

THE LIFE OF JOSEPH

(note – if you have the time and resources, act out each of the stories and make a video)

1) JOSEPH AS A BROTHER (GENESIS 37:1-11)

Courtesy of www.mygrandmatime.com. You may use and reprint these materials for your own non-profit use.

DATE FOR LESSON:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY: Joseph as a brother (Genesis 37:1-11)

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

THINGS/NOUNS: Jacob, Joseph (17 years old), brothers, colorful robe (special clothes), sheaves, sun, moon, stars, dreams,

ACTIONS: tending flocks, giving gifts to special people in your life, love/hate, not speaking (keeping silent), dreaming, binding sheaves, bowing down, bragging?, rebuked, jealous,

IDEAS: bringing a bad report (tattling), "special" child (playing favorites), families with multiple parents, ruling over others, keeping a matter in mind,

READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.
Was Joseph bragging or was his family over sensitive? How do you relate your goals and dreams?
Do others need to know about our goals and dreams?

ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated) The cause of hurt in our lives –circumstances? other people? self-inflicted?

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

Joseph spoke the truth, but perhaps not in love. We should act with love and kindness as God loves us all. RESPECT!

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

MEMORY VERSE: "Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him"
Ephesians 4:15

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you" Colossians 3:13

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."
Matthew 6:14

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37

SONGS:

Many of the songs from "Kids on the Rock"- Gospel Light Group materials has a Joseph rap - do only chorus and verses covered to date by story

GAMES:

Blindfold partner obstacle course – The partners that doesn't have a blindfold talks his partner through the obstacle course. How does it feel to go through life and not have any control? Who should do the bragging when you complete the course well?...the one who gave the directions or the one who submitted to them?

Egg with a partner relay – whose "fault" is it if/when the egg drops?

Any board game that uses "luck" to get a player somewhere – Who was the best player? Why?

KEY PHRASES:

How would you feel? Whose fault is that? What should you say? Do you need to say anything?

STORY TELLING STYLE: (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

What is your favorite piece of clothing? Why? (Joseph had a special coat.)

The kids should understand the sibling rivalry.

Act out the dreams.

OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:

a yo-yo - controlling the ups and downs of life

Use any of the game options to discuss our control and our responses to life's circumstances

CRAFTS:

Make a "coat of many colors" by cutting a grocery bag to fit over head and arms & having the kids color or glue yarn to it. Or...use 1 pillowcase per coat and have kids decorate them with paint, fabric paint, yarn & needle, crayons, etc.

Make macaroni necklaces or bracelets of many colors on yarn or string elastic. You may give them to someone special or wear them because you are someone special.

(See <http://www.mygrandmatime.com/3019-2/visit-with-grandma/sew-with-grandma-2/nylons/>)

Make one "coat" shape out of posterboard and have the kids glue a collage of colors (construction paper, wallpaper, fabric/trims, pieces of pictures, etc.) on it. This could be put up in the room as a reminder for future lessons.

Gather dried weeds and wrap them into a sheaf. These could be spray painted for a nice display.

Make a collage of the sun, moon, & stars on black paper or iron them between wax paper for a suncatcher.

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

What problems do brothers & sisters have in a family? What are good things to do when you have these problems?

What kinds of things make you mad? What bad things can happen when you get mad? What good things can happen when you get mad? What makes the difference between the bad things happening and the good things happening?

INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:

Make a paper doll of Joseph, coat of many colors

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

What makes you jealous? Make a jealous dessert out of green jello.

How do we deal with envy and jealousy when we want something that someone else has? We surround our jealousy with caring and sharing. Make a sharing dessert with red jello (a caring heart), green jello (put it in the middle so it can't get out and hurt someone), and another layer of red jello (more caring heart!). Perhaps put some whip cream on top as a love/giving action! Be sure you made enough to share with someone else!

Let kids have a bragging session. Ask them to tell about something that they do really well. How would someone feel if that is all they talked about? Talk about good and bad ways to use the "I" word.

