Dear Children's Church small group leaders,

Thank you for serving the children in Children's Church!!! You will join the children in Grace Park (the large area in the children's building) for worship and the Bible lesson. It will be your responsibility to shepherd them and, if needed, provide redirection during this time so that the leader leading worship or the Bible lesson can focus on leading and engaging the group. Below you will find a schedule for each age group and information about how to use the curriculum for small group time.

Schedule:

11:05ish	Kids dismissed from service	11:30	Small Group time in classrooms
11:05ish	Worship in Grace Park	12ish	Parent Pickup
11:10ish	Bible Lesson in Grace Park		

Using the Curriculum:
We will be utilizing the same curriculum (and hence, Bible passage) for Grace Groups and Children's Church. It's our prayer that this double exposure to the same Bible passage in different ways and by different teachers will allow children to know God's Word better; provide them with the time they need to process its meaning, significance and application for their lives through meaningful interaction and engaging activities; and leave them with a clear takeaway from Sunday morning's ministries.

You'll find the small group curriculum and resources for the Sunday that you're serving in this pdf. A copy of this curriculum and supplies that you request will be provided in your small group bin. This is located on the shelf above the microwave in the children's resource room and is labeled by small group.

NOTE: Please select the activities that you'll need for your group by the Wednesday before you serve. Please contact Jacob (for K-2nd grade classes) or Alicia (for PreK class) no later than 9:00am on Wednesday before you serve to request activities and/or supplies that you'll utilize for your small group time. Please include which memory verse game and lesson review game you'd like to do. The supplies will then be placed in your basket for you to use the coming Sunday.

Elements that should be used in Children's Church Small Group Time:

- ***A hands-on activity or two (e.g., game, craft, coloring page) that are found in this document***: At your request, supplies for the hands-on activity/ies will be gathered for you and placed in the small group bin. You may need to do some minimal, final prep on Sunday before children's church begins
- ***Memory Verse Game****: Instead of using this curriculum's memory verse, please use the small group's Awana verse(s) for the coming week.
- ***Lesson Review Game****: Kids may have already did this in their Grace Group, but you're welcome to do this again in children's church. The reason is that you may choose a different game than they did during Grace Group and/or each child will most likely be answering different questions than they did in Grace Groups. In order to get to the other elements of small group time, you may want to shorten the game by asking fewer questions.
- ***Prayer***: Please pray with your class.

*Lesson Review Games and Memory Verse Games options are found in the appendix located both with the curriculum in the bin for your small group. It's also found at graceplacechurch.org/servekids. Simply click on the button "Memory Verse and Lesson Review Games." If you have another game in mind, you're welcome to use it instead. The Review Questions and hands-on activity/ies that you have selected will be ready for you to use with your small group are found before the appendix in this document.
**Awana verses are found in this pdf and are organized by grade & date.

IMPORTANT: Please prepare in advance!

- Please read the passage (found on the first page of the lesson) and Prepare to Share!
- For all items that you'll need (copies, coloring pages, game supplies, etc…), please inform Jacob (for K-2nd grade classes) or Alicia (for PreK class) of supplies you need by 9 am of Wednesday prior to serving.

Thank you again for serving!

Should you need anything or have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us!
Jacob (405)973-6982
Alicia (808) 386-7067

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Genesis 49



Israel's Blessing

Jacob blesses his sons before his death.

Lesson Focus

God blessed Jacob (Israel) with the land of Goshen where he could move his family and be close to Joseph in Egypt. Near the end of his life, he gave a prophetic blessing to each of his sons concerning their future tribes, but the Savior was promised to Judah's descendants.

Key Passages

Genesis 45:9–10, 49:8–9

Memory Verse

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

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Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

God used a famine to bring Jacob and his family to Egypt where Joseph could provide food for them. God promised Jacob that he would make him into a great nation and bring his descendants back to the land of Canaan (Genesis 46:3–4). Joseph's position enabled him to settle his family in the land of Goshen where they could tend to their flocks and herds. During the remaining years of famine, Joseph provided bread for his family (Genesis 47:12) and sold bread to the Egyptians until they had used up their money and livestock and were forced to sell themselves and their land to Pharaoh.

Jacob lived in Egypt for 17 years. Before he died, he blessed Joseph's sons Manasseh and Ephraim and named them as his own sons, giving Joseph a double portion as his inheritance (Genesis 48:5–6, 48:22). Israel also gave a special blessing to Ephraim, Joseph's younger son, which displeased Joseph (Genesis 48:17–20). God often chose a younger son to receive the blessing of the firstborn, as he did with Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, and Ephraim over Manasseh. This was against the cultural norm of the day.

