

## CONGREGATIONAL SERMON NOTES

I now invite our young children to come and sit in the first pew in front of me. GRACE & MERCY to our Bethlehem adults—and to you, our young children, from **God our Father** and from our **Lord Jesus** on this **New Year's Day 2025!!!**

This morning children I am going to preach what you can easily understand, and I am going to start by asking you two questions.

1. **WHAT IS TODAY CALLED?**
2. **WERE YOU HAPPY WITH THE GIFTS YOU GOT AT CHRISTMAS?**
3. Good—and if you listen real carefully to what I have to say, there will be a NEW YEAR's gift for you before you leave church today.

The adults who brought you to church today will want to know what I call my sermon today! It has two titles:

**JACOB'S VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION WITH HIS SON JOSEPH**

GENESIS 46:29

&

**THE VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION OF JACOB'S TWELVE SONS,  
WHO ARE CALLED JOSEPH & HIS ELEVEN [11] BROTHERS**

GENESIS 50:15-21

Well, let's first hear the story about **Jacob** and his New Year's **happy** celebration with his son **Joseph**!


1. Do you children like Storytime? Well, here's the story the Bible tells us about Jacob & his son Joseph—also about Jacob's other 11 sons, the brothers of Joseph.
2. **The STORY!!!**
3. Listen to what the Bible now says!

**Joseph hitched up...his chariot and rode to the area of Goshen to meet his father Jacob. When Joseph met his father, he put his arms around his father's neck, and they cried a long time.**

In this NEW YEAR it's great to have parents, grandparents, and friends! Right?

**OVER**

Now let's talk about **Joseph** and his **11 brothers** and their happy New Year's celebration!

1. I know you kids like to be happy. So, let's continue our Storytime.
2. Joseph took care of his father and brothers for several years. His father Jacob finally died when he was ~~147~~ years old.  .
3. Listen to what the Bible now continues to say!

When Joseph's brothers realized their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph is still angry with us and wants to pay us back for all the wrong we did to him?" So they sent a messenger to Joseph to say, "Before your father died, he commanded: 'Tell Joseph, "Please forgive the crime and sin of your brothers; they did wrong to you." ' Please forgive the wrong these servants of my God did against you, Joseph."

Joseph cried when he heard the message his brothers had sent to him.

Later, Joseph's brothers came and bowed down before him. "Look," they said, "we are ready to be your slaves."

Joseph told them. "Do not be afraid!" "Am I God that I should punish you? You meant to do me harm, but God wanted to do good. He wanted...to keep you alive, along with many people. And so do not be afraid! I will take care of you and your children, and I will give you everything you need." So Joseph comforted his brothers and talked to them in a kind way.

4. Closing application!