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

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GO BACK and ORDER your lesson plan. Number your activities from 1 to 100! You want lots to do and think about, but you also want to use your time wisely. Begin with activities that help "set-up" the story time. Don't let the story time come too near the end, or you may run out of time before you get there! Some crafts require time to dry and need to be started right away and finished later. Balance your time for both active minds and active bodies. Activities that are "open-ended" need to be placed at the end. You want to have something for the kids to do before and after class time. You may want to include some activities more than once (such as a memory verse). You may want to tell the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.

2) JOSEPH'S BROTHER SELL HIM

(Genesis 37:12-36)

Courtesy of www.mygrandmatime.com. You may use and reprint these materials for your own non-profit use.

DATE FOR LESSON:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY: Joseph's brothers sell him. Joseph becomes a slave. (Genesis 37:12-36)

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

THINGS/NOUNS: Joseph, brothers, field, cistern, ferocious animal, Reuben, caravan, Egypt, 20 shekles of silver, sackcloth,

ACTIONS: grazing flocks, checking up on others, asking directions, rescue, stripped him of robe & threw him, eating, tearing clothes, slaughtered a goat, lying, examining robe, recognizing, mourning, selling a slave,

IDEAS: seeing ahead and plotting, standing up against the crowd (Reuben),

READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go. do you suppose their idle chatter and complaining grew into a murderous threat? – what becomes of our chatter and complaining and joking?

ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated) What happens when we are hurt? (our responses of anger, disappointment, frustration - how to handle them)

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

When others hurt us, we must trust God and not try to hurt them back.

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

MEMORY VERSE: "Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him"
Ephesians 4:15

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

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SONGS:

He took me out of the pit and from the miry clay, he set my feet on a rock, establishing my way.
He put a song in my heart, my God to glorify. And He'll take me some day to His home on high.

Many of the songs from "Kids on the Rock"- Gospel Light
Group materials has a Joseph rap - do only chorus and verses covered to date by story

GAMES:

Play 20 questions because the slave traders paid the brothers 20 shekels of silver for Joseph.
It's also something that Joseph's brothers may have done around their camp when sitting and watching their flocks.

Divide into teams and play a relay game that involves putting on and taking off exterior clothing. How well do we treat our clothes when we are in a hurry? What did Joseph's brothers do to his clothes?

Do trust falls. Joseph had to trust God with his life. Did Joseph also trust his brothers with his life? Who was trustworthy?

KEY PHRASES:

What would you have done with Joseph? What should happen to Joseph's brothers? Why should Joseph trust God? What do you think is going to happen next?

STORY TELLING STYLE: (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Have kids tell you what has happened in the past to Joseph (using items on walls to jog their memories), then continue with today.

Act out the story. Who wants to be Joseph? Who wants to be the brothers? Who wants to be Reuben? Who wants to be the caravan? What shall we use as a pit?

OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:

How do animals protect themselves? Vs. How does God want us to protect ourselves? – What is showing love vs. protecting ourselves?

CRAFTS:

Use fingers and ink pads to make a cistern wall. Use the fingerprints as bricks.

Make a paper chain or paper handcuffs to symbolize slavery and keep it in the room for future reference

Have the kids make a cistern from playdough

Tie dye cloth. How is this different from what Joseph's brothers did? What can you tell about your tie died fabric when it is done?

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

What kinds of things make you afraid?

How do you think Joseph felt...

when his brothers grabbed him? when he was thrown into a pit? when he was taken away in chains by strangers?

INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

How easy is it to lie? Joseph's brothers lied to their father. Play the board game "Balderdash". Joseph's brothers brought their dad a bloody coat. How could Joseph's father tell what had happened?

What is a slave? What is the difference between a servant (maid, butler, etc.) and a slave?

Under what circumstances would you be a slave or a servant?

