

Sep 6, 2026

Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt Genesis 39-45

Story: Read the story ahead of time. Practice it. For the younger grades, feel free to summarize, if needed. It's okay to reference the story as you are telling it, but the goal is to know the story well enough that you don't have to read it word for word. :) And, we encourage you to have your Bible open during the telling of the story, so the kids know where this story came from.

★ Introduction & Story:

We've spent the last few weeks talking about the beginning of the Bible and the world. God created the heavens and the earth and made a perfect garden called Eden, where Adam and Eve lived. But they sinned! Sin is anything we think, say, or do that displeases God. When we sin, we are separated from God and there is nothing we can do to fix that.

God promised to send a Savior to allow us to be with God again and while people waited, they continued to sin. Yet God remained faithful to His promise and continued His plan through sinful people. Throughout the Old Testament, we see God's love and faithfulness—even when people fail Him.

Today, we are going to talk about one of the main people God used in the Old Testament. Joseph! We talked about him a few weeks ago.

After Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, many things happened.

First, Joseph was sold to a man named Potiphar. Potiphar was an important person in the Egyptian government. He was the next in line to the Pharaoh (who was like the king of Egypt). Joseph became very trusted by Potiphar. He was put in charge of Potiphar's whole household.

Genesis 39:1

Now Joseph had been taken to Egypt. An Egyptian named Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and the captain of the guards, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him there.

Then one day, Potipher's wife accused Joseph of doing something that he did not do, and Potiphar put him in prison. Joseph spent a long time in prison.

Genesis 39:19-20

When his master heard the story his wife told him — “These are the things your slave did to me” — he was furious and had him thrown into prison, where the king's prisoners were confined. So Joseph was there in prison.

While he was in prison, he was also put in charge of many things. It was clear that Joseph was a person that could be trusted with many responsibilities.

Genesis 39:21-23

But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him. He granted him favor with the prison warden. The warden put all the prisoners who were in the prison under Joseph's authority, and he was responsible for everything that was done there. The warden did not bother with anything under Joseph's authority, because the Lord was with him, and the Lord made everything that he did successful.

One day, two prisoners came to him and told him that they had dreams that they did not understand. Joseph told them what the dreams meant. God helped him to be able to do this.

Later, the Pharaoh had two dreams on the same night that he did not understand. He learned that Joseph had the ability to understand dreams. He called for Joseph to come to him and explain the dreams to him. Joseph made it clear that he could only do this because God helped him.

Genesis 41:14-16

Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and they quickly brought him from the dungeon. He shaved, changed his clothes, and went to Pharaoh.

Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said about you that you can hear a dream and interpret it.”

“I am not able to,” Joseph answered Pharaoh. “It is God who will give Pharaoh a favorable answer.”

These were the two dreams:

First, the Pharaoh dreamt that there were seven fat cows that were feeding on a meadow by the Nile River. Seven skinny cows came along and ate the fat cows.

The second dream was similar. Pharaoh saw seven healthy stalks of grain. Then seven other stalks sprang up that were withered and thin. The thin stalks ate up the healthy stalks.

Joseph told Pharaoh that the two dreams meant the same thing. There would be seven years of plenty. There would be enough rain, and the crops would grow well. Then there would be seven years of drought (no rain) and famine (no crops and therefore hunger.)

Genesis 41:25

Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “Pharaoh’s dreams mean the same thing. God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.

Joseph suggested to the Pharaoh that grain needed to be saved during the seven good years so that there would be food to eat during the famine. Pharaoh liked Joseph’s suggestion so well, that he put Joseph in charge of the whole plan. Joseph became a very important person.

Genesis 41:39-41

So Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one as discerning and wise as you are. You will be over my house, and all my people will obey your commands. Only I, as king, will be greater than you.” Pharaoh also said to Joseph, “See, I am placing you over all the land of Egypt.”

When the famine came, not only was Egypt without rain and good crops, but all the surrounding area was affected, including the area around Canaan where Joseph’s father and brothers lived.

