

Joseph Goes to Jail

Joseph's Story

Genesis 39

Bible Point

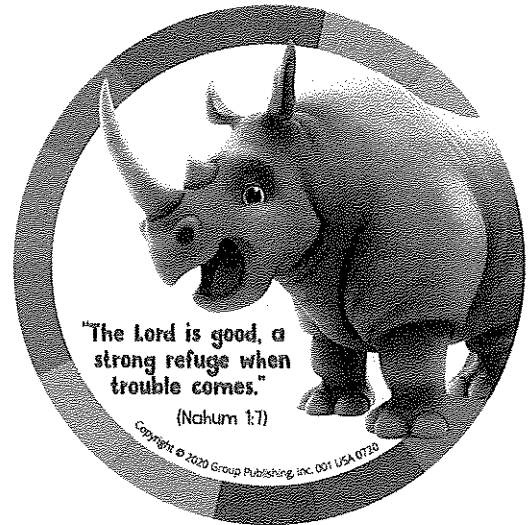
God is good no matter what.

Purpose

Remember a time everything seemed to be going wrong...and then something good came from it? Maybe you lost an important paper only to find it with a treasured photograph you hadn't seen in ages. Or maybe you were just in a crummy mood and one person's act of kindness turned your day around. God has a way of turning bad into good; God's goodness never changes, despite life's ups and downs.

Joseph's life definitely had its ups and downs. But God never left him, whether it was during Joseph's time as a cherished son, a tormented brother, a servant, or even a prisoner. One thing never changed: God's goodness. And while bad things still happen in our lives, as they did to Joseph, God is working for our good according to his plan.

Young children understand difficulty. They know what it's like to be frustrated, angry, mad, left out, or sick. What might be more difficult for them to understand is that God is always good, even when circumstances around us aren't. Stories like Joseph's are a wonderful way to help children understand that while our circumstances change, God does not. He is always good.



Prayer

God, you are so good. Whether we rejoice or weep, you remain steadfast, our refuge and source of joy. Thanks for filling me up with your joy so I can share it with kids today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prep

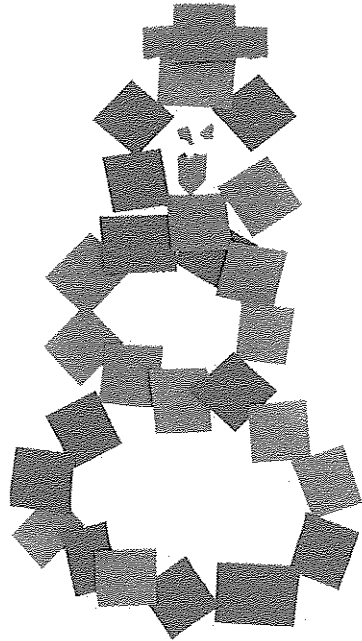
Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Goodbye Circle	Apply-It Options
<input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Paper Snowman</i> : scraps of colorful paper <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Super Play Dough</i> : play dough	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music CD</i> * <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music Video DVD</i> * <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Buddy Video DVD</i> * <input type="checkbox"/> Mack Bible Memory Buddy Poster* <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Nahum 1:7)	<input type="checkbox"/> "Joseph Goes to Jail" Bible Story poster* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music CD</i> * <input type="checkbox"/> Mack Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Genesis 39:5-6, 19-23)	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i> : no supplies <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Food-n-Friendship</i> : snack, napkins, hand cleanser, <i>Music CD</i> *, media player <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Coloring Creation</i> : "Joseph Goes to Jail" Coloring Creation pages* (1 per child), crayons, glue sticks, heart stickers, <i>Music CD</i> *, media player

* in your **Simply Loved Kit**



Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart these Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together!