Find someone in the distance and talk about them as they approach you. How would you feel about that person if you only said bad things about them as they came toward you? How would you feel about them if you only said good things about them as they came toward you?

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

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3) JOSEPH GOES TO PRISON

(Genesis 39:1-20)

Courtesy of www.mygrandmatime.com. You may use and reprint these materials for your own non-profit use.

DATE FOR LESSON:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY: Joseph goes to prison (Gen. 39:1-20)

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

THINGS/NOUNS: Joseph, Potiphar, Egypt, attendant (right hand man), duties, Potiphar's wife, cloak, prison,

ACTIONS: buying slaves, being in charge, trusting, being handsome, noticing others, refusing, tempting, caught, ran, screamed, lying, burning with anger,

IDEAS: doing well no matter what your situation is because of your relationship with God, success, how to get help when you need it, being blessed because of God's plan,

READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.

How easy it is for us to feel persecuted! How do we tell the truth from a lie? Can/do we know and trust the character of those around us? How easy would it be to make a false accusation against me?

Was prison the "light" sentence? Could Potiphar have killed Joseph?

ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated) Our relationship with God is the foundation for healing.

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

When others hurt us, we must trust God and not try to hurt them back. We must keep going instead.

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

MEMORY VERSE: "Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him"

Ephesians 4:15

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you" Colossians 3:13

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matthew 6:14

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37

SONGS:

Many of the songs from "Kids on the Rock"- Gospel Light

Group materials has a Joseph rap - do only chorus and verses covered to date by story

GAMES:

"Flag" tag - like flag football. Have kids try to grab the rag tucked in others pockets/pants. Set a time limit and see who can get the most "flags". One way to catch someone who has done something wrong is to find something they left behind.

Have a screaming contest. You could have scary screams, surprised screams, mad screams, etc. Who has the best? Loudest?

KEY PHRASES: Did Joseph DESERVE to be a slave? be accused? be in prison? What happens when we don't get what we DESERVE? What happens when we do get what we DESERVE?

STORY TELLING STYLE: (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Ask kids to tell you what has happened to Joseph in previous sessions (using the coat of many colors and the slave chains to encourage their memory). Then continue with this story. The attempted seduction of Joseph can be put in terms of "Kiss me and give me a big hug".

OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:

Make lemonade. There is a saying – When life gives you lemons – make lemonade. In other words, good can come out of what seems bad.

CRAFTS:

Make a cage or prison cell out of toothpicks &/or popsickle sticks, etc.

Use berry baskets to make a creative cage or prison cell.

Make prison bars to put up with the other story items on the wall.

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Have kids decide what comes first, middle, last in a sequence of pictures (this Bible story or another story) or an activity you do. We need to learn how to tell what really happened.

INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

What do you do if someone tries to hurt you? touch you? grab you?, etc.

Play the board game "clue". How do you know if someone has really done something or if someone is lying about them?

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have _____ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

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4) JOSEPH INTERPRETS DREAMS

(Genesis 39:21-41:36)

Courtesy of www.mygrandmatime.com. You may use and reprint these materials for your own non-profit use.

DATE FOR LESSON:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY: Joseph interprets dreams (Gen. 39:21-41:36)

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

THINGS/NOUNS: cupbearer, baker, Pharaoh, dream with meaning, dream 1 (vine, 3 branches, blossoms, grapes, cup, juice), dream 2 (3 baskets, breads, birds), 2 years, dream 3 (Nile river, 7 fat cows eating, 7 skinny cows eating fat cows), dream 4 (7 fat grain heads on one stalk, 7 skinny grain heads eat the fat heads), magicians and wise men,

ACTIONS: offending the king, being put in prison/confined, being dejected (looking sad), telling dreams, interpreting dreams, dreams coming true, giving credit to God, planning ahead,

IDEAS: doing well in any situation because of your relationship to God, being in charge, forgetting then remembering a kindness, favorable vs. unfavorable interpretation,

READ the scripture again, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go. How would I do as my own jailer? How do I pass on or forget a kindness? Joseph's ability to relate the future to others has changed somehow as Pharaoh is not upset but grateful of the news Joseph gives.