Genesis 41:56-57

Now the famine had spread across the whole region, so Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Every land came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, for the famine was severe in every land.

Joseph’s father sent his sons to Egypt to get grain.

Genesis 42:1-3

When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you keep looking at each other? Listen,” he went on, “I have heard there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us so that we will live and not die.” So ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt.

Joseph recognized them immediately, but they did not recognize him. He probably had on a wig and looked like the other Egyptians.

Genesis 42:6-7

His brothers came and bowed down before him with their faces to the ground. When Joseph saw his brothers, he recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke harshly to them.

Joseph accused them of being spies. They tried to tell him that they were brothers, but he pretended not to believe them. He put them in prison. The brothers were talking about how this was their punishment for what they did to Joseph so many years before. They did not realize that when they talked to each other, Joseph could understand everything they were saying. Joseph could hear how sorry they were about what they did.

Finally, Joseph revealed to them that he was their brother.

Genesis 45:3

Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But they could not answer him because they were terrified in his presence.

They were afraid that he would be angry with them, but he told them that God had used what happened to make sure no one starved because of the famine.

Genesis 45:5

And now don’t be grieved or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because God sent me ahead of you to preserve life.

Joseph’s whole family moved to Egypt so they could all be close to each other and they could have food.

Genesis 45:9-10

“Return quickly to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: “God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me without delay. You can settle in the land of Goshen and be near me — you, your children, and your grandchildren, your flocks, your herds, and all you have.

★ **Connection to God’s Overall Story/Plan:**

- God used Joseph in Egypt in a mighty way. It was not Joseph’s plan, but it was definitely God’s plan. God also has a plan for us. He sent His son Jesus to die for us on the cross. He can use us in a mighty way, too.
- Maybe just for the older kids: Not only did God use Joseph to keep the Israelites alive, God used Joseph to make a promise happen. In Genesis 15:13-14, God told Abraham that his family would be enslaved in a foreign land. God had Joseph save the Israelites and this is what brought them to Egypt, the foreign land. Over time, the Egyptians enslaved them. But God still had a BIG plan!! God delivered them and this set up a foreshadowing or prediction of how Jesus would deliver us!! The Passover - the meal right before they left Egypt - revealed how Jesus would save us! This would help them remember for thousands of years that God was sending a Savior!

Follow Up: As a church, we are encouraging disciple makers to practice the REAP method as it is one useful tool in learning to read the Bible on your own. Retell, Examine, Application, Prayer. Now this may not be everyone’s preference, but it is an easy and consistent way to teach children to pull the meaning out of a passage and not just read it or rely on others to teach them what it means. Trees & Mountains - this is a station.

★ **Retell:** Have kids share what they recall from the story. Fill in any major holes they missed.

★ **Examine:**

○ Comprehension Questions:

- First Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery and then after a while he ended up in prison. What do you think Joseph was thinking during this time?
- Potiphar put him in charge of his whole household. Then the prison warden put him in charge of all the prisoners. Finally, Pharaoh put him in charge of all of Egypt. What do you think about that?

- Joseph could be trusted with responsibility because God was with him and made everything that he did successful.
- Do you think that you could be as forgiving as Joseph was?
- Ask, “What do we learn about God from this story? What does He do?”
 - We learn that God used Joseph’s terrible situation to save all of the Israelites. He is faithful - even in our hard times.
- Ask, “What do we learn about humans from this story? What are humans doing?”
 - Humans have a choice! Joseph could have chosen to not be faithful when the times were hard, but he was and look at how God used him!
- ★ **Application:** Ask, “What is Jesus asking us to do through this story? Why did God include this in the Bible?”
 - Jesus is asking us to trust Him. It’s in the Bible so we can see how God works in a big plan!
- ★ **Prayer**

Memory Verse: Have the kids use the Bible. They should either share or each have one. If kids have their own Bibles, we can encourage them to use it, but sometimes you may just need to use the class set. Trees & Mountains - this is one station.

- ★ **Verse:** “We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.” –Romans 8:28

Memory Verse Practice:

Verse Look Up: Explain the address of the verse (Book Chapter:Verse). Explain whether it’s in the Old Testament or the New Testament. Read and explain the verse.

