

JOSEPH

PLEASE NOTE!

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Introduction

In today's world it seems that man's intellect can provide all the answers, and man's decisions alone determine destinies.

As we read the life of Joseph in the Book of Genesis, the fallacy of these ideas becomes apparent for we encounter a Sovereign God. As you teach these lessons you have the opportunity to unfold God's providential dealings with Joseph and His chosen people.

"If Joseph had not been Egypt's prisoner, he had not been Egypt's governor" (William Secker). Our prayer is that through these lessons many teachers and children will worship and trust our Sovereign Lord.

Teaching Bible truths

We fall short of our responsibility as teachers if we only tell children Bible stories. It is essential that children learn the truths those stories were written down to teach us, and that we then take them a step further to show what that truth means to them in their daily lives. Of course, we cannot in one lesson cover all the teaching any particular story would provide, so in each of these lessons one central truth has been chosen. The teaching of the central truth has been woven throughout the narrative, but to help you in your preparation the teaching sections have been marked **CT**. These are also marked out in the lesson plan. You will notice that the central truths are marked with a **U** or an **S** to show the kind of children the truth is applied to - unsaved or saved. This is also made clear in the text by using phrases such as, "If you have not trusted the Lord Jesus to forgive your sin ..." or, "Christian, you ...". The application of the truth has been highlighted with a line beside the text. You may feel it necessary to adapt the applications to better suit the children you teach. The important thing is that the Word of God is applied to their lives.

Making yourself available

When you present the Gospel message, there will be children who will respond to it independently. They may or may not tell you that they have trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour at a later date. There will, however, be others who would like some help. They may have questions to ask; they may need help or encouragement in knowing what to say. As you also teach the saved children, there may be times when they would like advice in a difficult situation; they may need clarification on how a particular lesson applies to their daily lives; they may find themselves in a situation where they do not know what the Bible says they should do; they may want to share a difficulty so that you can pray for them, especially if you are the only Christian support they have. For these reasons it is important that the children know you are available to talk. It is also important that they know when and where to go when they want to talk to you. Finally, it is essential that unsaved children do not confuse coming to the Lord Jesus with coming to you.

In all cases you should not make yourself available at the same time as giving the Gospel invitation, so that the children never get the impression that they cannot come to Christ without coming through you, or that they are saved simply by waiting to speak to you.

An example for use with the unsaved child

"Do you really want to live for the Lord Jesus, but you don't know how to come to Him? I will be glad to explain it from the Bible; come and see me. I'll be standing by that tree when the meeting is over. Remember, I can't take away your sin. Only the Lord Jesus can do that, but I will be glad to help you understand better how you can come to Him. Just come and sit with me under the tree."

An example for use with the saved child

“If you have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Saviour and you have never told me about it, please let me know. I’ll be standing beside the piano after the meeting is finished. I would like to know if you too have trusted the Lord Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, so that I can pray for you and perhaps help you.”

Memory verses

A Scripture verse to teach the children is suggested for each lesson. If you are teaching the lessons as a series over five weeks it would be advisable to choose two or three verses to teach well, which the children will then remember. If you try to teach all five, the children may not really know any of them well.

Additional helps

Along the left and right margins additional helps are provided, giving background information and optional ideas on how to add interest to your lesson.

These ideas are designed to incorporate different learning styles. For effective learning, some children need to see or write, others need to hear or speak, others need to touch or handle and still others need active participation.

You can use these ideas in your club as time allows.

Review questions

Review questions are provided. Review time, if conducted in an orderly way, can be an ideal opportunity to reinforce what you have taught while still being fun for the children. You will often discover misunderstandings or gaps in their knowledge which you can correct there and then.