ADULT LESSON THEME: (if coordinated) We must learn to communicate

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

Joseph learned to speak the truth in love. We should act with love and kindness as God loves us all. RESPECT!

Using the above information, brainstorm as many ideas as possible of the following areas: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

MEMORY VERSE: "Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him"
Ephesians 4:15

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you" Colossians 3:13

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."
Matthew 6:14

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37

SONGS:

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If You Want to be Wise

GAMES:

Filling the cup/delivering the cup relay - What was the cupbearer's job? Why would Pharaoh get mad at him?

Make a "match" game by putting pictures of the items in the dreams on cards.

Play "fat cows/skinny cows". Divide kids into two teams – the fat cows and the skinny cows. Each skinny cow must tag a fat cow. When they tag, both the skinny cow and the fat cow must freeze and stay frozen until everyone is tagged. Then, the game begins again with the skinny cows becoming the fat cows and the fat cows becoming the skinny cows.

KEY PHRASES:

How did Joseph do that? – know about dreams? -handle being in prison? – etc.

STORY TELLING STYLE: (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Have kids tell you what has happened in the past to Joseph (using items on walls to jog their memories), then continue with today. You might want to tell the first two dreams, take a break with another activity (to represent the 2 years of waiting), and then finish with the last two dreams. Use the white board or pictures to illustrate dreams.

OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:

Make grape juice. Use this to illustrate that what comes out of the mouth should go through the brain. At the beginning of his life Joseph interpreted dreams to his brothers without "straining" (or braining) them. This time he did much better by letting God "strain" (brain) them. Would you rather have unstrained (includes seeds, skins, etc.) or strained juice?

CRAFTS:

Make any of the items included in dreams:

Make a fingerpainting picture of grapes (1 root stalk, 3 branches, leaves & grapes)

Make a bouquet of "grain"heads using dried weeds, etc., that the kids collect.

Give the kids magazines and have them cut out pictures to make a dream collage.

Make a playdough cup.

Weave a basket.

Draw a fat cow and a scrawny ugly cow

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Make a big circle of kids and a little circle of kids. Have the big circle try to get into the little circle. (i.e. How many kids can you fit in your car?) - Do any activity along the line of how do you get something that is larger into something that is smaller – just like the cows and grain did in the dreams.

INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Make a collage of dreams for wall or above a bed to remind you of your dreams. Talk about dreams and why they are or aren't important.

Make a bird feeder and put bread in it.

What has God done in your life that you can publicly give Him credit for?

Talk about your family's savings plan/s. What are you doing to prepare for the future?

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

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5) Joseph rises to Power

(Genesis 41:37-57)

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DATE FOR LESSON:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY: Joseph rises to power (Genesis 41:37-57)

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

THINGS/NOUNS: Pharaoh & his officials; signet ring; Joseph; fine robes; gold chain; chariot; 30 years old; 7 years of abundance; wife & children (Manasseh & Ephraim); 7 years of famine;

ACTIONS: giving orders/being in charge; submitting to orders; lifting hand/foot; collecting/storing;

IDEAS: finding the "right man for the job"; dressing for the job; getting a new name or title to go with the job; beyond measure; having a "full plate" when others have an empty plate;

READ the scripture, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.
How does a job change my life? Vs. How do I change the job?

ADULT LESSON THEME: We must learn to forgive others (Joseph didn't hold anything against the Egyptians and served them well.)

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

God gives us opportunity to grow.

From the above, select as many as possible of the following: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

MEMORY VERSE: "Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him" Eph. 4:15

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you" Colossians 3:13

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matthew 6:14

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37

SONGS:

many from the Kids on the Rock tapes – Gospel Light

Group materials has a Joseph rap - do only chorus and verses covered to date by story

GAMES:

Play “Joseph says” (like Simon Says) - The people were told to do everything that Joseph said.

