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# Bethel Gospel Tabernacle



## C.A.R.E. SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

# C.A.R.E. Study Material

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# Book of Genesis

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*And daily in the temple, and in every house,  
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*  
(Acts 5:42 (KJV))



For more information on the C.A.R.E. Ministry  
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**C**hrist-Like **A**pproach in **R**eaching **E**veryone  
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**Notes**

# 1. Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

Light and dark, animals and fish, plants and people all pleased the God of the universe as the work of his hands. God took a week to lay out the foundation of the world. Then he placed his stamp of approval on every part.

## **OPEN**

1. What makes beginning a new project, job, school year, or relationship so exciting?
2. How does it make you feel when you have created something or when you have completed a big project?

## **EXPLORE**

3. How did the author describe the earth at the beginning of creation? (1:1-2)
4. What important events did the author describe in these verses? (1:1-2:3)
5. What did God create on the sixth day of creation? (1:24-26)
6. How did God create man? (1:26-27)
7. What instructions did God give the man and woman after he created them? (1:28)

## **GET IT**

8. What does the creation story tell us about humankind?
9. What have you learned from this passage about your worth?

## **APPLY**

10. What do you want to remember the next time you are feeling worthless or useless?

## 2. Genesis 2:4 - 3:24

The snake had a sinister scheme for bringing down Adam and Eve. They did not see the temptation coming, but it changed their lives and the lives of their descendants for all time. Their story remains a warning to everyone.

### **OPEN**

1. What makes forbidden desires so tempting?

### **EXPLORE**

2. For what purpose did God put man in the Garden of Eden? (2:8, 15)
3. What command did God give man? (2:16-17)
4. How did God create woman, and what was Adam's response to her? (2:21-23)
5. What did the serpent ask the woman, and how did she respond? (3:1-3)
6. What happened when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit? (3:6-7)

### **GET IT**

7. How is it significant that God created man and breathed into him the breath of life?
8. What is the problem with having knowledge of good and evil?
9. What do these verses tell us about temptation and how to resist it?

### **APPLY**

10. How can you become wiser about the schemes of the devil?

### 3. Genesis 4:1 - 5:32

Sibling rivalry tore Adam and Eve's family apart. Cain chose his own way to sacrifice to God and his own way to deal with his brother. His choices led to disaster. Ever since then, humankind has faced the same choice: God's way or their own.

#### **OPEN**

1. How did you and your siblings get along when you were young? (Think of neighborhood kids if you did not have any siblings.)

#### **EXPLORE**

2. What sins were committed for the first time at this point in history? (4:1–5:32)
3. What did Cain and Abel offer to God? (4:3-4)
4. How did God react to Cain's and Abel's offerings? (4:4-5)
5. What did Cain do? (4:8)
6. How did God punish Cain for his sin? (4:10-16)

#### **GET IT**

7. Why are family relationships more intense than other relationships?
8. What positive or negative effect have your parents' lifestyle had on you?
9. What lessons can we learn from Cain's action and subsequent punishment?

#### **APPLY**

10. What temptation will you ask God to help you resist?

## 4. Genesis 6:1 – 8:22

The world had become a very wicked place. It was so wicked that God grieved over it. Noah was the only person who followed God and lived an upright life. God turned to this man to build an ark to save the righteous few from judgment. This small group would be the start of a new and hopefully better society.

### **OPEN**

1. What do you find most disturbing about society today?

### **EXPLORE**

2. Why did God limit life to a hundred and twenty years? (6:1-3)
3. Why did God say he would wipe humankind off the face of the earth? (6:5-7)
4. What kind of man was Noah? (6:8-10)
5. Why did God tell Noah he was allowed to enter the ark? (7:1)
6. Why did God tell Noah to bring the animals off the ark? (8:15-17)

### **GET IT**

7. How does Noah's world compare to our society?
8. Who is someone you know whom you would describe as blameless?
9. How can we maintain a blameless reputation?

### **APPLY**

10. What is one thing you can do to cultivate a blameless reputation among your coworkers or neighbors?



## 5. Genesis 9:1 – 10:32

The first issue God addressed after the Flood is the sacred quality of human life. God had made humans in his own image, and he demanded that image be protected from all kinds of violence.

