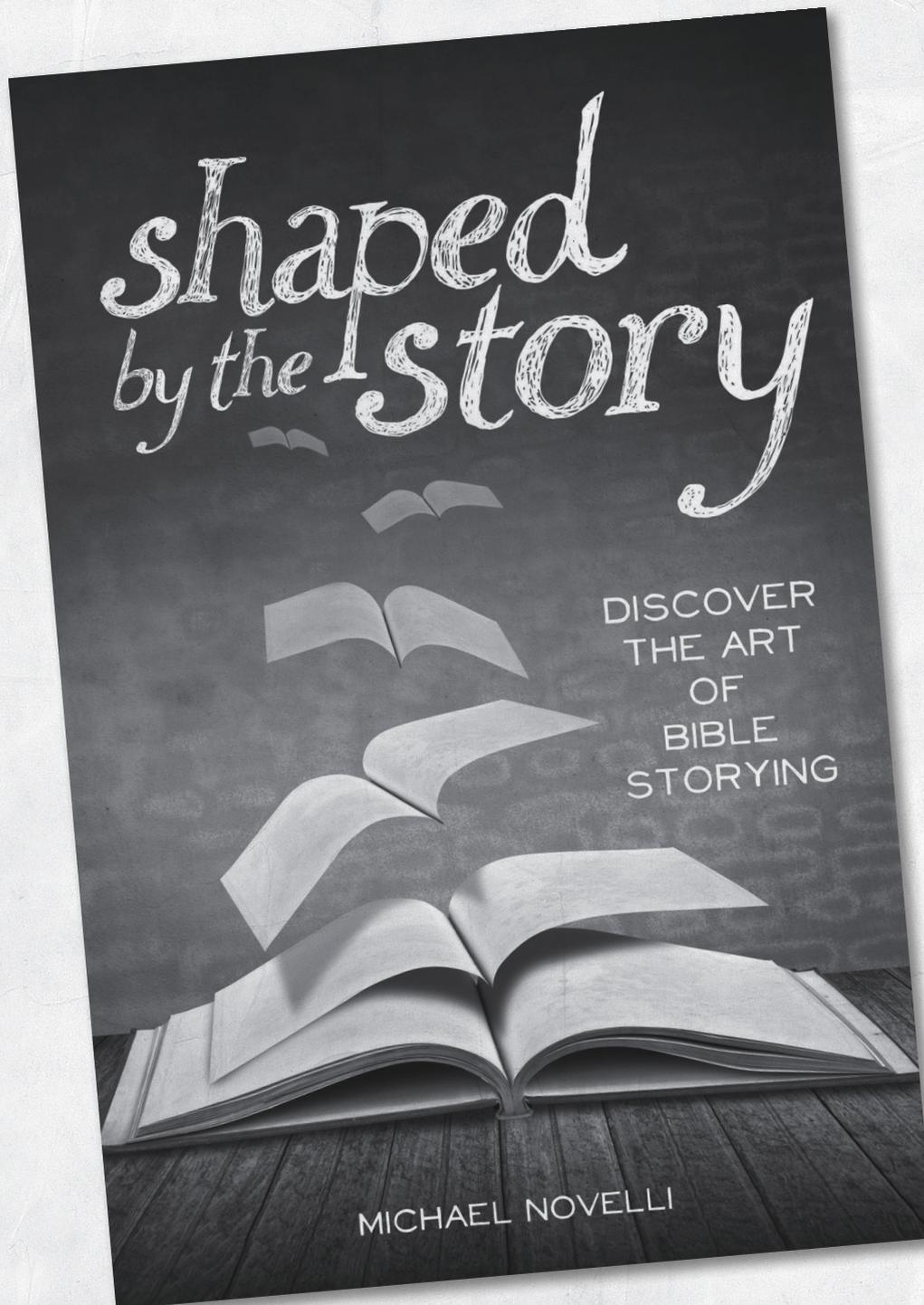
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LEARN MORE ABOUT BIBLE STORYING

THE PROCESS BEHIND ECHO THE STORY



This newly updated version of *Shaped by the Story* includes:

- Details about the proven learning theories guiding this approach
- Methods for adapting Bible storying for varied contexts and ages
- Tools to create your own Bible storying narratives and dialogue questions
- Testimonials from people using this approach with children, youth, and adults

Available at www.wearesparkhouse.org
and most online book retailers



SESSION SIX:

joseph

SESSION OVERVIEW

SUPPLIES

- ▶ **Echo the Story DVD/video** for this session
- ▶ **Echo the Story Sketch Journals** for every participant
- ▶ Markers, pens, and colored pencils

1 **rewind** THE STORY [10 MINUTES]

The Story So Far video begins with a two-minute interaction for your group. Following this interaction, the video will show a fast-paced, animated review of the previous sessions' stories.

2 **prepare** FOR THE STORY [10 MINUTES]

Participants will draw their own version of this session's story symbol in their Sketch Journals. Then, a participant will read a section from the Sketch Journal that helps ready the group for imaginative listening.

3 **imagine** THE STORY [5 MINUTES]

The leader will now tell this session's Bible story. A carefully crafted narrative script of the story is provided in this Leader Guide.

4 **capture** WHAT YOU NOTICE [5 MINUTES]

The leader will ask someone of a different gender to do a second telling of the story. During this telling, participants will use their Sketch Journals to capture aspects of the story that stand out to them.

5 **remix** THE STORY * TIME PERMITTING [10 MINUTES]

Participants will be invited to choose from two REMIX activities (included in the Sketch Journal) that guide them to retell part of the Bible story in their own unique way.

6 **connect** TO YOUR STORY [20 MINUTES]

Finally, the leader will guide a group dialogue where participants are asked to share their observations and insights from the story. Dialogue questions are provided in this Leader Guide.

THE STORY SO FAR VIDEO

Leader Says:

Right now we're going to continue our journey through the Bible.

We're going to start with a short video. The first two minutes give you a chance to answer a question with a partner.

After the timer finishes, the next part of the video will start right away, reviewing the story from our last session. So find a partner and get ready because this video moves really fast. You'll have to pay attention and listen carefully. Are you ready?

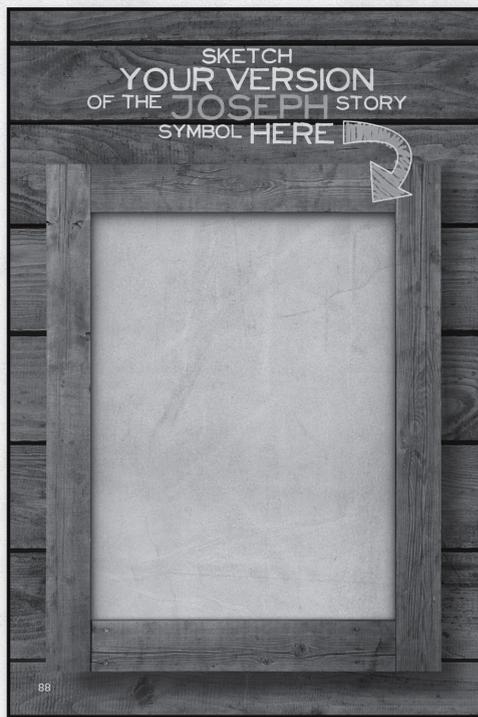
► CUE: Play The Story So Far video for this session.



Even though this is written like a script, please personalize the "Leader Says" parts. You'll be more effective if you're not just reading directly from the page!



prepare FOR THE STORY



DRAW THE STORY SYMBOL

- ▶ CUE: If you collected the Sketch Journals last session, pass them out to each participant. Remember to give Sketch Journals to any new people joining your group. Provide pens, markers, and colored pencils for participants to use.

Leader Says:

Our Sketch Journals are an important part of our Echo experience. They'll give us space to express our creativity, explore our questions, and capture the thoughts and ideas that these stories spark in us.

- Each story will have its own **symbol** as a visual reminder of what happens in the story. Right now, turn to **page 4** and *draw your own version* of the symbol for the next story: JOSEPH (a colorful coat) in your Sketch Journal.