Overview

Lesson	Central truth	Application	Memory verse
Joseph, the beloved son Genesis 29:18-20, 25-28, 31 Genesis 30:1-24 Genesis 35:16-18 Genesis 37:1-8	Beware of jealousy	Unsaved: Only Christ can free you from sin, trust Him	“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” John 8:36
Joseph, sold by his brothers Genesis 37:9-35 Genesis 42:21-22	All God’s children have hard times	Saved: Understand that the trials are for your good and that God is with you in them	“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble” Psalm 46:1
Joseph the prisoner Genesis 39-40	God helps His children live for Him - wherever they are	Saved: Ask for His help and prove the truth of Philippians 4:13	“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” Philippians 4:13
Joseph rewarded Genesis 41:1-57 Genesis 42:6-26	God rules over everything, everyone, everywhere	Unsaved: Submit to His rule in your life Saved: Think of His greatness and worship Him	“But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases” Psalm 115:3
Joseph cares for his family Genesis 42:27-45:28 Genesis 47:12 Genesis 50:15-21	God’s Word promises that “all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28)	Unsaved: You must trust Christ and so begin to enjoy this promise Saved: Believe this wonderful promise	“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God” Romans 8:28

Lesson 1

Joseph, the beloved son

Scripture for teachers

Genesis 29:18-20, 25-28, 31

Genesis 30:1-24

Genesis 35:16-18

Genesis 37:1-8

Central truth

Beware of jealousy

Application

Unsaved: Only Christ can free you from sin, trust Him

Memory verse

“Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” John 8:36

Visual aids

- ♦ Flashcards: 1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 1-4, 1-5 and 1-6

Or

- ♦ Figures: J-1, J-2, J-3, J-4, J-5, J-6, J-7, J-8, J-9, J-10, J-11, J-12 and J-13
- ♦ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene. An indoor tent scene may be substituted in scenes 1-3.

And

- ♦ Yarn
- ♦ To make a visual to teach the central truth: cut out a circle of white card approximately 25 cm in diameter. Make a handle of card or wood so the circle can be held up as a sign. On one side of the white circle write “beware” in bold red letters. On the reverse side write “of jealousy” in green.
- ♦ For short object lesson: Additional flashcards, or large sheet of paper or whiteboard (see page 8)

Lesson outline

Introduction

Kevin and Emma’s problem

CT

Progression of events

- 1 Jacob marries two wives
- 2 Leah and Rachel are jealous
- 3 Leah’s sons are born
- 4 Rachel has a baby, Joseph
- 5 Rachel has a second child and dies
- 6 Joseph grows up
- 7 Jacob gives Joseph a coat
- 8 The brothers hate Joseph

CT

CTU

Climax

Joseph tells his dream

Conclusion

The brothers are furious

CTU

You may want to make simple flashcards (as shown below) or write on a large sheet of paper or whiteboard to illustrate each truth.



Lies



Sin

God loves
you



Short object lesson

Five things God can't do

Our God is amazing. Through His power God created the heavens and the Earth and everything in them. But did you know there are some things God can't do?

God can't lie (Titus 1:2)

Lying is sin and the Bible says God has no sin at all (1 Peter 2:22). He is perfectly good and always speaks the truth. You and I are not like God, are we? God says, "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). You sin by doing, thinking or saying things that break God's rules. When you lie or do something mean or disobey your mum or your teacher, God calls that sin.

God can't allow sin in Heaven (Revelation 21:27)

Sin can't be where God is and Heaven could not be joyful if God allowed even one sin there.

God can't help loving you (1 John 4:10)

The Bible says God loves you so much He wants you to live with Him in His heavenly home some day. No one deserves to go to Heaven, but God loves you and made a way for you to be forgiven for your sin.

God can't let sin go unpunished (Romans 6:23)

God says the punishment you deserve for your sin is separation from Him forever in a place of darkness. But God loves you so much He sent His perfect Son, the Lord Jesus, to take the punishment for you. Three days later God raised Him from the dead. Now Jesus is alive in Heaven and wants to save you from your sin.

But there is one more thing God can't do.

God can't forgive your sin if you don't receive His Son as your Saviour (John 3:16-18)

God promises in the Bible that if you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ you will have everlasting life (John 3:36). And God can't lie! If you believe Jesus died for you and ask Him to forgive your sin, He will. And you will have life forever in Heaven someday! In our lesson today we'll talk more about that.