### **OPEN**

1. What do you think is appropriate or inappropriate about capital punishment?

### **EXPLORE**

2. What different types of people are described in these verses? (9:1–10:32)
3. What did God give to Noah and his sons? (9:2-3)
4. For what did God say he would demand an accounting? (9:4-6)
5. What was the covenant that God established with Noah? (9:8-17)

### **GET IT**

6. Why do you think God instituted capital punishment?
7. What is the connection between capital punishment and the image of God?
8. What are the significant elements in the covenant between God and Noah?
9. What does the rainbow signify?

### **APPLY**

10. What can you do today to acknowledge the fact that all people are created in the image of God?

## 6. Genesis 11:1-32

Noah's descendants believed their accomplishments would make them famous. They would make the tallest of towers. Instead of glorifying and worshiping the God who had created everything, including the tallest of mountains and even their own ingenuity, they were honoring the work of their hands and ultimately themselves. By confusing them with different languages, God reminded them who was in control and who could give meaning to their lives.

### **OPEN**

1. How much do you know about any foreign language?
2. To what sort of things do people in our society commit themselves in order to find meaning in life?

### **EXPLORE**

3. What did the people in the plain of Shinar in Babylonia set out to do? (11:2-4)
4. What did the people of Shinar hope to accomplish? (11:2-4)
5. What did God see, and what did he say about it? (11:5-6)
6. What did God do, and why did he do it? (11:7-9)

### **GET IT**

7. In what sort of activities do you engage in order to increase your sense of self-worth?
8. With what or whom are you sometimes tempted to replace God in your life?
9. What institutions, activities, or accomplishments compete for our ultimate attention or allegiance?

### **APPLY**

10. What can you do today to find satisfaction in your relationship with God rather than in other people, material objects, or accomplishments?

## 7. Genesis 12:1-20

Abram nobly followed God, leaving his homeland and trusting God each step of the way. That was until he got to Egypt. Fearing for his own survival, Abram stopped trusting in God and started developing schemes to protect himself. His plan was to lie to his neighbors. At the time, Abram thought lying was the only way to save his family. Abram and Sarai both suffered the consequences of his lack of faith.

### **OPEN**

1. When did you leave home for the first time to stay overnight at a friend's house?
2. When you were growing up, what was the biggest lie you got caught telling?

### **EXPLORE**

3. What did Abram tell Sarai to do when they went to Egypt? (12:10-13)
4. Why did Abram tell Sarai to lie? (12:10-13)
5. What happened to Sarai when she arrived in Egypt? (12:14-15)
6. What did Pharaoh do when he discovered that Sarai was Abram's wife? (12:18-20)

### **GET IT**

7. How would you describe the promise God made to Abram?
8. Why do you think Abram thought it was necessary to lie after all that God had promised to do?
9. In what setting do you need to make a greater effort to be honest?

### **APPLY**

10. What can you do to be more honest at home? At work? With your neighbors?

## 8. Genesis 13:1 - 14:24

Abram and Lot discovered that there was not enough land for the two of them. Their herds, their families, and their men could not survive together. Disagreements, arguments, and quarrels were constantly occurring between the two families. Abram honored his relationship with Lot above his own welfare. He gave Lot the choice of the best of the land. By putting relationships above self-interest, Abram avoided conflict with Lot.

### **OPEN**

1. For what sort of things do you find it hard to depend on other people?
2. How do you generally deal with conflicts?

### **EXPLORE**

3. What problem arose between Abram and Lot? (13:5-7)
4. What solution did Abram propose? (13:8-9)
5. How did the author of Genesis describe Sodom? (13:13)
6. What did Abram do when he found out what had happened to Lot? (14:13-16)

### **GET IT**

7. Why is it sometimes hard to get along with family members and other people you love?
8. What lessons can be learned from the way Abram resolved his conflict with Lot?
9. What lessons can be learned from Abram's rescue of Lot?

### **APPLY**

10. What is something specific that you can change about the way you deal with conflict this week?

## 9. Genesis 15:1 – 17:27

God had promised Abram and Sarai a child, but they were uncertain how he would accomplish it. They were very old, beyond the years of childbearing. So Abram and Sarai took matters into their own hands, instead of trusting God's timing. Genuinely trusting God means waiting to see how he will accomplish his promises.