You may be wondering why we are redrawing this symbol when it's printed on the next page. When we each create our *own* version of this story's symbol it helps embed this image in our minds and helps get our **creativity flowing** for the rest of the activities we'll do later.

The goal isn't to copy the symbol—*be creative and make it your own!*

- ▶ CUE: Don't spend a lot of time on this activity—*two minutes or less.*

THE BIBLE IS LIKE . . .

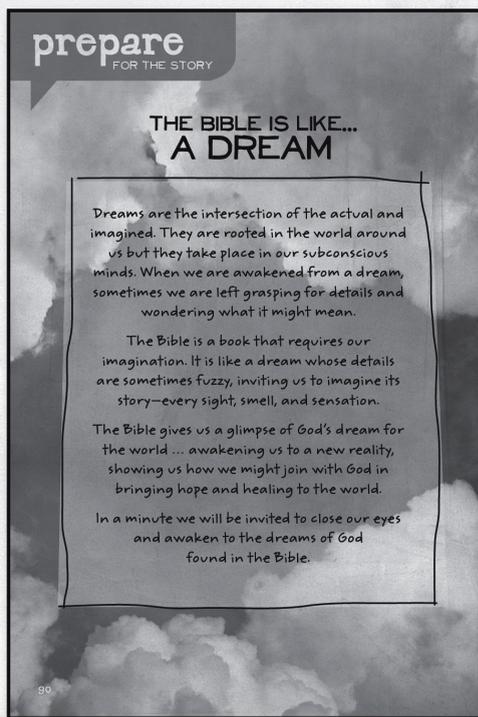
Leader Says:

Each session of Echo will invite us to experience a story from the Bible. But before we dive into each story, we'll slow down and take time to *prepare ourselves*. To help us do this, we'll compare the Bible to a different image or object.

The image for this session is **a dream**.

Let's hear more about this from **page 6** of your Sketch Journal.

- ▶ CUE: Ask for a volunteer from your group to read page 90 of their Sketch Journal.



ABOUT THIS STORY [read silently]

Leader Says:

Take a moment **in silence** to look at the **ABOUT THIS STORY** section on **page 7** in your Sketch Journal.

- ▶ **CUE:** After twenty seconds of silent reading, move to the next section. (You don't need to discuss the "Think About" question.)

IMAGINATIVE LISTENING

Leader Says:

Take a deep breath. Slow your thoughts. Close your eyes, but don't fall sleep. As you listen to the next story, let your imagination create images in your mind.

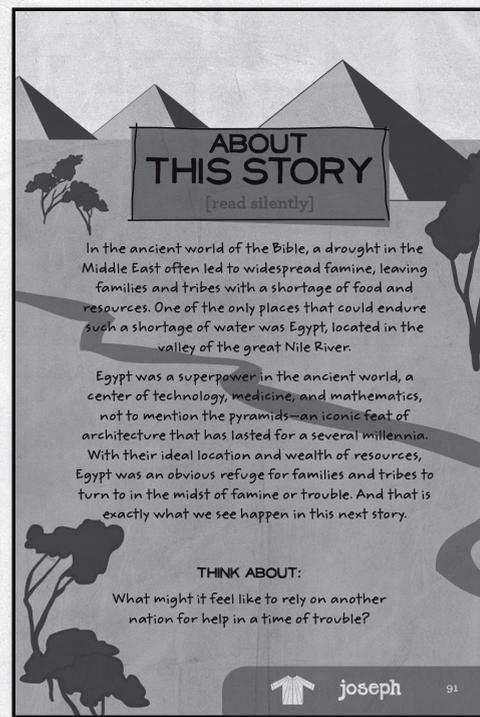
Let's prepare ourselves for the next story. Push out any distractions and use your imagination to enter the story, seeing it come to life in your mind.

You might want to keep your eyes closed or focus on the image on **pages 8-9**. After we hear the story read once, you'll have a chance to capture what you noticed in your Sketch Journal.

Are you ready?

Take a moment of silence. Take a deep breath, slow down, and clear your mind. Whisper a prayer asking God to show you something meaningful from this story.