Play “Joseph, May I?” (like Mother, may I?) - The people were told to do everything that Joseph said.

Fill the silo - Using bird feed, have a relay to fill up a container with grain. You could do this for 7 time periods (abundance – storing up) then then spend 7 time periods (famine) giving out the grain to the birds. Was it easier to store the bird seed for 7 time periods (abundance) or to give it out for 7 time periods (famine)? Did you finish giving it out before the 7 time periods (famine) were over? What could happen to people if Joseph wasn't careful about giving out the grain?

KEY PHRASES:

God had given Joseph a lot of time and a lot experiences to help him grow up and know how to deal with other people. (Joseph had become patient, trusting, etc. when he was.....)

STORY TELLING STYLE: (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Note places in the world where food is scarce. How do we feed them? Here's what happened to Joseph....

Have kids tell you what has happened in the past to Joseph (using items on walls to jog their memories), then continue with today's lesson.

How did God get Joseph ready to do this great thing?

OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:

Who do I give the job to? Put up pictures of people (from magazines, etc.), or have kids stand up and give each of them some clothes/tools that would indicate what they might be able to do.

Name something that needs to be done. Who should you give the job to? Why? Why wouldn't you pick.....?

CRAFTS:

Learn how to "seal" letters with wax & "signet ring" or carrot end, etc.

Make a gold chain & crown or hat like Joseph would have worn.

Include a paper plate with a page of food to color, cut out, and glue on. -Joseph helped the Egyptians grow lots of good food. Fill your plate with good things to eat.

As a reminder of the story, make a sheaf of grain to put on wall, or a cornucopia, or the plate of food or a gold chain and a crown or hat like Joseph would have worn, or a scroll with a seal on it with Joseph's orders, etc.

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Play Charades – Act out jobs – After you guess each job, talk about what kind of person would/could do that job.

INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Talk about emergency kits - usually earthquake kits here in Calif. What do we put away in good times to use in bad (or busy) times? (Savings acct., canned food, etc.)

Who get to do what jobs in the home and why? Make a list of "home" jobs and put a name next to each job.

Draw a picture of what job you'd like to do when you grow up. Talk about the kinds of things you need to do to be able to do the job.

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

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6) JOSEPH FORGIVES

(Genesis 42:1-46:34)

Courtesy of www.mygrandmatime.com. You may use and reprint these materials for your own non-profit use.

DATE FOR LESSON:

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE/STORY: Joseph forgives (Genesis 42:1-46:34)

READ the scripture, stopping to make note of ALL of the following:

THINGS/NOUNS: Jacob (Dad); 10 brothers; Benjamin; 11 sons; Joseph; Egypt; "spies"; 3 days in jail; grain; money sacks;

ACTIONS: looking for and buying food; protecting Benjamin; bowing down; pretending to be a stranger; speaking harshly;

IDEAS: going hungry; recognizing people; pretending to be a stranger; testing for truth; using an interpreter; being frightened; family reunion; taking a gift to smooth feelings;

READ the scripture, making notes of amazing thoughts & questions as you go.

How would I prove who I am?

Joseph had shown distress and pled for his life with his brothers and they had had no mercy.

How long and how often did Joseph's brothers remember what they had done? How did they keep it a "secret" for (30 minus 17) 13 years?

God replaced the coat of many colors with the trappings of royalty in Egypt.

Joseph - 17 years of being "daddy's boy" - 13 years a slave or in prison - at 30 ruler of Egypt.

Gen 41:51-52 show some of Joseph's thoughts about his stay in Egypt.

The brothers thought God was punishing them rather than giving them an opportunity to be blessed.

Joseph gave the brothers the means (the silver in their packs) to return for more food and for their brother.

