

Joseph & His Brothers

Summer • Lesson 1

Who?

Joseph, Joseph's brothers, Jacob, traders

What?

God was with Joseph, even when Joseph's brothers were angry at him and sold him as a slave to traders on their way to Egypt (Genesis 37)

When & Where?

About 1900 B.C., in Canaan (present-day Israel) and Egypt

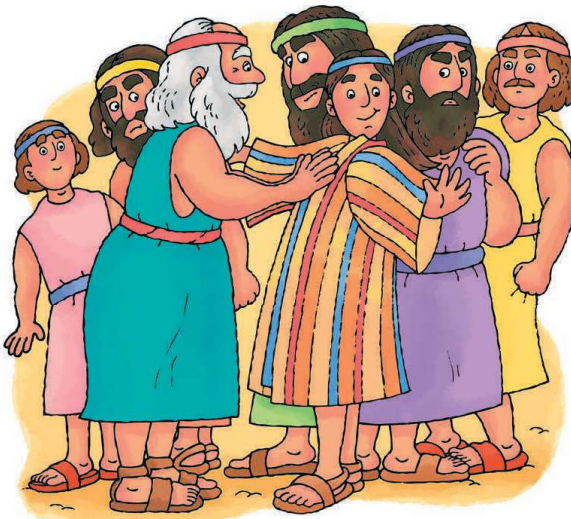
Why?

To help children know that God is always with them wherever they go

Goals For each child

- 1 Tell that God was with Joseph
- 2 Name a place God is with him or her
- 3 Thank God for being with him or her everywhere he or she goes

Bible Verse
"The LORD your God
will be with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9



Teacher Challenge Read Genesis 37.

Think about a time that you were disappointed by someone or treated unfairly. How did God show himself faithful to you even during that hard time?

Joseph's story is much bigger than just a pretty coat. When dreams came to him that predicted his family would bow to him, Joseph believed those dreams came from God. Those dreams nurtured a faith that helped him hang on through many dark times!

God used confusing and hard circumstances to place Joseph where he needed to be. But Joseph didn't focus on himself; he looked outward to help

others, to create situations where others would survive, shine and be blessed. He was willing to let God be in charge of making the dreams become reality.

- What dreams or plans for the future do you have that you believe God has given you?
- How will you prepare yourself today for those dreams to be fulfilled tomorrow?

To see God's dream for each of our lives unfold, we must do the same: Focus on living for Him today—in this situation, in this moment! Prepare to live today, the only day you have—fully for Him. He will bring the dream to reality!

Tear out this Bible Tuck-In™ and place it in your Bible for class use.

Play to Learn

Art Center

Collect

Bible, brown paper grocery bags, scissors, measuring stick, crepe-paper streamers in a variety of colors, masking tape.

Prepare

For each child, cut a grocery bag as shown in photo and cut 8 to 10 18-inch (45.5-cm) lengths of crepe paper.



Do

Children tape crepe paper lengths to grocery bags to make coats that remind them of the one Joseph wore in the Bible story. Children wear coats they make.

Teaching Tip

Place pieces of tape on the edge of a table ahead of time for children to use.

Blocks Center

Collect

Bible, 11 index cards, marker, blocks, toy sheep.

Prepare

Fold the index cards in half, and on each one draw a simple face to represent Joseph and his brothers.

Do

Children build a block road and use toy sheep and cards to retell story of how Joseph went to find his brothers and the sheep.



Teaching Tips

1. Instead of using prepared cards, use toy people.
2. If you don't have toy sheep, use cotton balls as sheep.

Talk About

- In our Bible story, Joseph's father gave him a colorful coat. Brittney, what colors do you like?
- God was with Joseph when he wore his colorful coat. And God was with him when his brothers were unkind to him and made him live far away. Hold open Bible. The Bible says, "The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Destiny, where do you like to go when you are dressed up? God is with you when you go to a party.
- Let's thank God for His promise to be with us. Pray briefly.

Tip for Younger Children
Children simply tape streamers to their own clothing.

Tip for Younger Children
Build a road and play with cards and sheep on the road.

Play to Learn

Bible Verse Activities

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Dramatic Play Center

Collect

Bible, toy food.

Do

Children pretend they are on a vacation trip, and visiting friends or relatives. Children act out serving and eating food. Talk about God's care wherever we go.



Enrichment Idea

Provide trays and paper plates for children to pretend they are eating at a restaurant.

Game Center

Collect

Bible, large duffle bag, a variety of items (ball, leaf, doll, sand pail, etc.).

Prepare

Place items in duffle bag and place bag at one end of the playing area.

Do

Children line up several feet away from bag. Children take turns going to the bag, picking an item from the bag and then returning to the group. Child tells where each item is found or used. Talk about God's care at that place. Continue until each child has had a turn.