Lesson

"It's always the same," thought Kevin. "There he goes with all his friends. Everyone wants to be with him."

Kevin had some friends but everyone was Tony's friend.

"Mum, why can't I have more new clothes? Alison has a new tracksuit - another one. It's not fair!"

"Oh Emma, you have told me this so often," replied her mother. "You know we can't afford so many new things. Anyway, your clothes are pretty too."

"But not as nice as Alison's - hers are really trendy," Emma pouted.

Kevin had a problem. Emma had a problem. What was it?

Allow the children to respond.

They were jealous. It started with wanting what someone else had. What did Kevin want? What did Emma want? Have you ever felt as they did? When you do that, you are coveting. One of God's commands is "You shall not covet" (Exodus 20:17). First you want what someone else has, next you start to be jealous of that person. That too is disobeying God. It is very wrong. So *(hold up central truth visual)* **beware** of jealousy. Perhaps there is jealousy in your life, or in your family. Today we will "visit" a Bible family where there was a lot of jealousy.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place Jacob (J-1), Leah (J-2) and Rachel (J-3).

Jacob, from the book of Genesis in our Bible, had two wives.

If "Patriarchs" lessons have been taught, you will need less explanation here.

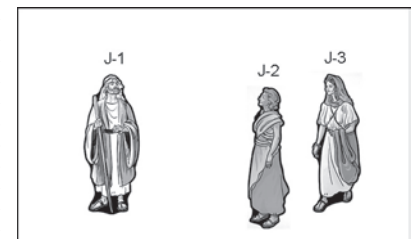
He had not planned on having two wives. Jacob had loved Rachel and wanted to marry her. Rachel's father promised Jacob that he could marry her as payment for seven years of work. After Jacob had worked the seven years, Rachel's father tricked Jacob and had him married to her older sister, Leah. Jacob did not love Leah. He still loved Rachel and wanted her for his wife. Her father said Jacob could have Rachel, too, if he worked seven more years. The laws of that land and at that time were different from ours, and many men had more than one wife. So, Jacob married Rachel, too. It was not the best thing to do, however, and there was lots of trouble.

Leah was jealous of her sister because Jacob loved Rachel and did not love her. Leah often tried to get Jacob to pay more attention to her. Leah thought she would be happy if Jacob would just pay as much attention to her as he did to Rachel. Jacob did not choose Leah to be his wife. Rachel was the one he chose and the one he loved. Not much wonder Leah was jealous. But one day something happened to make Leah very happy. She had a baby boy - Jacob's first son.

You may want to have two children briefly role-play a situation showing jealousy between brothers and sisters. Preschoolers could make angry faces.

CT

Flashcard 1-1

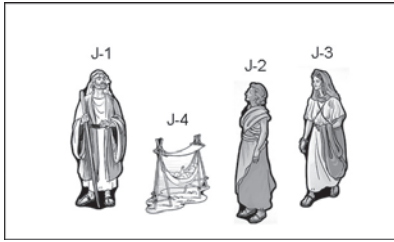


Hold up your open Bible. Have preschoolers say "Genesis" with you.

If you have taught the CEF lessons on the patriarchs, you may want to have children recall specific events.

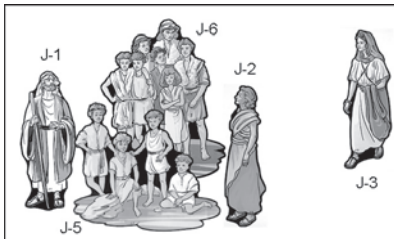
Count to seven with preschoolers.

Preschoolers can pretend to rock the baby to sleep in their arms.



When listing the names of Jacob's children, you may want to tell the meaning of each as explained in the passage. As an extended-time activity, you could research the names of the children in your class in advance and give each a card with his name and its meaning.