Paper Snowman

Supplies

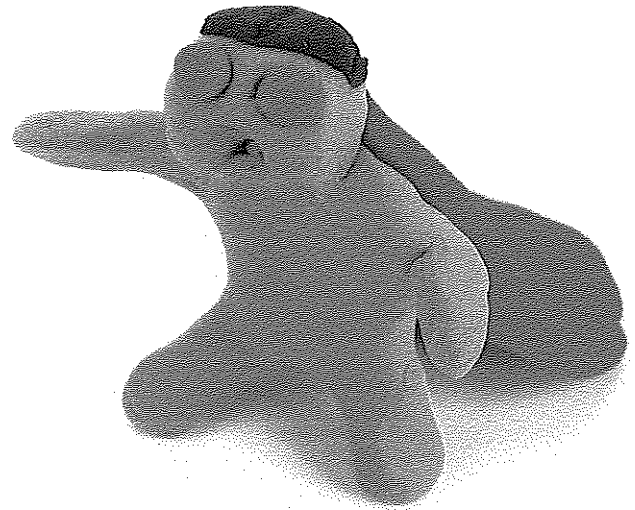
- scraps of colorful paper

Set the scraps of paper on the table.

Use the paper scraps to form a snowman.

? Tell about a time you were very cold.

Brrr! We usually build snowmen when it's cold outside. Whether it's hot or cold, summer or winter, God is good no matter what. God is always the same, and he always loves us.



Super Play Dough

Supplies

- play dough

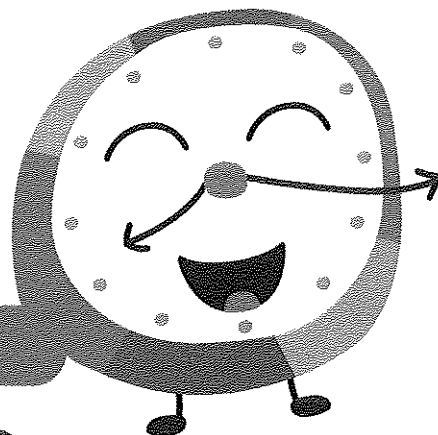
Form play dough into superheroes.

? If you were a superhero, what power would you want? Why?

We might not have superpowers, but God does. And God always uses his power for good. God is good no matter what.

Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



"The Cleanup Song" (*Music CD track 1*)

Help kids transition by cleaning up before sitting with their Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a smaller group of kids with one Crew Guide.

Sing & Play

Welcome

Hello, friends! I'm so glad you're here today. Let's sing our welcome song.



"Hello, My Friends" (*Music CD track 2*)

Let's say hello to our Crew Guides. They're our go-to friends who are here to have fun and learn along with us.

- Kids give their Crew Guides an elbow bump.

Bible Point

Today's Bible Point is **God is good no matter what**. Every time you hear the words **"God is good,"** pump your fist in the air and shout, **"no matter what!"** Let's try that together. Repeat several times.

God is good all the time! Will you say this rhyme with me? I'll say a line, then you repeat after me.

One, two, three, (*count on fingers*)
God is good to me. (*point to yourself*)
Four, five, six, (*count on fingers*)
God's goodness always sticks. (*clasp hands together*)
Seven, eight, nine, (*count on fingers*)
God is good all the time. (*two thumbs-up*)
God is good (*"no matter what!" and pump fist in the air*)

Let's do that again! Repeat several times.

Supplies

- Bible
- Music CD
 - "Hello, My Friends"
- Music Video DVD
 - "God Is Good" music video
 - "Good in Every Way" music video
- Buddy Video DVD
 - Mack Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 2)
- media player
- Mack Bible Memory Buddy poster



...no matter what!

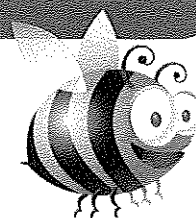
Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with "...no matter what!"

Now let's sing a song to thank God for his goodness!

 "God Is Good" music video

Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

It's time to talk to our bee friend. His name's Buzzly. Buzzly will tell us about a Bible Memory Buddy friend. Let's call for Buzzly.




