

Chapter 5 ***Jacob and Joseph***

Jacob, Jacob, I am God, the God of your father. I will make you a great nation.

Genesis 46: 2-3

To the Parent:

In chapter 5 your child learned to:

- Summarize key events in the stories of Jacob and Joseph
- Give examples of how God remained faithful to Jacob and Joseph
- Identify the good qualities of Jacob and Joseph

Individuals who carry out God’s saving plan in history are rarely the sort of people whom other people see as obvious “winners.” God entrusts this cause on Earth to the weak, the powerless, and the obscure, rather than to the great, the powerful and the strong. As a result, Scripture is full of stories with “surprise” endings—stories of victories won by people whom everyone expects to lose over people who everyone expects to win. In this way, God shows that his human agents achieve what they do only by divine favor, not by their own merits. Such stories are meant to encourage us to rely on God and not ourselves.

With Your Child:

1. Family life needs a lot of love and sacrifice for things to go smoothly. This week try to accept criticism, or other problems that come your way, in a loving manner.
2. Joseph and his brothers became good friends despite a rocky start. Make a list of the things family members can do to show better cooperation. Then ask that each family member choose one that he or she can work on.
3. Read about Saint John Bosco on the Review and Explore page.