Israel had more blessings to give, and he called all 12 of his sons to him before his death. The blessings he gave in Genesis 49 are prophetic regarding his sons' future tribes. God revealed many things in Israel's inspired blessing and final words. As he'd done before, God chose a younger son to receive the covenant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In Israel's family, Judah was chosen to receive the promise of the Messiah, to whom belongs "the obedience of the peoples" (Genesis 49:10). Judah's tribe was also chosen to lead as kings. Judah received the leadership of the firstborn, which did not go to Reuben because of his instability and affair with his father's concubine Bilhah (Genesis 49:3–4).

Joseph received a special blessing of fruitfulness and abundance (Genesis 49:22–26). Jacob's other sons also received the blessing of being a part of the nation of Israel, even those who received rebuke for past actions (e.g., Reuben, Simeon, Levi). After giving his blessing, Israel commanded his sons to bury him in the cave at Mamre in the land of Canaan, where Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebekah, and Leah were all buried (Genesis 49:29–32). When Israel died, Joseph had him embalmed, and the Egyptians participated in his mourning and burial procession to Canaan (Genesis 50:1–11). Once Israel was gone, Joseph had to assure his brothers that he would not take revenge on them for how they had wronged him so many years earlier. He believed that God was sovereign despite their evil deeds (Genesis 50:20).

Joseph lived a long life and died at age 110. He was embalmed and buried in Egypt. His final request was for his family to take his bones with them to Canaan when they returned (Genesis 50:25). This request showed his trust in God's promise to Israel that his family would return to the land of Canaan.

During their time in Egypt, the Israelites prospered and multiplied. God was making them into a great nation. But when a new king came to power who did not know Joseph, he feared the Israelites would take over the land. His solution was to enslave the Israelites. He set taskmasters over them and made them serve as builders, farmers, and makers of brick (Exodus 1:8–14). Just as Joseph experienced trials in Egypt, the Israelites were entering a period of trials and suffering that was all part of God's plan.

Historical/Apologetics Background

One question that often arises from Israel's final words to his sons in Genesis 49 is why Reuben, Simeon, and Levi received a rebuke for their past sins while Judah was greatly blessed. Judah received the leadership over his brothers. His descendants would be rulers and lawmakers. He would defeat his enemies and enjoy an abundance of wine (Genesis 49:8–12). But Genesis 38 shows that Judah, like his brothers, was guilty of serious sins. However, there appears to be a difference in how Judah responded to his sin. In Genesis 38:26, Judah recognized his sin, called Tamar more righteous than himself, and did not commit the same sin with her again. Judah's actions during Joseph's test in Egypt also show that he was changed. He took responsibility for Benjamin and offered to take his place as a slave (Genesis

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43:8–10, 44:18). Reuben, on the other hand, did not demonstrate a major change in his conduct. Another thing to consider is that God may choose whomever he wants to accomplish his will. Other great people of faith in the Bible were guilty of terrible sins (Rahab, King David, Paul), but God still used them.

Simeon and Levi were rebuked for the incident in Shechem where they slaughtered men and animals in rage and revenge for their sister Dinah. While the tribe of Levi was scattered throughout Israel as Jacob said (Genesis 49:7), they received the blessing and special privilege of being the firstborn of Israel (Numbers 3:12), the priests dedicated to God and his service (Deuteronomy 10:8–9). This shows God's mercy and how future godly men can influence their descendants. It was the men of Levi during the exodus who showed great zeal for defending the holiness of God in their camp (Exodus 32:26–28). Just as godly men can influence generations for good, so evil men can cause damage to future generations.

A key message in Israel's blessing is that his sons' actions would affect their descendants. The great patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob died without seeing all of God's promises fulfilled, but they had faith and hope that these things would come to pass. The goal of Israel's message to his sons was to encourage them to live their lives in purity and holiness for God and their future generations. They were not meant to remain comfortably in Egypt but to return to Canaan and claim God's promises. However, the growth of the tribes and their enslavement in Egypt were steps in God's perfect plan to prepare the Israelites to be his chosen people, a nation of priests.