- ▶ **CUE:** After about fifteen seconds of quiet, begin narrating the story.



imagine THE STORY

Leader Narrates:

Don't just read this story;
bring it to life with
your voice!

SCENE ONE: JEALOUSY & HATRED

Jacob, now named Israel, lived with his twelve sons and one daughter in the Promised Land.

Out of all of his sons, Israel's favorite was Joseph. When Joseph turned seventeen, Israel gave him a beautiful multicolored coat.

But Joseph's brothers grew to hate him. They hated him even more when Joseph told them he had a dream that in the future all of his brothers would bow down to him!

To make matters worse, Israel asked Joseph to make sure his brothers were doing their jobs shepherding their cattle. When Joseph went out into the field, his brothers grabbed him, ripped off his new coat, and threw him into a deep hole. They argued about what to do with him. The oldest brother, Reuben, convinced them not to kill Joseph. But when Reuben left, the other brothers sold Joseph to slave traders.

To cover up what they'd done, the brothers tore up Joseph's coat, soaked it in goat's blood, and brought it to their father, saying, "*We found this in the field. Isn't this Joseph's?*"

Israel carefully examined the coat, then began to cry, "*Yes—this is Joseph's coat. A wild animal must have attacked him. No one could have survived this. [pause] I'll grieve for my son the rest of my life.*" [pause] Israel was so upset that he couldn't be comforted.

Meanwhile, the slave traders sold Joseph to Potiphar, the head guard for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Right away, Potiphar noticed that God gave Joseph success in everything he did. So Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his entire household and personal business. Now Joseph was young and very handsome, and Potiphar's wife began to desire him. She constantly pressured him to sleep with her. But Joseph refused, saying, "*I could never do something so terrible against Potiphar—and against God!*"

Joseph ran away from Potiphar's wife in a hurry—but left his coat behind in her arms. That night when Potiphar got home, his wife told him, "*That servant you brought here tried to rape me. I screamed, and he ran away, leaving his coat.*" Potiphar became furious and threw Joseph into Pharaoh's prison. [pause]

In time, God gave Joseph favor with the head of the jail, and he was put in charge of the all the other prisoners! God even gave Joseph the ability to interpret the prisoners' dreams.

SCENE TWO: FAVOR & FORGIVENESS

A few years later, Pharaoh had some disturbing dreams. In one of them, he saw seven fat cows being eaten by seven skinny cows! None of Pharaoh's wisest men could interpret what this meant.

When Pharaoh heard about Joseph's ability to interpret dreams, he had him cleaned up and brought out of the prison. He asked Joseph, *"Can you really interpret dreams?"*

Joseph replied, *"That's beyond me . . . but not too hard for God! God will ease your worries."*

After Pharaoh shared his dreams, God gave Joseph this interpretation: *"For the next seven years Egypt will have an abundance of food. This will be followed by seven years of a terrible famine that will spread over the land."*

The king was so impressed with Joseph that he made him second-in-charge of Egypt! Joseph was only thirty years old at the time.

During the next seven years Joseph traveled throughout Egypt, making sure that plenty of food was being stored up in each city. After seven years passed, the famine came and spread throughout the land.

Because Egypt was one of the only places that had food, people traveled there from great distances to buy food from Joseph.

The Promised Land was also struck by the famine. So Israel sent his sons to buy food in Egypt. When the brothers arrived, they didn't recognize Joseph and they bowed down before him. [pause]

Joseph knew who they were, but held in his emotions. He turned away to hide his tears when he spoke to them. Joseph was harsh with his brothers and locked them in prison, accusing them of being spies. He threatened to make them slaves in Egypt.

But later, Joseph could no longer hold back his emotions or hide who he was. He loudly cried out, *"I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold as a slave!"* His brothers stared at him, speechless, shocked, and afraid!

But then, Joseph spoke to them kindly, *"Don't be afraid. God turned your evil into something good. God put me in this high position so I could save the lives of many people. Now, I will take care of you and your families."*

Then, Joseph threw his arms around his brothers and they wept together.

