Mourning

Read Genesis 50:1-6

- 1 Joseph threw himself on his father and wept over him and kissed him.
- **2** Then Joseph told the physicians who served him to embalm his father's body; so, Jacob was embalmed.
- **3** The embalming process took the usual forty days. And the Egyptians mourned his death for seventy days.
- **4** When the period of mourning was over, Joseph approached Pharaoh's advisers and said, "Please do me this favor and speak to Pharaoh on my behalf.
- **5** Tell him that my father made me swear an oath. He said to me, 'Listen, I am about to die. Take my body back to the land of Canaan, and bury me in the tomb I prepared for myself.' So please allow me to go and bury my father. After his burial, I will return without delay."
- **6** Pharaoh agreed to Joseph's request. "Go and bury your father, as he made you promise," he said.

When his father died, what did Joseph do (v. 1)? He hugged his father and kissed him and cried over him. Joseph was very sad that his father had died.

What did Joseph tell the doctors to do (v. 2)? He told them to wrap up and preserve Jacob's body to get ready for the funeral.

How long did that take (v. 3)? Forty days

How long did the Egyptians mourn Jacob' death? Seventy days.

Why do you think the Egyptians mourned Jacob's death since he was Jewish and they were Gentiles? This shows the great respect the Egyptians had for Joseph but also for Jacob because he was Joseph's father.

When the period of mourning was over, what did Joseph do next (v. 4)? He talked to Pharaoh's advisors and explained the dying wishes of his father. He gave them a message for Pharaoh.

What message did Joseph ask Pharaoh's advisers to take to Pharaoh (v. 5)? Ask Pharaoh if he could go back to the Promised Land of Canaan and bury his father in their special family cave. Then he would come back to Egypt.

What did Pharaoh say (v. 6)? You can go since you promised your father you would take his body back home.