- Flap hands quickly like a bee.
- Make buzzing sounds.

 Mack Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 2)

God is good (*no matter what!*), and he created lots of good things in our world—like Mack, our Bible Memory Buddy.

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster.
- Explain that Mack is rhino. Even though they are big animals, rhinos can run fast.
- Invite kids to pretend to run in place, getting faster and faster, then slower and slower, until they are still again.

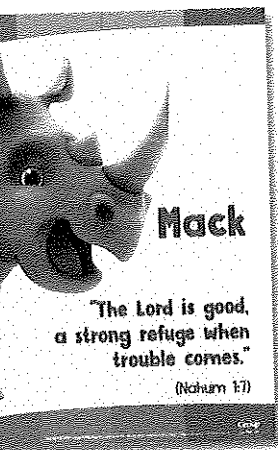
Mack helps us remember that God is good (*no matter what!*).


 Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love. Our Bible Memory Verse comes from the Bible. Let's say our Bible verse together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.**

"The Lord is good, (*put hands over heart*)
a strong refuge (*place hands over head to make a roof*)
when trouble comes." (*hand over brow, peering into distance*)
 (Nahum 1:7)

Wow! This means no matter what's happening around us or how happy or sad we feel, God is good (*no matter what!*). He never changes. God is good in every way. Let's sing a song about that now.

 "Good in Every Way" music video



 Read the verses from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. Don't worry—we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.

Bible Discovery


God is good (*no matter what!*). Hold up a Bible. **Today our Bible story tells us that no matter what's happening, God is always good. He can turn anything bad into good! Let's talk in our Connect Crews.**

- Get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- ❓ **How has God been good to you?** Share an example from your own life, then invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

God is good (*no matter what!*). **We're going to hear about a man from the Bible named Joseph. He had lots of problems, including being forced to become a servant for a very rich man. The rich man's name was Potiphar. Do this with me.**

- Pretend to be servants by standing, bowing, and saying, "At your service!"

Even though Joseph had to be a servant, he was still very good at whatever he did. Let's read about what a good servant Joseph was.

 Read aloud Genesis 39:5-6.

Even though Joseph had to be a servant for Potiphar, God helped Joseph do a good job. Potiphar really liked and trusted Joseph, so Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole house. Do this with me.

- Pretend to feed livestock.
- Pretend to water the crops.
- Pretend to serve food.

God is good (*no matter what!*). **God was with Joseph when he had to be a servant. And he helped Joseph be the very best at what he did.**

- ❓ **What are you good at? Shout it out for me to hear.** Invite a few responses from the whole group.

Joseph was a hard worker. He did the right thing, even when people tried to get him to do wrong things. And that made Potiphar's wife *very mad...very, very mad.*

- Have kids stand up in their Connect Crews and walk in a circle, stomping their feet, looking angry, and wagging their fingers. Then have everyone sit.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Joseph Goes to Jail" Bible Story poster

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

Welcome a few responses. Be sure to summarize what kids say so everyone can hear.

Potiphar's wife got Joseph in trouble for something he didn't do. Potiphar believed his wife instead of Joseph, and Joseph had to go to jail. Let's read about it.

 Read aloud Genesis 39:19-20.

- Choose an area in your room to be "jail."
- Have kids all pretend to go inside a jail cell. Lock the "door" and toss the "key" over your shoulder.

Oh, this is bad for Joseph. He's stuck in jail now for something he didn't do. Let's look at our Bible Story poster.

- Show the "Joseph Goes to Jail" Bible Story poster.
- Identify the jail, the stairs, the light, and Joseph.
- ❓ **What do you think would be the hardest part about being in jail?** Invite a few responses from the whole group.

Joseph was in trouble for something he didn't do. Has that ever happened to you? Let's circle up and talk about it in our Connect Crews.

- ❓ **Have you ever been in trouble for something you didn't do? What happened?** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Give Crews a few minutes to talk.