When Pharaoh heard about this, he gave Joseph's brothers a plot of the best land in Egypt, a storehouse of food, and all new clothing!

So Israel and all of his descendants moved to Egypt, and enjoyed the blessings that God had given to Joseph.



capture WHAT YOU NOTICE

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Leader Says:

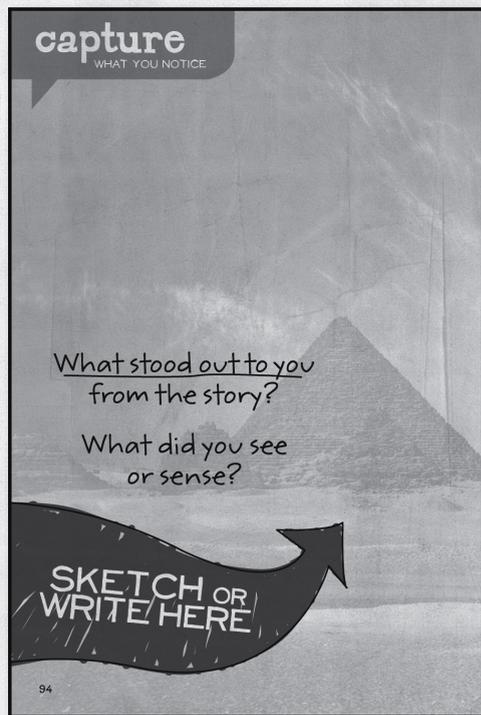
Take a moment to close your eyes and let the story replay in your mind. Pay attention to what stands out to you from the story.

- ▶ CUE: After fifteen to twenty seconds, transition to the second reading.

SECOND TELLING & CAPTURING

We're going to listen to the story one more time, but this time with a **different voice telling it**. During this telling of the story turn to **pages 10-11** and write or draw the words or images that come to mind. Use these pages to capture anything that you notice—even if it seems like a small detail. You will be surprised—even small things that you notice will spark thoughts and insights from our group.

- ▶ CUE: For this second telling use a storyteller of a **different gender** from the person who read the first telling. *Different voices help people to listen with fresh ears.*



REMIX ACTIVITIES

Leader Says:

Now that we've heard the story twice and begun to capture what we noticed, let's REMIX the story. There are two REMIX activities, designed to help you retell part of the story in your own unique way. There is a drawing activity on **pages 12-13** and a creative writing activity on **pages 14-15**.

These are *not* fill-in-the-blank activities! These activities are designed to help you express yourself and share what you see in the story.

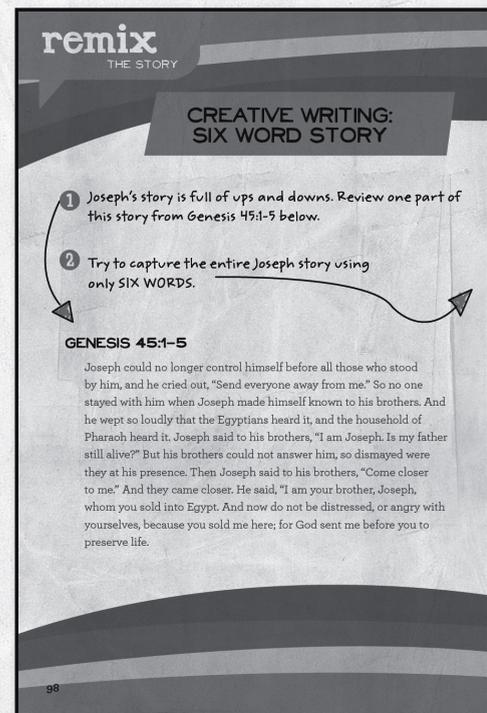
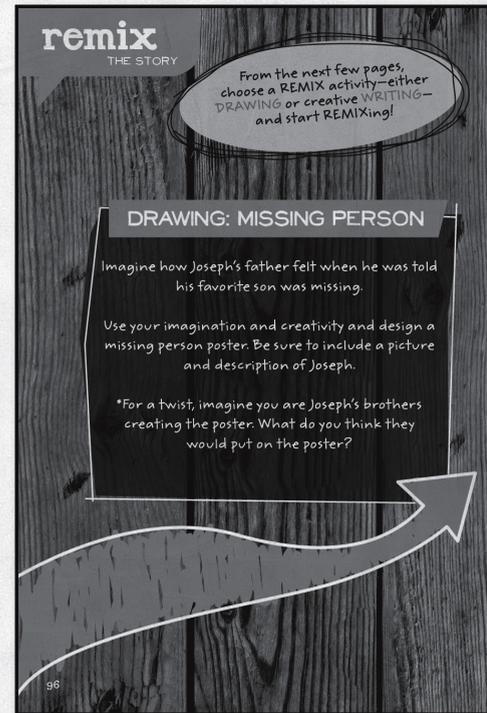
Or if you'd prefer, you may instead **continue to develop** your thoughts and drawings from the CAPTURE pages you just worked on.