- Rainbow Tip: Not necessary until we split classrooms.
- Fireweed Tip: Put Post-It notes on the book of the Bible for the memory verse. Then have them find the chapter and verse.

Practice the Verse:

- Rainbow: Not necessary :)

- Fireweed: Have the kids read it with you several times. Since they are learning to read, group practice is the focus.
- Trees & Mountains: Kids should be learning the verse and saying it on their own. We will provide activities - pick one to have the kids practice. We will PM provide: fill-in-the-blank verses, phrases for the kids to put in order, lines for the kids to write the verse out, and a worksheet for the kids to say the verse based on just the first letter of each word in the verse.

Books of the Bible:

- ★ If there is time or if kids have mastered the verse, have the kids practice the Books of the Bible. When we are doing Old Testament stories, have them practice the Old Testament; when in the New, practice the New Testament. We will have some activities for them to practice with.
 - Trees/Mountains currently have pencil cases with sets of cards/bookmarks in them.

Sticky Activities: No need to do all of these! Pick which ones work best for your teaching style and time frame! For the Trees and Mountains - there is enough time for two of the stations to do activities.

★ Sensory:

Category	Activity 1	Activity 2
Experiential	Journey to Egypt: Have children pretend to travel from Canaan to Egypt carrying bags and looking for food during the famine.	Forgiveness Challenge: Give children simple scenarios about someone hurting their feelings. Ask, "What would you do?" Then talk about how Joseph chose forgiveness.
Visual	Canaan-to-Egypt Map: Show a map of the journey Joseph's brothers would have traveled.	Joseph helps Pharaoh coloring page: Color the picture and discuss how Joseph was helpful.

Touch	Grain Sensory Bin: Fill a container with rice, oats, or dry beans. Let children scoop grain into bags or baskets like Joseph's brothers did.	Travel Bag: Fill a cloth bag with objects representing the journey: a small cup, cloth, grain, rope, and toy money. Let children feel inside and guess each item.
Movement	Travel to Egypt: Set up stations for Canaan, the desert, and Egypt. Children walk, march, or crawl between stations as you tell the story.	Gather the Grain: Scatter paper grain or beanbags around the room. Children gather them into baskets before the "famine" begins.
Sound	Joseph's Big Reveal: Practice saying " I am Joseph! " in different voices—whisper, surprised, excited, and loud.	Egyptian Marketplace: Have children create sounds of animals, people talking, footsteps, and trading.
Crafts	Forgiveness Heart: Decorate a heart with the words " Joseph Forgave His Brothers. "	Joseph Forgives His Brothers: Color, cut, and glue the activity page.
Taste	Travel snack bag: Make small snack bags containing the snack as a reminder of the brothers' journey.	

Send Home Page: Please send home with parents. They are sized 4 to a page.

September 6, 2026 Lesson Activities

Canaan to Egypt Map - Joseph's brothers journey:

During the lesson, show the map Joseph's brothers would have taken to get to Egypt.

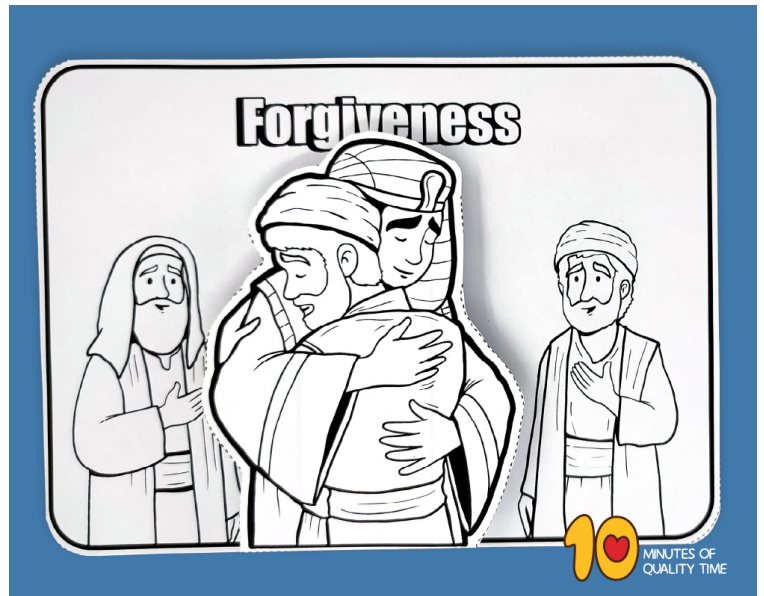
Forgiveness Heart:

Decorate the heart with the words: "Joseph forgave his brothers"

Joseph Forgives his brothers

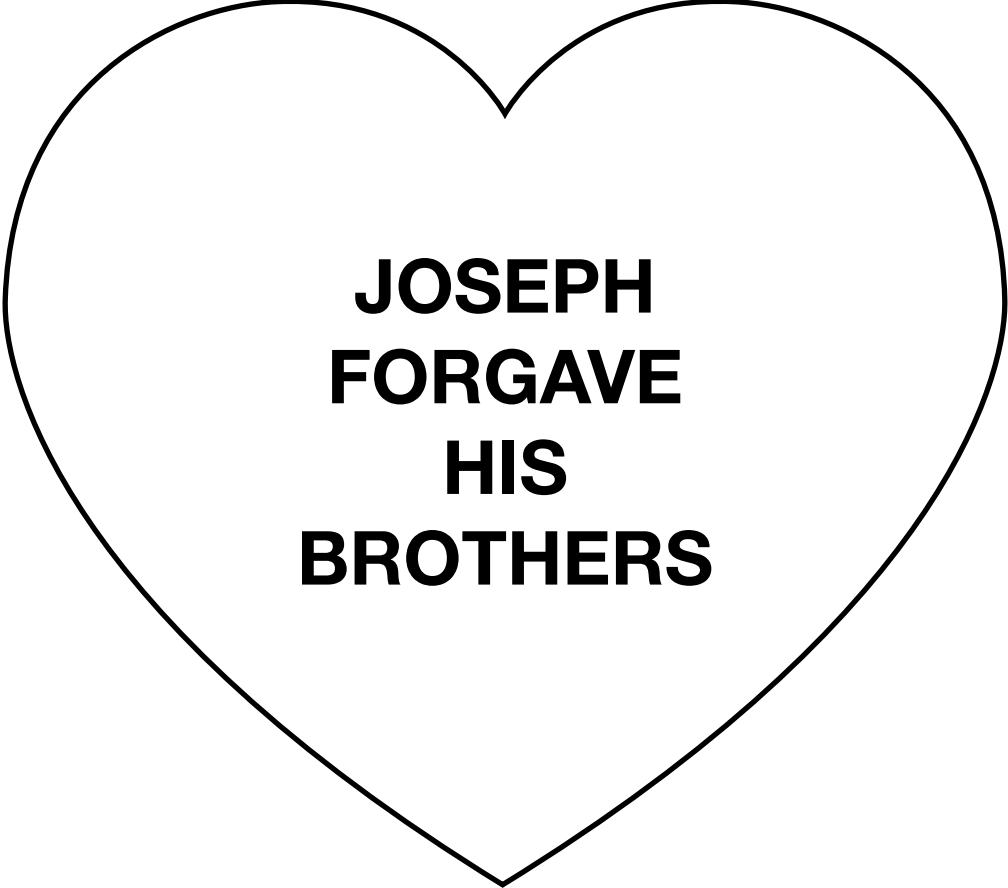
Coloring Craft:

Color, cut, and glue the activity page.