Memory Verses For Children's Church (Oct 2026 - Dec 2026)
*Verses are in ESV Translation

Date	3's-PreK	Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade
Oct 18	Jeremiah 10:10 **The LORD is the true God**; He is the living God and the everlasting King. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Psalm 118:1 Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good…	Jeremiah 32:27 Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for Me?	John 1:1-3 In the beginning was the Word [Jesus Christ], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He [Jesus Christ] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.
Oct 25	Psalm 31:14 **But I trust in You, O LORD**; I say, "You are my God. *(Short version is in bold.)*	1 John 4:19 We love because He first loved us.	Proverbs 20:11 Even a child makes himself known by his acts, by whether his conduct is pure and upright.	Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Nov 1	Matthew 4:10 **Worship the Lord your God** and Him only shall you serve. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.	Psalm 23:1-3 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.	Deuteronomy 31:8 It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.
Nov 8	John 10:27 **My sheep hear My voice, and I know them,** and they follow Me. *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:31 And God everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good…	Psalm 23:4-5 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.	Psalm 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
Nov 15	Psalm 100:4 **Enter His gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts with praise… *(Short version is in bold.)*	Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.	Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.	Matthew 19:14 But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
Nov 22	Psalm 100:4 **Enter His gates with thanksgiving**, and his courts with praise… *(Short version is in bold.)*	Genesis 1:1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.	Psalm 23 *For today's memory verse, select one of the above three sections from Psalm 23.*	Luke 19:10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
Nov 29	Isaiah 53:6 **All we like sheep have gone astray**; we have turned — every one — to his own way. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.	Psalm 23 *For today's memory verse, select one of the above three sections from Psalm 23.*	Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Dec 6	Psalm 23:4 … **I will fear no evil, for You are with me**; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Mark 16:15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."	1 John 4:15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

	(Short version is in bold.)			
Dec 13	Luke 1:49 "**For He** who is mighty **has done great things for me**, and holy is His name. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me."	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Romans 5:8 But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
Dec 20	Luke 1:49 "**For He** who is mighty **has done great things for me**, and holy is His name. *(Short version is in bold.)*	John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through Me."	1 Peter 1:25 But the word of the Lord remains forever…	Romans 5:8 But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

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Review Questions

K–1st Review Questions

1. What did Joseph want his father, Jacob, to do? *Move to Egypt.*
2. Why did Joseph want his father and his family to move to Egypt? *So they could be close and taken care of during the famine.*
3. How did Jacob feel when he first heard that Joseph was alive? *He was shocked, surprised, didn't believe it at first.*
4. What did Joseph send for his father and the family to ride in on the trip to Egypt? *Carts.*
5. What was the name of the land in Egypt where Jacob's family would live? *Goshen.*
6. What special thing did Jacob do for all of his sons? *Blessed them.*
7. Which son received a special blessing? *Judah.*
8. What strong animal would Judah's descendants be like? *A lion.*
9. What kind of people (who wear crowns and hold scepters) would be part of Judah's family? *Kings.*
10. Who was the promised Savior that would be one of Judah's descendants? *Jesus.*
11. Was the promise of the Savior a new promise or was it passed down from the beginning? *It was passed down from the beginning.*
12. How does the book of Genesis end? *With Joseph's death.*
13. How old was Joseph when he died? *110 years old.*
14. Who does the memory verse say we should trust in with all our heart? *The Lord.*
15. Who can say our memory verse? *Allow several students to recite the memory verse.*

Pre-K Review Questions

1. What did Joseph want his father, Jacob, to do? *Move to Egypt.*
2. Why did Joseph want his father and his family to move to Egypt? *So they could be close and taken care of during the famine.*
3. How did Jacob feel when he first heard that Joseph was alive? *He was surprised and didn't believe it at first.*
4. What did Jacob's family ride in on the trip to Egypt? *Carts.*
5. Joseph said Jacob would live in the land of Goshen. It was the best place for their animals. What kinds of animals did Jacob have? *Sheep and goats.*
6. Which son received a special blessing? *Judah.*
7. What strong animal would Judah's descendants be like? *A lion.*
8. What kind of people (who wear crowns and hold scepters) would be part of Judah's family? *Kings.*
9. Who was the promised Savior that would be one of Judah's descendants? *Jesus.*
10. Was the promise of the Savior a new promise or was it passed down from the beginning? *It was passed down from the beginning.*
11. What book of the Bible did we just finish? *Genesis.*
12. Who does the memory verse say we should trust in with all our heart? *The Lord.*
13. Who can say our memory verse? *Allow several students to recite the memory verse.*

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Pack the Suitcase Relay

Materials

- ☐ Two suitcases
- ☐ Two sets of equal amounts of items to pack:
  - ☐ Shirts
  - ☐ Hats
  - ☐ Shoes
  - ☐ Socks
  - ☐ Hairbrushes
  - ☐ Toys
  - ☐ Stuffed animals

Instructions

Divide the class into two teams. Set both suitcases at one end of the room, one per team. Place the sets of items on each side of the room near each team. Make sure everyone knows which items belong to their team.