Whatever you choose, take the next ten minutes to **use your imagination** to create your REMIX and then we will share them with each other. Invest yourself honestly in this and you will be surprised at your insight and creativity.

- ▶ **CUE:** After ten minutes (or less if your group finishes sooner) go to the next section.

Providing Choice Matters

Giving participants choice of activities empowers them to invest more in personal and creative expression. It also sparks deeper learning by giving them the opportunity to explore areas of the story they wonder about or feel connected to.



connect TO YOUR STORY

DIALOGUE PREP

1. There are probably more questions here than you'll have time to ask. Pick a few questions ahead of time that you want to make sure to ask.
2. Questions in GRAY and marked with a dash are for follow-up. Ask them as time allows and as they are needed.

RAPID-SHARE

Leader Says:

In a moment you will quickly share what you've written and drawn on your CAPTURE and REMIX pages. Remember, we've committed to encourage each other—and not make fun of anyone's art or ideas.

This is a special **rapid-share** where you will each **have twenty seconds to share what you've created.**

Who would like to go first?

- ▶ **CUE:** After everyone has shared his or her CAPTURE or REMIX, begin the dialogue.

GROUP DIALOGUE

Leader Says:

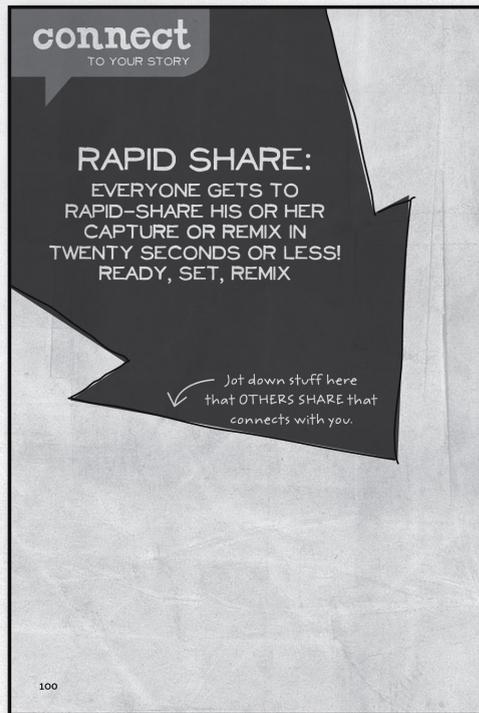
Let's talk more about this Bible story. **I really want to see the story through your eyes.**

Remember, when someone else shares something that that you connect with, write it down on **page 16** of your Sketch Journal.

- + So, what stood out to you from this story?
- + What did this story make you wonder about?

Leader Says:

Take a moment and close your eyes. (Pause, then continue slowly.) Imagine you have a camera and you are watching this story take place right in front of you. Pick a moment in the story to take a picture of. (Pause for ten seconds.) Do you have your picture? Who would like to share what you snapped a picture of?



Let me ask you a few more questions about this story:

- + What was Joseph's relationship with his brothers like? Describe it.
 - Why did Joseph's brothers despise him?
 - If you were one of Joseph's brothers, how do you think you'd have felt about him?
 - What else do we learn about Joseph's brothers from the story?
- + How would you describe Joseph's relationship with his father?
- + How did God "turn evil for good" in this story?
 - How about in previous stories we've told?
- + How did God use Joseph to bless others?
 - How did Joseph become a blessing to all of the nations around him?
- + How did Joseph restore his relationship with his brothers?
 - What would you have done if you were Joseph?