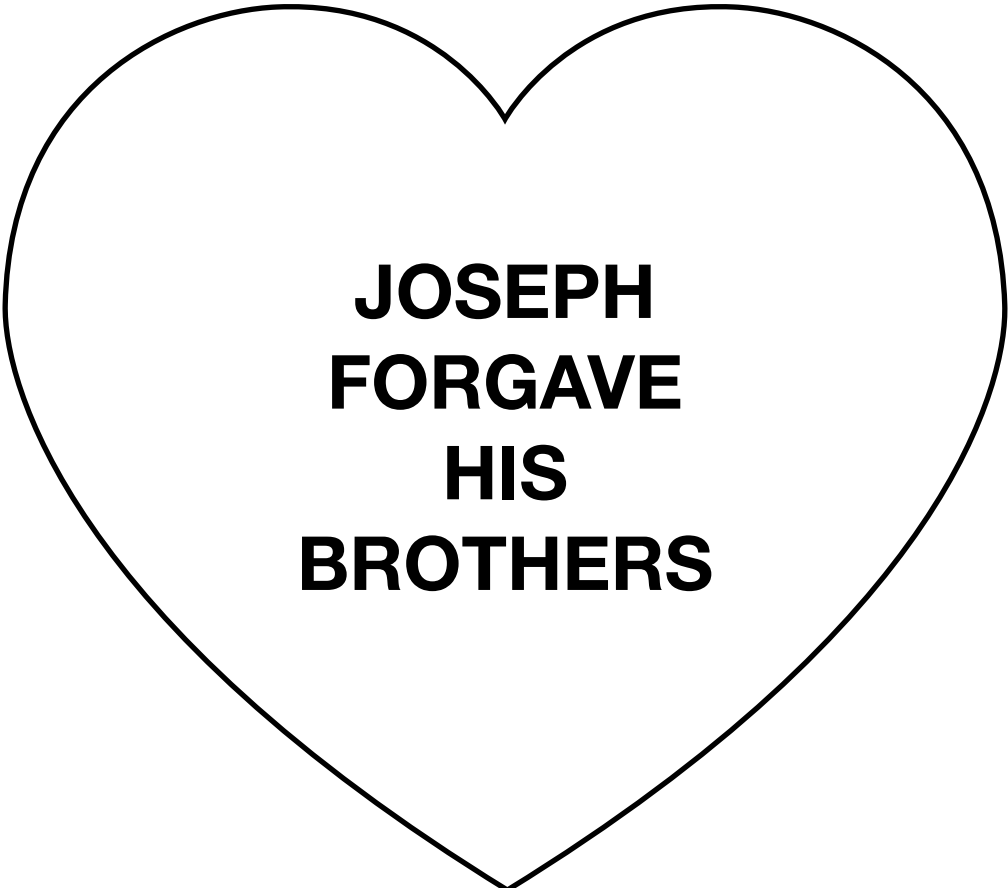


Joseph's Brothers go to Egypt to buy Grain

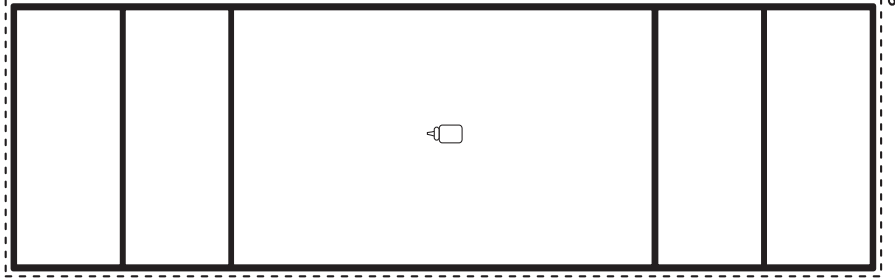




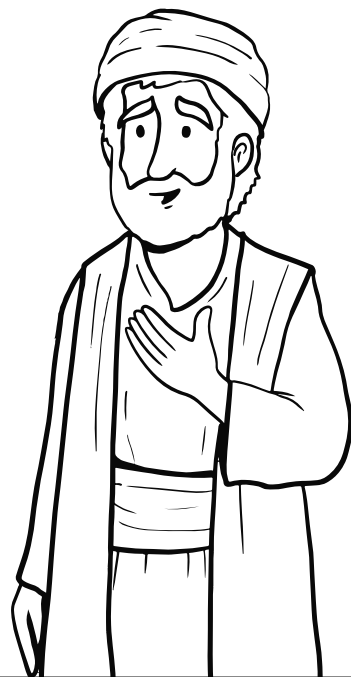
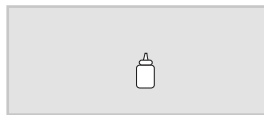
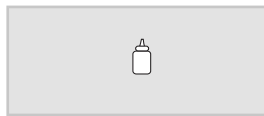
**JOSEPH
FORGAVE
HIS
BROTHERS**