### **OPEN**

1. When have you had a scheme that you concocted backfire on you?

### **EXPLORE**

2. Why did God tell Abram not to be afraid? (15:1)
3. What did Sarai tell Abram to do in light of their childlessness? (16:1-2)
4. How did Sarai respond after Hagar became pregnant? (16:4-6)
5. What happened to Hagar after she fled from Sarai? (16:7-16)
6. What sort of covenant did God establish with Abram? (17:6-8)

### **GET IT**

7. Why is it sometimes hard to trust God?
8. When have you been tempted to take ungodly steps to achieve a godly goal?
9. Why is it sometimes difficult to trust God and his timing in our lives?

### **APPLY**

10. In what difficult area of your life will you ask God to help you trust him?

# 10. Genesis 18:1 – 20:18

Lot and his family lived in a sinful city, Sodom. They had lived in the city for so long that they had become used to the rampant sin in that place. In fact, it was difficult for them to leave the city even when they knew God was going to destroy it. Constant exposure to the sinful ways of those people had desensitized them to how despicable sin really is.

## **OPEN**

1. What is your favorite city or part of the country, and what do you like about it?

## **EXPLORE**

2. How did Sarah respond when God confronted her? (18:13-15)
3. How did Abraham respond to God's plan? (18:16-33)
4. Why did Lot leave Sodom at the last minute? (19:12-22)
5. What did Lot's wife do, and what happened to her? (19:26)
6. What did Lot's daughters do? Why? (19:30-38)

## **GET IT**

7. In what ways do we become hardened to the evil around us?
8. How does our society desensitize people to sinful behavior?
9. How can we avoid falling into the sinful patterns that others consider good or normal?

## **APPLY**

10. What can you do to become a better critic of the world's standards?

# 11. Genesis 21:1 – 23:20

Abraham's son Isaac was the son of God's wonderful promises. Yet one day, God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. The request did not make any sense. Why would God give Abraham a son and then order him to be killed? But Abraham obeyed. In the end, God provided Abraham with an offering, and Isaac went home with his father. Abraham had passed God's test. He had found the strength to trust and obey God.

## **OPEN**

1. What do you think tests people's faith?

## **EXPLORE**

2. How is Abraham depicted in these verses? (21:1–23:20)
3. What happened to Hagar and her son? (21:14-20)
4. How did God test Abraham? (22:1-2)
5. How did Abraham respond to God's test? (22:3-10)
6. What did God tell Abraham he would do because Abraham had not withheld his son? (22:15-18)

## **GET IT**

7. How has God been gracious to you?
8. Why did God ask Abraham to sacrifice his son?
9. When and how has God tested your faith?

## **APPLY**

10. In what area of your life will you ask God to give you the strength to be obedient?

## 12. Genesis 24:1 – 25:18

Abraham's servant had a daunting task: he had to find a wife for Isaac in a strange land. The first place he turned was to God. He asked the God of Abraham for guidance. God answered his prayer and led Abraham's servant to Rebekah. It was not his inquiry to Rebekah, but his inquiry to God, that made all the difference.

### **OPEN**

1. How do people generally choose whom they are going to marry?

### **EXPLORE**

2. What did Abraham make his chief servant promise? (24:1-9)
3. For what did Abraham's servant pray? (24:12-14)
4. How did God answer the servant's prayer? (24:15-25)
5. What did the servant do after God had answered his prayer? (24:26-27)
6. How did Laban respond to what Abraham's servant said? (24:50-51)

### **GET IT**

7. Is it important to marry someone from the same religious, social, and cultural background?  
Why or Why not?

[End of questions]



# 13. Genesis 25:19-34

For Esau, the need of the moment outweighed the long-range consequences of his actions. Because of this he foolishly traded his inheritance for some soup and bread. His impulses kept him from experiencing all of God's blessing.

## **OPEN**

1. When was the last time an impulsive decision got you into trouble?
2. How do television commercials and other advertisements encourage us to act impulsively?