Teaching Tip

Some children may take a while to choose which item they would like. Instead of putting all the items in one bag, place them in separate paper bags. On each child's turn, he or she brings one bag to the group.

Talk About

- Refer to open Bible. **The Bible says, "The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." God promises to be with us everywhere we go.**
- **Alaina, where do you like to go? God is with you wherever you go, even when you go a long way to Grandma's house.**
- **Bryan, when have you seen an airplane or a train? God was with you when you went to the airport to pick up your uncle. God is with you wherever you go.**
- **Pray with children, Thank You, God, for being with us everyplace we go. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Tip for Younger Children

Lay out a blanket and invite children to pretend they are on a picnic.

Tip for Younger Children

Place items on the floor several feet away from the children. Invite a volunteer to find the ball and return to the group. Continue, naming a different item each time, until each child has had a turn.

Listen to Learn

Joseph & His Brothers
Genesis 37

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Introduction

Show colorful fabric swatch or clothing item. **What is your favorite color to wear?** Volunteers answer. **Listen to find out what happened to a boy with a very colorful coat.** (Hold your Bible open to Genesis 37 as you tell the following story.)



Favorite Son

The Bible tells about a boy named Joseph. Joseph had 11 brothers. Joseph and his brothers took care of the family's sheep and watched to make sure no sheep got lost.

Joseph's father was named Jacob. Jacob loved Joseph the best of all his sons. To show that he loved Joseph best, Jacob gave him a beautiful, colorful coat. But the beautiful coat made his brothers angry!

Angry Brothers

Later Joseph told his family about two dreams that he had. Both dreams were about his family bowing to Joseph. It sounded as if Joseph would be their leader. The dreams made his brothers REALLY angry!

Mean Brothers

Not long after this, Joseph's brothers took the sheep out to find new grass. They had to go a long way and were gone for a long time. Jacob sent Joseph to find out how they were.

Joseph walked and walked. He looked for his brothers. Joseph's brothers saw him coming a long way off. The brothers remembered how angry they were at Joseph. They made a plan to take Joseph's coat and hurt Joseph!

But the oldest brother said, "Don't hurt him. Just throw him in this deep hole in the ground." And that's just what the brothers did.

Then the brothers noticed some traders coming. (Traders are people who buy and sell things.) One brother said, "Let's SELL Joseph. These traders will take him far, far away." So the brothers sold Joseph to the traders.

Sad Slave

Joseph was sold as a slave. (A slave is a person who is owned by someone else and has to work without getting paid.) He was taken far, far away to Egypt. Joseph must have been very sad. But even though he was far from home, God was with him.

Conclusion

God was with Joseph everywhere he went. God is with us, too. The Bible says, "The Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Optional: Review story by using pages 84-88 in *God's Story for Me Bible*.)

Creative Bible Storytelling Idea

Draw lines on paper using different colored crayons or markers when telling about Joseph's coat.

Talk to Learn

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TalkTime Activity Page

Collect

Bible, Lesson 1 *TalkTime* activity page and sticker page for yourself and each child, markers or crayons.

Do

Hand out *TalkTime* activity pages and demonstrate how to complete the page. Distribute sticker pages and crayons or markers. As children complete their own page, talk about the items on the page.



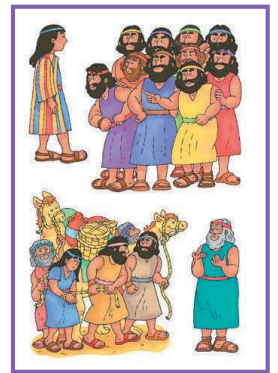
Bible Story Review

Collect

Figures 1-4 from *Visual Resources*, flannel board.

Do

Give each figure to a different volunteer. As you review the story, invite children to place figures on flannel board at the appropriate time. Ask questions to help children know when to respond. **Who has the picture of Joseph with his new coat? Which picture shows Joseph's angry brothers? Who has the picture of Joseph's father? Which picture should we put up next?** Repeat story at least once, giving figures to other volunteers.



Talk About

- What did Joseph's father give him?
- Joseph's brothers were angry because of Joseph's beautiful coat. When Joseph came to see his brothers, they were unkind to him. What did Joseph's brothers do when they were angry?
- God was with Joseph, even when his brothers were unkind to him. Read verse with children. **Anywhere we go, God is with us. I like to go to the library. Lucas, where do you like to go? God is with Lucas at his grandpa's.**
- Let's thank God for always being with us. Lead children in a brief prayer of thanks.

Family FunTime Page

Show page 1 of *Family FunTime*, review the conversation suggestions, and give the papers to children to take home.

Music Fun

During transition times, invite children to sing along as they listen to "God with You" (track 12), "Welcome, Hello!" (track 1) and/or "Good-Bye for Now" (track 15) on *Preschool Music #2 CD*.