Flashcard 1-2

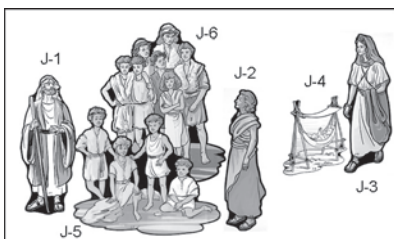


CT

A brief discussion will reveal some areas your children struggle with and help you make your applications more relevant. For preschoolers discuss being jealous of a new baby or a sibling who receives gifts they wanted.

Unless you have older children, it's probably best not to try to explain that some of the children were born to the maids of Jacob's wives. Though common in that culture, this practice was never sanctioned by God.

Flashcard 1-3



"Now my husband will love me," she said. She named her little son Reuben, which meant, "see, a son!"

Place baby (J-4).

Sometime later Leah had another son, and then another. Simeon and Levi were their names.

Replace baby (J-4) with boys (J-5).

Rachel was jealous. The Bible says, "Rachel envied her sister" (Genesis 30:1). Rachel had no children, and by this time Leah had four sons. Her fourth son was Judah.

Scene 2

Place children (J-6).

Each time another son was born, Leah was sure that Jacob would love her more than Rachel. But he did not, and Leah was jealous.

Rachel could not bear to see the children Leah had. Yes, Jacob loved her but she was so jealous of Leah that she said, "I'll die if I don't have children." There was arguing, quarrelling and scheming between these two jealous sisters. It got worse and worse. That is how it is with jealousy. It often starts as a secret thought. No-one but God knows how you envy your brother because he is clever. The way you are jealous of your friend's toys may be a secret. But **beware** (*hold up central truth visual*) you are displeasing God. God says in the Bible that jealousy is sin and leads to quarrelling (James 3:16).

It is like this - (*use yarn to bind a child as you talk*) jealousy starts in your heart; you often think jealous thoughts. Then you quarrel with the person who has better toys or nicer clothes. You are angry. You plan mean little tricks. It gets worse. You even hate the person. It all started with jealousy. You become captured by all these wrong things and you cannot break free.

Show that the young child cannot free himself and leave him bound until later.

What a horrible thing jealousy is. Little wonder God warns us to beware of it. It brought the same trouble and sadness to Jacob's home too.

But sometimes there was happiness. Each time Leah had a son, she was glad. One son was named Asher, which meant 'happy'. Surely Jacob must have been happy too, with all these children. There were ten sons and one daughter, but none of them was Rachel's.

Then, at last, great happiness came to her, too. The Bible says that God remembered Rachel and answered her prayers. He gave her a son.

Place baby (J-4) by Rachel.

“I’ll name him Joseph,” she said. “I know God will give me another son, too.”

Little baby Joseph brought much joy to Rachel and Jacob. Somehow Jacob seemed happier about this son than any of the others. Foolishly he paid more attention to Joseph. This was because he loved Rachel very much and to him her son was special. Guess how the brothers felt towards Joseph? Yes - they were jealous.

Remove all figures.

Joseph was just six years old when Rachel had another baby boy. She had been right in saying that God would give her another boy. But much sadness came with the birth of this baby. Immediately after he was born, Rachel died. Jacob called the new baby Benjamin. This was his twelfth son, the last one.

Scene 3

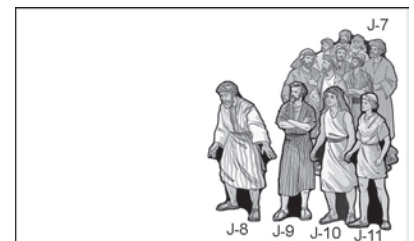
Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place twelve sons (J-7, J-8, J-9, J-10 and J-11).

What a big family! Twelve sons. Would you like to belong to a family like that? This was a very special family. It was the beginning of the nation God had promised Abraham. They were called the children of Israel. Later their descendants (their children’s children, and so on) were called Jews. Today Jews live in countries all over the world. Many of them live in the land God promised to Abraham, the land of Israel. Actually, Israel was a new name God had given to Jacob (Genesis 35:9-13).