## **EXPLORE**

3. What did Rebekah ask God? Why? (25:22)
4. For what did Esau ask Jacob? Why? (25:29-30)
5. On what condition did Jacob agree to give Esau some stew? (25:31)
6. What was Esau's response to Jacob's condition? (25:32)
7. What was Esau's attitude? (25:34)

## **GET IT**

8. When or under what circumstances do you tend to act on impulse?
9. How can we avoid making rash, impulsive decisions?

## **APPLY**

10. What action can you take this week to help yourself avoid making impulsive decisions?

# 14. Genesis 26:1-35

Isaac feared for his life. Instead of trusting God to keep him safe, he chose to lie to the Philistine king. His father, Abraham, had made a similar mistake when he visited Egypt. Isaac should have learned from his father's mistake. He should have taken his problem to God and trusted the Almighty to keep his family safe. Instead, Isaac ended up suffering the consequences of his tragic decision.

## **OPEN**

1. What are some of the “polite” reasons people have for lying?

## **EXPLORE**

2. What did Isaac do when he arrived in Gerar? Why? (26:7)
3. How did Abimelech find out that Isaac was lying, and what did he do when he found out? (26:8-11)
4. What happened to Isaac, and how did the Philistines respond? (26:12-15)
5. What did Isaac do after his meeting with Abimelech? (26:17-22)
6. What happened to Isaac in Beersheba? (26:23-24)

## **GET IT**

7. Generally, what is your first response to problems?
8. Why do we tend to ask God to help only after exhausting all other alternatives?
9. How have your parents shaped and influenced your life?

## **APPLY**

10. With what problem do you want to ask God to help you?

# 15. Genesis 27:1 – 28:9

God had told Rebekah that Jacob's descendants would be blessed. To hurry God's plan along, Rebekah disguised Jacob as his older brother, Esau, and fooled Isaac into blessing the wrong son. Lies and deception were her plan, but not God's plan. Because she rationalized wrongdoing away, she ran the risk of losing both her sons.

## **OPEN**

1. What was the most outrageous trick you played on your parents when you were growing up?
2. What secrets about themselves do people like to hide?

## **EXPLORE**

3. What did Isaac ask Esau to do? (27:1-4)
4. What did Rebekah do after she heard Isaac talking to Esau? (27:5-10)
5. What was Jacob's initial concern with Rebekah's plan? (27:11-12)
6. What lies did Jacob tell to convince Isaac that he was Esau? (27:19-25)

## **GET IT**

7. Why would a person do wrong in order to accomplish what is right?
8. What excuses do people use to rationalize their sinful behavior?
9. What sinful behavior do you tend to rationalize?

## **APPLY**

10. Who can you ask to hold you accountable when you are tempted to rationalize away your sin?

# 16. Genesis 28:10 - 30:43

God had promised Jacob more descendants than the dust on the earth. Yet he had to work a total of fourteen years for Laban in order to marry Rachel. Jacob had to cultivate patience. He had to wait for God's timing in fulfilling his wonderful promises.

## **OPEN**

1. When you were a child, for what big purchase did you save your allowance or get a part-time job?

## **EXPLORE**

2. Who are the main people in this story, and what was their importance? (28:10–30:43)
3. For what wage did Jacob agree to work for Laban? (29:15-18)
4. What happened after Jacob had worked for Laban seven years? (29:20-30)
5. What did God do for Rachel? (30:22-24)

## **GET IT**

6. What rituals accompany courting and engagement in our society?
7. In what way do our sins catch up with us?
8. How do you generally respond to unanswered prayer?
9. When is it difficult for you to trust God patiently?

## **APPLY**

10. For what unanswered prayer will you ask God to give you the patience to wait for his perfect timing?

# 17. Genesis 31:1 – 36:43

Jacob's family was full of broken relationships. He fled from his brother to find his in-laws, and he fled from his in-laws to confront his brother. For Jacob, finding forgiveness was the first step in reconciling broken relationships.

## **OPEN**

1. Which is harder for you: to ask for forgiveness from someone you have wronged or to forgive someone who has wronged you?
  
2. To whom in your family are you closest and why?

## **EXPLORE**

3. Why did Jacob flee from Laban and return to his native land? (31:1-13)
  
4. How did Jacob prepare for his meeting with Esau? (32:1-21)
  
5. What happened when Jacob met Esau? (33:1-20)
  
6. What happened to Jacob's daughter Dinah, and what did Jacob's sons do about it?

[End of questions]

# 18. Genesis 37:1-36

Joseph not only had big dreams but also the favor of his father. His brothers resented him bitterly for this. They even wanted to kill him for it. But instead they settled on selling him as a slave. Their bitter jealousy caused them to hurt many people, including their own father.