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Forgiveness





Genesis 39:1—41:49

Joseph Helps Pharaoh

Joseph Helps Pharaoh

Genesis 39:1—47:49

Joseph was sold as a slave to an Egyptian official. Later, Joseph was put in prison because the official's wife told a lie about him. But God took care of Joseph. God helped Joseph talk to Pharaoh (the king)!

Joseph warned Pharaoh that there would be seven years when lots of food would grow in the fields and then seven years when no food would grow in the fields. Joseph told Pharaoh, "You need to put someone in charge of collecting food. Then when there is no food growing in the fields, there will still be food for everyone to eat."

Pharaoh liked what Joseph said. He put Joseph in charge of collecting food. Pharaoh gave Joseph a ring and some fancy new clothes. He even gave Joseph a chariot to ride in!

Joseph traveled all over Egypt and made sure that there would be plenty of food for everyone. God helped Joseph take care of all the people.



Genesis 42:1—45:28

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42:1—45:28

Jacob's family didn't have any food. Jacob heard there was food to buy in Egypt. He sent Joseph's brothers there to buy food. Joseph's brothers didn't know that God had helped Joseph become an important ruler in Egypt.

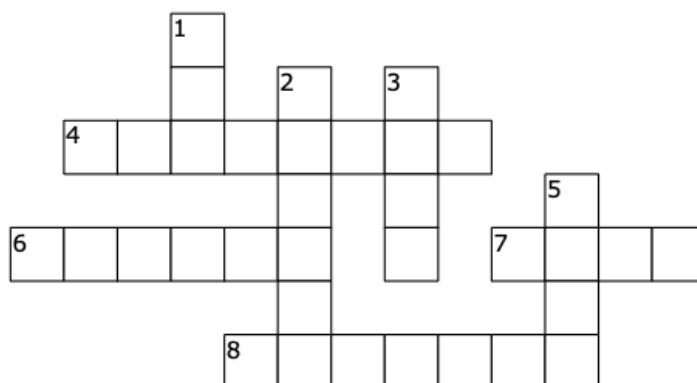
When Joseph's brothers got to Egypt, they asked to buy food. They did not know they were talking to Joseph. It had been a long time since they had seen Joseph. Joseph had grown up. Now he dressed and talked like an Egyptian.

Joseph pretended he did not know his brothers. He asked them about their family. Joseph tested them to see if they were sorry for being mean to him. Then Joseph told his brothers who he was, and he forgave them. Joseph invited them all to come and live near him in Egypt. Joseph was glad to be with his family again.

Joseph & His Brothers, Part 2

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. Genesis 45:3 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Genesis 45:1-15



ACROSS

4. The youngest brother of Joseph
6. He was sold into slavery by his brothers
7. To shed tears
8. A male with the same parents as someone else

DOWN

1. A male human child
2. A male parent
3. The act of touching someone with your lips
5. A period of 365 days

JOSEPH	KISS	FATHER	BENJAMIN
WEEP	SON	YEAR	BROTHER

Memory Verse:

September 6, 2026

“We know that all things
work together for the
good of those who love
God, who are called
according to his purpose.”
--Romans 8:28

Fill in the Blanks

We _____ that _____ things work
_____ for the _____ of
those who _____ God, who _____
called _____ to his
purpose. -Romans 8:28

Draw a picture of what you want to
be when you grow up.

How can you use this for the good of
God?

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Genesis 39-45

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*Kids that recite the memory verse
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