Have the teams line up opposite the suitcases. When you say, "Go!" the first in line on each team will run to their stack of items, pick up one thing, race to the suitcase to put it in, then return to start to tag the next teammate. The first team to pack all of their items and close their suitcase wins.

Suggested Discussion

God told Jacob he would go with him and his family to Egypt. There was a famine, and times were tough. But Joseph was a ruler in Egypt, so he could make sure his family was well cared for. So Jacob packed up his whole family and moved to Egypt!

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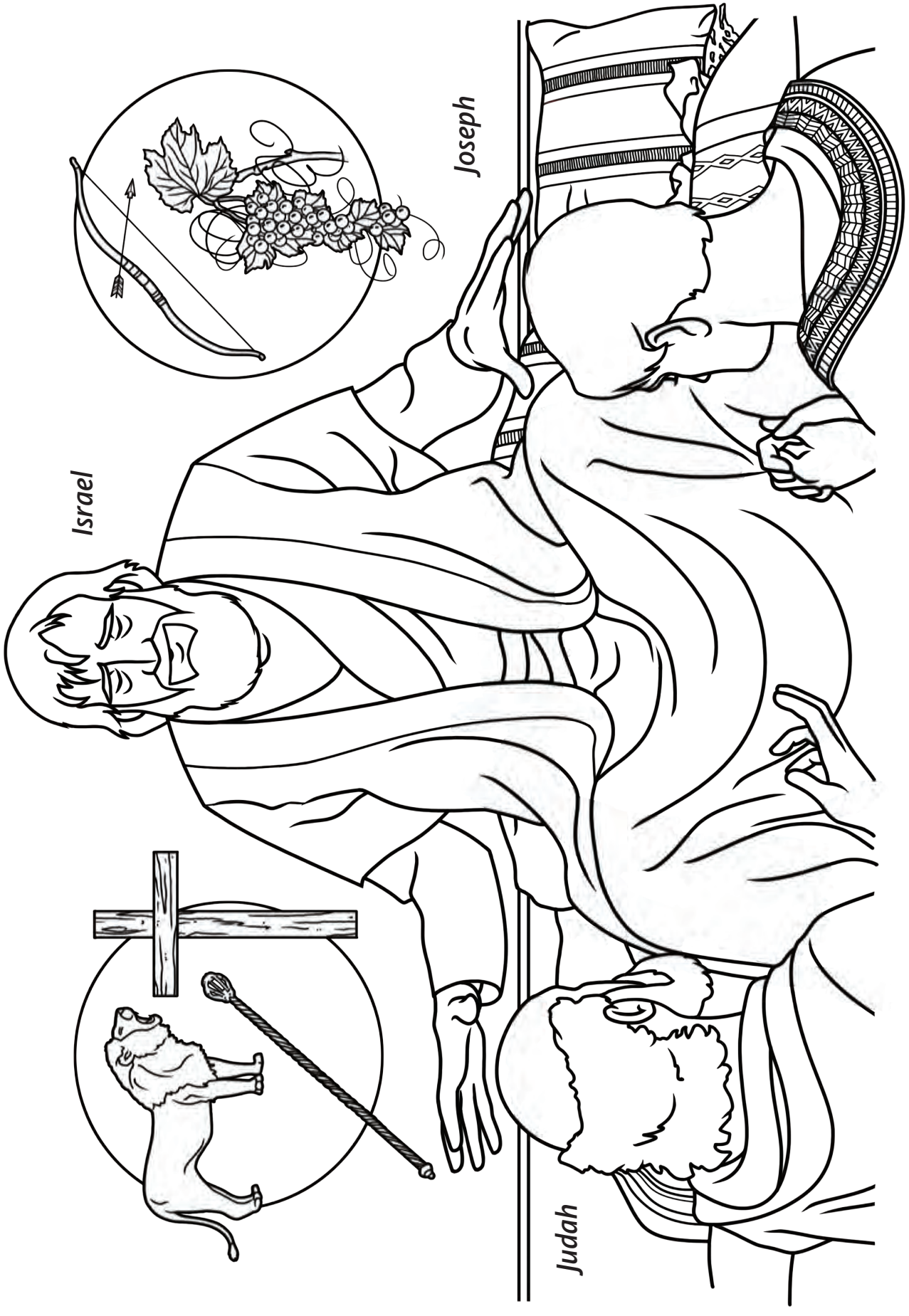
Jacob moved his family to Egypt.

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Name _____

Israel blesses his sons.



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