Israel is the land where Jacob and his family lived. The years passed and Joseph grew up often seeing the jealousy of his brothers. But he was different. Nowhere do we read that Joseph was jealous. I am sure he often wished his mother was alive. Perhaps he was tempted to be jealous of his brothers who had a mother. But God was Joseph’s God. Joseph loved and obeyed Him. This is the only way you and I can be freed from jealousy and every other sin. You cannot free yourself *(show that the bound child cannot break free)*. Only one Person can do that for you. That is Jesus Christ, God’s only Son - He died on the cross to set you free. I can cut this yarn *(do this and free child)* but only Jesus Christ can set you free from sin. God says in the Bible, “Therefore if the Son (that is the Lord Jesus Christ) makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (John 8:36). If you really want to be free, trust the Lord Jesus to do that for you, trust Him today. Then you will be free to love and obey God, even when others around you do not.

Perhaps you are thinking, “Yes I want to be free, I don’t want to be captured by sin any longer. But I still don’t understand how to be set free.” I will be happy to explain more to you from the Bible. When club is over stay in your seat and I will know you want to talk to me.

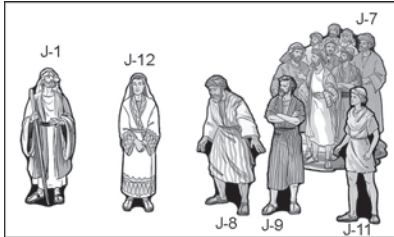
Flashcard 1-4



Show Israel on a modern-day map.

CTU

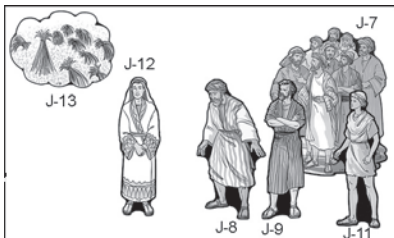
Though some accuse Joseph of being a tell-tale, his reporting to Jacob may have been valid given his brothers' tendency toward rash actions as seen in the incident at Shechem (Genesis 34).



Flashcard 1-5

You may want to have some of the children role-play this scene. Two could be Jacob and Joseph, and several more could be the jealous brothers. Use a brightly coloured robe or piece of cloth as the coat. The story will be more real to children if they can handle the fabric. Preschoolers will all want to try on "Joseph's coat". Show "coat" symbol for preschoolers.

Flashcard 1-6



Let several children role-play this conversation and the brothers' reaction to Joseph's dream.

Although Joseph's coat has sometimes been pictured as a striped "coat of many colours", F B Meyer describes it as an ankle-length white linen tunic with a colourful embroidered strip at the bottom hem and on the hem of the long sleeves. It was different from a

CTU

God can change you, He did it for Joseph. It is really important that you know how God can set you free from sin and change you, as He changed Joseph.

By the time he was seventeen, Joseph was working as a shepherd with his older brothers. Some days the brothers did very wrong things and Joseph told his father. This made the brothers furious.

Jacob continued to show that Joseph was his favourite. Having favourites in families always causes problems and it did in this family too. Especially when Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful gift.

Scene 4

Replace Joseph (J-10) with Joseph (J-12). Place Jacob (J-1).

It was a special brightly-coloured coat, the kind that showed that the person wearing it was honoured above all others. I'm sure the brothers muttered to each other, and said angry words to Joseph. The Bible says they hated Joseph. Jealousy really had captured them. They didn't even seem to care that they were displeasing God.

One day Joseph had something very important to tell his family. They all gathered around to listen.

"I had a dream," he said, "a strange dream. We were all working in a field, tying up sheaves or bundles of wheat. My bundle got up and stood up straight. But your bundles all stood around and bowed down to mine."

Remove Jacob (J-1). Place sheaves of wheat (J-13).

"So you think you will rule over us," they must have exclaimed in disgust.

"Will we bow down to you?"

"Never!"

They hated Joseph more than ever and gave him a nickname - "the Dreamer".

At that time none of the Bible was written yet, so God sometimes gave His messages in dreams. Through Joseph's dream God was saying something to Joseph, but the brothers didn't want to know. Jealousy had such a hold on them that they did not want to listen to a message from God.