Jail was bad. But God is good (no matter what!). Even though things were bad for Joseph, God was still good. God never forgot Joseph, and Joseph was never alone. In fact, God helped things go really well for Joseph in jail, too. Let's read about the good things that happened to Joseph when he was in jail.

 Read aloud Genesis 39:21-23.

God is good (no matter what!). No matter what Joseph went through, God turned bad things into good. God loved Joseph and wanted the best for him.

Let's sing a fun song to remind us that God is good (no matter what!).

Sing to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

Joseph had to go to jail, go to jail, go to jail. (pretend to rub eyes as if crying)

Joseph had to go to jail, (pretend to rub eyes as if crying)

But God was good. (thumbs-up)

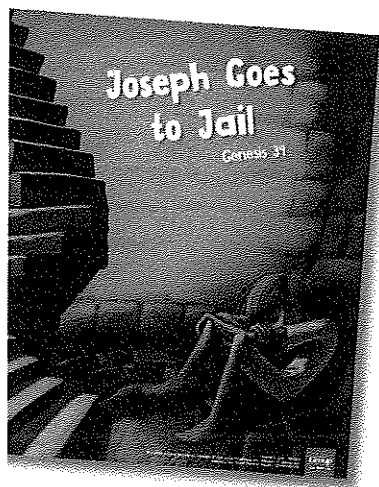
God never went away, went away, went away. (shake head "no")

God never went away. (shake head "no")

God was so good. (thumbs-up)

God is good (no matter what!). Let's celebrate God's goodness with a parade.

- Have kids leave the "jail" and follow you around the room as you celebrate, skip, jump, and march.
- Repeat the Bible Point as you move to different places, then transition to your next activity.



Young children love repetition, and they learn better when they hear, see, and do something frequently. So don't be shy about repeating yourself!

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one or more that fit your time frame to support today's Bible discoveries before the closing Goodbye Circle.

Apply-It Options

Choose one—or all—of these activities to support kids' learning after Bible Discovery.

Game

Have children lie on the floor and play this version of Sleeping Lions.

- Children pretend to sleep and can't move or open their eyes while you carefully tiptoe around them.
- If a child suspects you're near, he or she can reach out and tag you to trade places. Then you become a sleeping lion.
- If a child misses you, he or she must sit up while the game continues until no more sleeping lions are left.

❓ What did you like about being a sleeping lion?

God is good (no matter what!). Sometimes surprising things happen. Sometimes we're wrong or we have to sit out. But no matter what, God is always with us and wants the best for us. Even when things seem hard, we can trust God. He is always good.



Food-n-Friendship

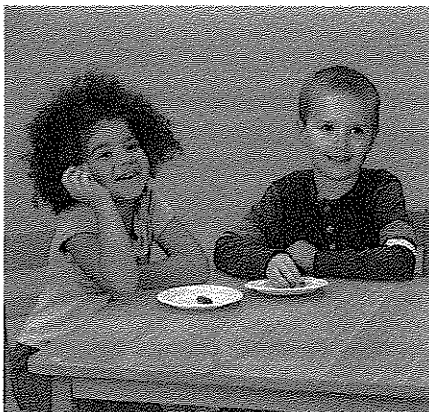
Supplies: snack, napkins, hand cleanser, *Music CD*, media player

- Give a napkin to a friend and say, **"God is good no matter what!"**

 **"God, You Are So Good"**
(*Music CD track 3*)

- Eat snack together.
- ❓ **When we pray, we talk with God. Who has something we can talk with God about?**
- Pray together.

God is good (no matter what!). He sticks with us no matter what. Let's stick by our friends by cleaning up their snacks!