Share the first thing that comes to your mind when I ask these questions:

- + What do you notice about God in this story?
- + Why do you think the ancient Israelites told this story?

FINAL QUESTION

Take a quiet moment to think about this final question:

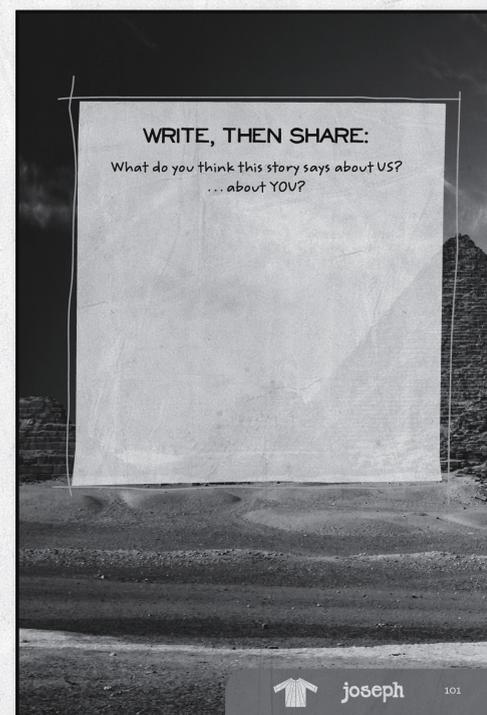
- + What does this story say about us? ... about you?

Write a quick response on **page 17** in your Sketch Journal.

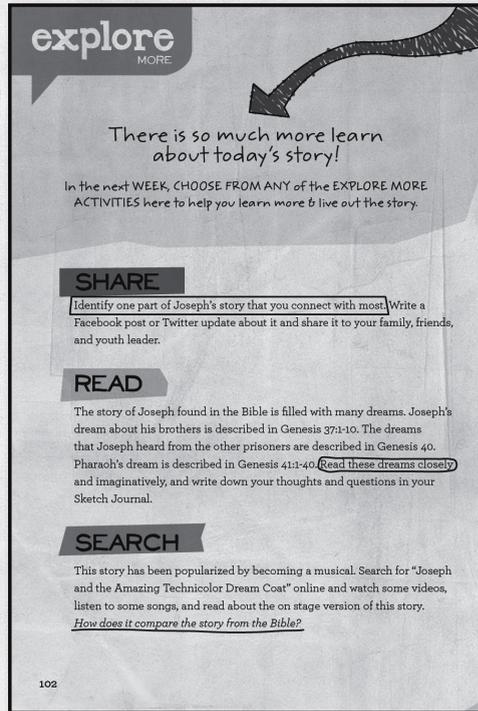
- ▶ **CUE:** After twenty to thirty seconds of quiet, ask a few participants to share.

Bring energy and genuine wonder about the story. Remember, questions and curiosity drive learning.

Work at being fully present, attentively listening and making eye contact.



connect TO YOUR STORY



Leader Says:

This was a really meaningful time. *Thank you!* You did a great job. I'm looking forward to gathering together again so we can experience the next story.

◀ If you'd like to learn more about this story, there's a section called EXPLORE on **pages 18-19** of your Sketch Journal. You are welcome to take your Sketch Journal with you and try some of these activities, but be sure to bring it back for the next story. If you're worried about forgetting it, you can leave your Sketch Journal with me.

▶ **CUE:** To close this session, ask someone to lead the group in prayer.

OPTIONAL QUESTIONS TO GO DEEPER:

- + Did you hear anything that reminded you of previous stories? What connections did you make?
- + Which character do you identify with the most in this story?
 - In what ways are you like Joseph?
 - In what ways are you like his brothers?
- + Where have you seen God "turn evil for good" in our world? ... In your life?
- + How is Joseph's life challenging or encouraging to you?