



Claim God's Mercy

God is kind and we should be too.

Scripture Words

It is good for families to live together happily.
—Psalm 133 adapted

Here We Come!

Have outlines available of people in assorted sizes for the children to decorate to represent people in their family and extended family. Provide bulletin board space and push pins. Ask the children to tell which family member is which as they place them on the board. Talk about the assortment of people represented by class members.

Scripture Words and Worship

Be sensitive to the family structures in which the children participate. Families have become diverse in membership, and each has a place. Talk about happy things families like to do together. The words for the scripture verse can be printed on outlines representing different people in the family.

Story Talking

Give each child a copy of the rabbit family (page 50). As they color, talk about things that help make families strong. Include things like hugs, sharing, being a good listener, patience, doing your part of the work, being responsible, and thinking about what's best for the other person.

Moving Music

- "Grab Another Hand"

Grab Another Hand

Source Unknown



1. Grab on - other hand, grab a hand next to ya, Grab — an - other



hand and sing this song. Grab an - other hand, grab a hand next to ya, Grab



— an - other hand and sing. — sing this song, A - lo, lo, lo, lo, lo,



— lo, a, lo, lo, A - lo, lo, lo, lo, lo, lo, — lo, lo, lo, A - lo, lo, lo,



lo, lo, lo, — lo, lo, lo, lo, A - lo, a, lo, lo, lo, lo, — Lo, lo, lo, lo.

2. Shake another hand, shake a hand next to ya, etc.
3. Clap another hand, clap a hand next to ya, etc.
4. Raise another hand, raise a hand next to ya, etc.
5. Hug another friend, hug a friend next to ya, etc.
6. Scratch another back, scratch a back next to ya, etc.
7. Tweak another cheek, tweak the cheek next to ya, etc.

Live and Learn

The story of Joseph in Egypt spans many years. In the segment today, the focus is on reuniting with family and the joy it brings. The text can be found in Genesis 45:1–15.

- Many years had passed since Joseph was sold to the traders headed for Egypt. He was much older now, and his looks had changed with age. Joseph had worked hard and become an important person to Pharaoh, the ruler of the land.
- Back in the land where his family lived, there was a great famine. The rain had not come and the crops dried up. There was no food to eat. Joseph's family was hungry and didn't know what to do.
- "I hear there is food in Egypt," one of the brothers said.
- "Then go there and get some for us," Israel said.
- Joseph's brothers traveled a long way. When they came to Egypt, they asked to buy food. They were taken to the person in charge of all the food. It was their own brother, Joseph! Because it had been so many years since they last saw him, his brothers didn't recognize him.
- Finally Joseph couldn't stand it any longer. "I am your brother, Joseph," he told them.
- Joseph's brothers were so shocked they couldn't speak.
- But Joseph smiled at them. "Don't be afraid. I'm not angry about what you did to me. What you meant for ill, God has used for good. I forgive you because I love you."
- The brothers were so ashamed they couldn't look at Joseph. But Joseph had questions for them. "Tell me about my father. Is he still alive and well? How is the rest of the family?"
- The brothers and Joseph talked and talked.
- Then Joseph told them they had something to do. "You must go back home and bring the rest of the family down to Egypt. There is food here, and it will be a long time before the famine ends."
- The brothers couldn't believe how kind Joseph was being to them after they had treated him so badly.
- "Go now. Go quickly," he said. "I can hardly wait to see my family again. Tell my father I am alive and well and have an important job here in Egypt. I will be able to take care of all of you."
- The brothers were happy. Joseph was happy. And soon Israel would be happy too.

Sense-ations

It's hard to believe members of the family wouldn't recognize each other, even in a disguise. Provide an assortment of dress-up clothes for the children to play in. Can they fool other classmates? How do the clothes change their appearance? Would their families still know them?

Up and at 'Em

Take a walk from Canaan to Egypt. Use the inside or outside of the church for the path.

There We Go

Encourage children to give each family member a hug, and tell them what they learned about families.