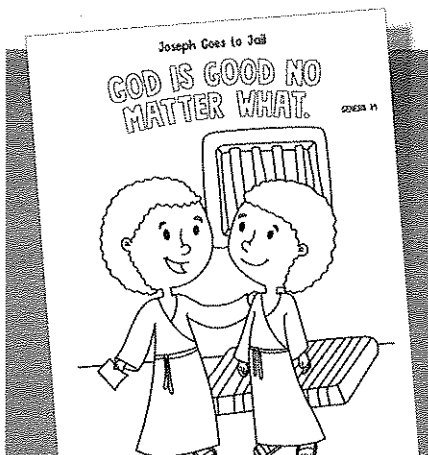
Coloring Creation

Supplies: "Joseph Goes to Jail" Coloring Creation pages (1 per child), crayons, glue sticks, heart stickers, *Music CD*, media player

God is good (no matter what!). When we're happy or sad, God is always with us. Just like he helped Joseph, God helps us get through anything.

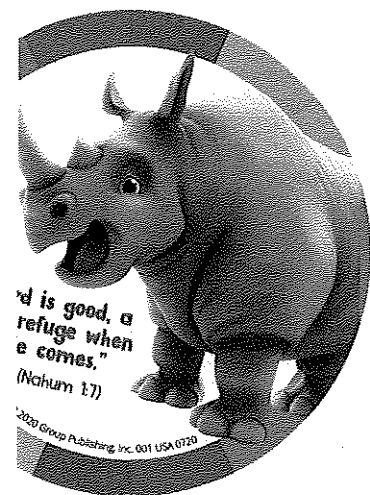
- Review the Bible story as you look at the picture.
- Color the picture.
- Attach a heart sticker near Joseph to show that God's love was with him.
- Play music as kids create.

 **"He Is Good"**
(*Nahum 1:7*)
(*Music CD track 5*)



Supplies

- Music CD
 - "Goodbye, My Friends"
 - "He Is Good" (Nahum 1:7)
- media player
- Mack Bible Memory Buddy stickers (1 per child)



Saying each child's name in a loving way helps kids simply experience God's love through you!

Goodbye Circle

It's almost time to say goodbye! Let's sing our goodbye song as we join hands and make one big circle!



"Goodbye, My Friends" (Music CD track 4)

God is good (no matter what!). The Bible tells us about Joseph—and lots of other people, too—who lived through bad things. But God stayed the same: He loved them and helped them no matter what was happening. And God is so good, he sent his Son, Jesus, to be our forever friend. Do this with me.

One, two, three, (count on fingers)

Jesus is friends with me. (point to yourself)

Four, five, six, (count on fingers)

Jesus' friendship always sticks. (clasp hands together)

Seven, eight, nine, (count on fingers)

Jesus loves me all the time. (two thumbs-up)

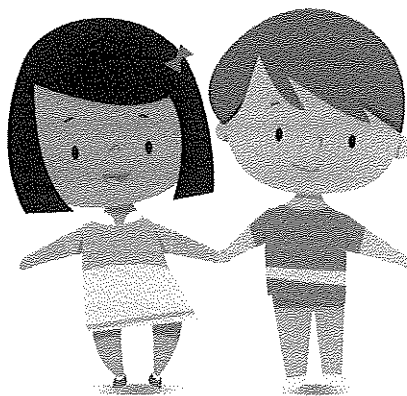
God is good ("no matter what!" and pump fist in the air)

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster, and remind kids that Mack helps us remember **God is good** (no matter what!).
- Invite Crew Guides to give each child a Mack sticker to wear or take home. Have kids give Crew Guides a low-five, and have Crew Guides give each child a sticker in return. As they give one to each child, have them say, "[Child's name], **God is good no matter what!**"



"He Is Good" (Nahum 1:7) (Music CD track 5)

- Do Bible Memory Verse motions and move to the music!