## **OPEN**

1. What do you think is the most powerful emotion? Why?

## **EXPLORE**

2. Why did Israel love Joseph more than his other sons, and how did he show it? (37:3)
3. How did Joseph's brothers treat him? (37:4)
4. What kind of dreams did Joseph have, and how did his brothers respond when he told them about them? (37:5-11)
5. What did Joseph's brothers do to him? (37:23-28)

## **GET IT**

6. Why might a parent favor one child over another?
7. What causes jealousy between siblings?
8. What makes jealousy such a powerful emotion?
9. How should we deal with feelings of jealousy?

## **APPLY**

10. How can you change the way you deal with feelings of jealousy?

# 19. Genesis 38:1-30

Tamar wanted children—children who would comfort and support her in her old age. But her father-in-law, Judah, would not allow her to marry his son, even though Israelite law mandated it. In response, Tamar disguised herself as a prostitute and subsequently became pregnant with Judah's children. By giving in to sexual temptation, Judah not only sinned against God but also created a legacy of familial troubles.

## **OPEN**

1. What makes sex such a powerful advertising theme?
2. What are some of the double standards that exist for men and women in our society?

## **EXPLORE**

3. Who were the main people in this story, and what sort of people were they? (38:1-30)
4. What happened to Judah and Tamar in Timnah? (38:15-19)
5. What did Judah do about his promise? (38:20-23)
6. How did Judah respond when he found out the truth? (38:25-26)

## **GET IT**

7. What intense desires often get people into trouble?
8. What makes sexual sin so tempting?
9. How should we deal with the temptation to engage in sexual immorality?

## **APPLY**

10. What can you do this week to avoid or guard against sexual temptation?

## 20. Genesis 39:1 – 40:23

Joseph was committed to his own purity and integrity. Even though his boss's wife tempted him with sexual favors, he did not give in. He kept his thoughts and actions pure. The immediate consequences for his integrity was prison. But even so, Joseph would not compromise his loyalty to God and his commandments.

### **OPEN**

1. What do most people find tempting?
2. What is your favorite example of “an offer you cannot refuse”?

### **EXPLORE**

3. Who were the main people in these events, and what kind of people were they?  
Examine each character. What can you learn from each?

[End of questions]



## 21. Genesis 41:1-57

Joseph spent two years in prison, but during his time there he searched for opportunities to serve others, including his fellow prisoners. Through his assistance of one of them, he eventually was not only freed but asked to serve the king. Joseph became a ruler in a foreign land through an opportunity many would have deemed insignificant.

### **OPEN**

1. Why are people so fascinated by dreams and dream interpretation?
2. How would you describe success?

### **EXPLORE**

3. What did Pharaoh dream? (41:1-7)
4. What were the significant events in this chapter? (41:1-57)
5. What did Pharaoh say to Joseph, and how did Joseph respond? (41:15-16)
6. What did Joseph tell Pharaoh he should do in light of his dreams? (41:33-36)
7. What did Pharaoh do in response to Joseph's advice? (41:37-45)

### **GET IT**

8. How would you describe Joseph's eleven year climb to the top?
9. What should we do to prepare for unexpected opportunities to serve?

### **APPLY**

10. What will you do to prepare yourself for unexpected opportunities to serve God?

## 22. Genesis 42:1 – 45:28

Joseph's brothers knew they needed food, but they did not know they would have to face their long-lost brother to get it. Maybe that is why they did not recognize Joseph. They had sold him as a slave, years ago. Why would he be a ruler in Egypt? Fortunately for them, Joseph chose to forgive the men who had wronged him greatly.

### **OPEN**

1. What is difficult about asking for forgiveness or forgiving someone?

### **EXPLORE**

2. Who went to Egypt, and why did they go? (42:1-5)
3. What did Joseph do when he recognized his brothers? (42:6-26)
4. When and why did Joseph finally make himself known to his brothers? (45:1-2)
5. What did Joseph tell his brothers when he revealed who he was? (45:3-13)
6. What did Joseph do after he told his brothers who he was? (45:14-15)

### **GET IT**

7. Why did Joseph test his brothers?
8. When has God used the bad intentions or bad actions of others to bring about good?
9. Why is it hard to forgive someone who has wronged you?