Joseph had a good influence on his steward (Gen 43:19-23)

Joseph was so sure of what God planned that they didn't waste seed trying to grow food during the 7 years of famine. (Gen 45:6)

ADULT LESSON THEME: How to rebuild faith and mend fences

What is the LESSON THEME, or GOAL that you want the kids to learn?

God wants us to forgive and learn to get along.

From the above, select as many as possible of the following: (You will want more than one in most categories.)

MEMORY VERSE: "Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him" Eph. 4:15

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13

"Forgive as the Lord forgave you" Colossians 3:13

"For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you." Matthew 6:14

"Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven." Luke 6:37

SONGS:

Many of the songs from "Kids on the Rock"- Gospel Light

Group materials has a Joseph rap - do only chorus and verses covered to date by story

GAMES:

Make an obstacle course- do it both frontwards & backwards. Is it easier to go frontwards or backwards? Why? It is also harder for us to go through life looking back to the things people have done to us. Forgiveness looks forward, not backward.

Have a "tug of war" game. What does this game teach us about life?

KEY PHRASES:

How do you think Joseph's life story will end?

STORY TELLING STYLE: (question/answer, drama, puppet, lecture, audience participation, reading a book, etc.)

Have kids tell you what has happened in the past to Joseph (using items on walls to jog their memories), then continue with today's lesson.

OBJECT LESSON IDEAS:

Cake vs. cake ingredients – Who likes/wants cake? Hand out the ingredients of a cake to kids and ask if they would enjoy their ingredient as a snack. Most ingredients will get a "no! We want cake!" When all the ingredients are together and you take the time to bake it, you get a wonderful cake. Joseph's life was like the ingredients and today's story gives us the "cake". Would we have a cake if we stopped making it because we didn't like the ingredients? Can we trust God with the results of putting our ingredients together?

CRAFTS:

Make a miniature grain sack and put some money in it.

Make a family portrait to put up on the wall to remind us that the family is again together. (Use poster board and lets kids cut out pictures of brothers?)

Make "forgiveness" coupons and a "wallet" to keep them in.

GROUP ACTIVITIES:

Buying food - How do you choose at a grocery store? What would you do if the grocery store was empty?

Discussion questions:

How easy or hard do you think it was for Joseph to forgive his brothers?

Why do you think Joseph's brothers were afraid when Joseph revealed who he was?

How do you think Joseph's brothers felt when Joseph forgave them?

Which is harder: to forgive someone or to ask for forgiveness? Which must we do? (both!)

INDIVIDUAL, LAPBOARD, & TAKE HOME ACTIVITIES:

FAMILY ACTIVITIES:

Dress up, trying to look like someone different and take a walk around your neighborhood.

Does anyone recognize you?

Draw (or use a camera) a family portrait. Who is included and who is missing? Why is anyone missing? What could you do to restore someone to your family?

Draw a picture of what you think you'll look like in 10 years. Make a list of what you think you'll be doing.

Check RESOURCE BOOKS and the web for further ideas.

Now, GO BACK and, remembering the THEME, READ the scripture again. Then put a STAR next to the specific activities/items you want to include in the lesson session that help support the THEME and will help the children to REMEMBER the lesson. (Make sure you specify activities for readers and non-readers.) You normally have _____ minutes of class time. You will want to have more ideas/activities than you do time!

GO BACK and ORDER your lesson plan. Number your activities from 1 to 100! You want lots to do and think about, but you also want to use your time wisely. Begin with activities that help

"set-up" the story time. Don't let the story time come too near the end, or you may run out of time before you get there! Some crafts require time to dry and need to be started right away and finished later. Balance your time for both active minds and active bodies. Activities that are "open-ended" need to be placed at the end. You want to have something for the kids to do before and after class time. You may want to include some activities more than once (such as a memory verse). You may want to tell the story in 2 or 3 different parts or ways. The opportunities are endless.

PRAY and READ over your scripture reference and lesson plans several times as you prepare materials before your session. Keep focused on the THEME.