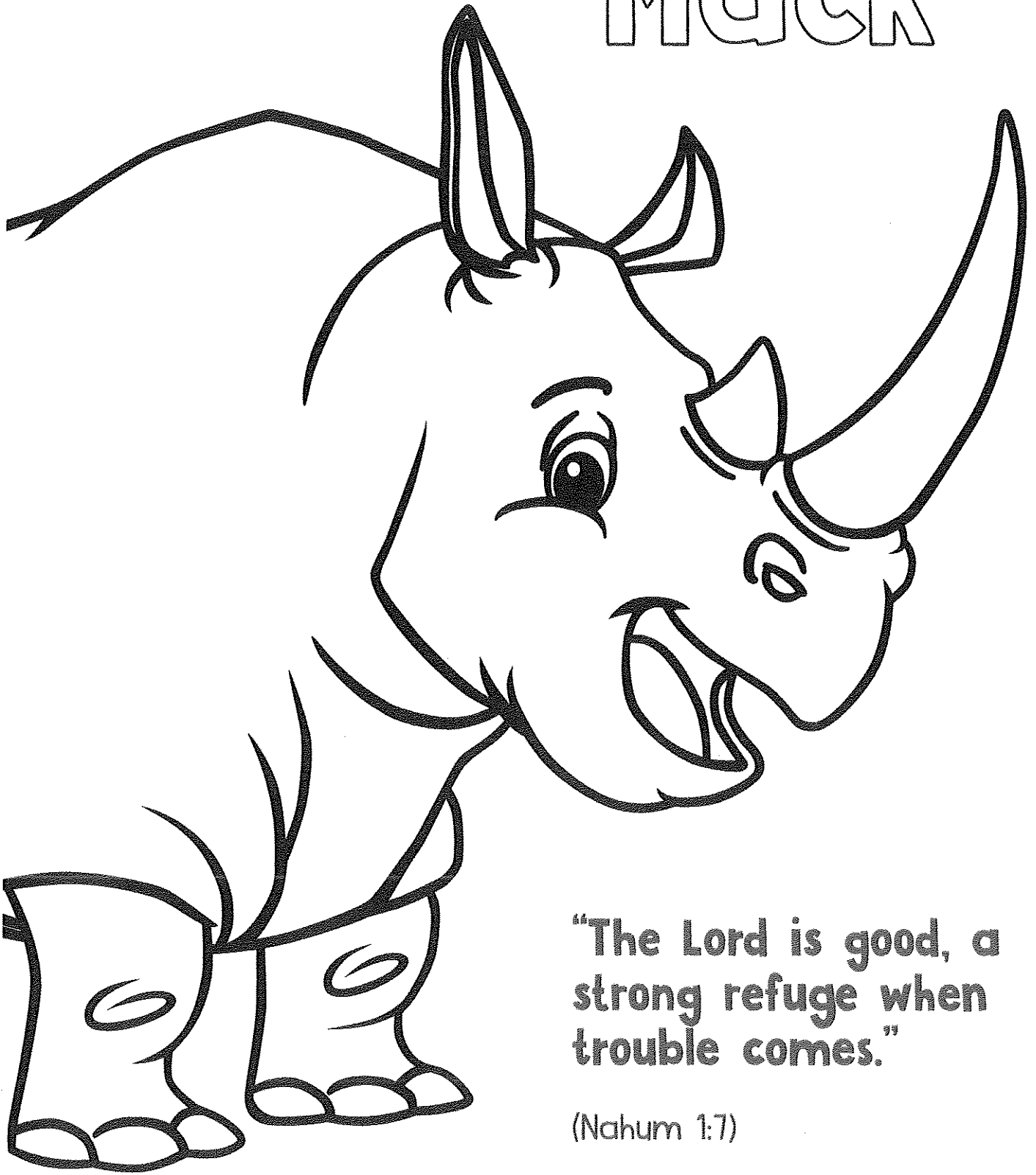
Joseph Goes to Jail

GOD IS GOOD NO MATTER WHAT.

GENESIS 39



Mack



**"The Lord is good, a
strong refuge when
trouble comes."**

(Nahum 1:7)