### **APPLY**

10. How can you express forgiveness to someone who has wronged you?

## 23. Genesis 46:1 – 47:27

Jacob packed his belongings and his sixty-six family members in order to move to Egypt. His long-lost son, Joseph, was alive. Jacob was finally going to see him. The family reunion in Goshen was filled with joy and tears of happiness. God had engineered this joyful reunion, in spite of their sin.

### **OPEN**

1. What makes family relationships both difficult and rewarding?
2. Who is someone you have not seen in a long time that you would like to see?

### **EXPLORE**

3. What did Jacob do when he reached Beersheba? (46:1)
4. What are the significant events described in these verses? (46:1–47:27)
5. What did God tell Jacob? (46:2-4)
6. What happened when Jacob arrived in Egypt? (46:28-30)

### **GET IT**

7. When do you turn to God for reassurance?
8. What makes moving away from home so difficult?
9. How do you feel when you see someone whom you have not seen in a long time?

### **APPLY**

10. What family member or friend whom you have not talked to for a long time will you call or write this week?

## 24. Genesis 47:28 – 48:22

Jacob made Joseph promise to bury him in Canaan. He then repeated the request to all his sons. While it might have been easier to do otherwise, Joseph and his brothers kept their promises and fulfilled their father's wishes. They brought their father's body back to Canaan and buried him there.

### **OPEN**

1. What is the most important promise you have made?
2. What promises do people tend not to take seriously?

### **EXPLORE**

3. What happened when the time for Jacob to die drew near? (47:28-31)
4. What did Joseph do when he heard that his father was ill? (48:1-2)
5. What did Jacob tell Joseph, and what responsibility did he give him? (48:21-22)

### **GET IT**

6. What rituals go along with significant promises in our society?
7. Why is it important to keep one's promises?
8. When is it easy to keep promises, and when is it easy to break them?
9. What becomes important to a person who knows he or she is going to die soon?

### **APPLY**

10. What promise that has become difficult to keep will you publicly commit yourself to keeping?

## 25. Genesis 49:1-33

Jacob knew he was dying and so he called his sons together to speak to them. They listened as he judged their abilities and their weaknesses, their productivity and their wasted efforts. Then he died and left them to face their own lives. He left them to decide whether they would correct their errors or continue blindly down the paths they had chosen.

### **OPEN**

1. Why do children from the same parents, growing up in the same home, often turn out to be very different?
2. When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

### **EXPLORE**

3. What did Jacob do before he died? (49:1-2)
4. What did Jacob say about Reuben? (49:3-4)
5. What did Jacob say concerning Judah? (49:8-12)
6. What did Jacob say about Joseph? (49:22-26)

### **GET IT**

7. What is the relationship between how Jacob's sons lived their lives and what Jacob said would happen to them?
8. What do these verses tell us about the consequences that result from the choices we make?
9. How can we avoid wasting our lives and squandering our potential?

### **APPLY**

10. What is one change you can make to avoid wasting or squandering your potential?

## 26. Genesis 50:1-26

Although Jacob's family was far from perfect, they had learned to keep their promises. Joseph and his brothers fulfilled their promise to their father. On his deathbed, Joseph made his brothers promise that they would take his bones to Palestine when they returned. This was quite a promise because many years—even generations—would pass before they would leave Egypt again. But when they did, it was a promise that was kept.

### **OPEN**

1. If you were going to die today, what would be your last request?
2. What is the hardest promise you have had to keep?

### **EXPLORE**

3. What did Joseph do when his father died? (50:1-3)
4. What is the theme of this chapter, and what was the theme of the entire book of Genesis? (50:1-26)
5. What did Joseph ask Pharaoh? (50:4-5)
6. How did Joseph respond to his brothers? (50:19-21)
7. What did Joseph do when he was about to die? (50:22-25)

### **GET IT**

8. Why is it important to keep one's promises even when it is inconvenient or difficult to do so?
9. What makes forgiving someone who has wronged us so difficult?

### **APPLY**

10. What promise do you want to fulfill this week? How?