Jealousy can do that in your life too. It can take charge of you so that you do not want to hear God's Word. You don't want to listen about how to be free from sin. You must **beware**. Watch out, you are in danger. The sin or wrong things that have captured you will keep you away from God, for ever and ever. You need to be set free. "Therefore if the Son (of God) makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Won't you trust Him to free you now? You can tell Him that sin and wrong have captured you. Thank Him for dying to free you and ask Him to do that for you now.

Beware that you don't go on in your jealous ways as Joseph's brothers did. Next time we'll hear if things got better or worse.

Allow a few moments of quietness when the children can respond in their hearts to the Word of God.

Review questions

- 1 Why were Leah and Rachel jealous of each other? (Jacob loved Rachel but not Leah, and Leah had children but Rachel had none.)
- 2 How does jealousy often start in your heart? (With a secret thought.)
- 3 What can jealousy lead to? (Quarreling.)
- 4 How many sons did Jacob have? (Twelve.)
- 5 How did Jacob show that Joseph was his favourite? (He gave him a brightly-coloured coat.)
- 6 How can you be set free from jealousy? ("Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" - John 8:36.)
- 7 Why can Jesus Christ set you free? (He died on the cross to set you free.)
- 8 Why can't you free yourself? (Only Jesus Christ can set you free from sin.)
- 9 What nickname did the brothers give Joseph? (The Dreamer.)
- 10 What was Joseph's dream? (Joseph and his brothers were tying up sheaves or bundles of wheat. Joseph's bundle stood up straight, and his brothers' sheaves bowed down to Joseph's.)
- 11 Who was Joseph's younger brother? (Benjamin.)

Preschool review questions

- 1 What were the names of Joseph's father and mother? (Jacob and Rachel.)
- 2 What special gift did Joseph's father give him? (A special coat.)
- 3 How did Joseph's brothers feel about Joseph and his new coat? (Jealous.)
- 4 Who is the only One Who can set us free from sin? (Jesus.)

Carry-over activity

You may add a quarter hour to your programme during which each child may make a "Joseph's coat". Make several cardboard coats from the enclosed pattern. Each child traces around one, cuts out the coat and decorates the sleeves only. Use the coats as an attendance

shepherd's coat, which was knee-length to allow freedom of movement and colourful to disguise stains. Joseph's coat was the type worn by royalty. (See 2 Samuel 13:18.) It set Joseph apart from his brothers, giving him the stature of the oldest son with the birthright. ("Joseph, Chosen of God"; Good News Publishers; 1962.)

Review game

Adventures with Joseph

Label 12 x A6 cards as follows:

- ♦ "say the memory verse" (3 cards)
- ♦ "500 bonus points" (4 cards)
- ♦ "jealous brothers, lose a turn" (3 cards)
- ♦ "Joseph's coat, extra turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "Joseph's first dream, extra turn" (1 card)

To play the game divide the class into teams. Ask questions alternating between the teams.

If a child answers incorrectly, play continues with the other team.

If a child answers correctly his team earns 1,000 points and he may draw a card. His team then does what the card says. For "say the memory verse" the child's team says the verse; for "lose a turn" the other team gets two turns in a row; for "extra turn" the child's team answers another question and has the opportunity to earn more points and draw another card.

Continue until all questions have been asked. The team earning the most points wins.

Preschool review game

Joseph's coat

Create a four-piece
puzzle of Joseph's coat.

Lay the puzzle pieces on
the floor or add flocked
paper or paper towel
scraps to the back of
each piece to use on your
flannelboard.

When a child answers a
question he may place a
piece in the puzzle. The
coat will be complete
when all four questions
are answered correctly.

Repeat as interest and
time allow.

incentive. The children colour a stripe each week they attend. When
the coat is finished they may take it home.

Lesson 2

Joseph, sold by his brothers

Scripture for teachers

Genesis 37:9-35

Genesis 42:21-22

Central truth

All God's children have hard times

Application

Saved: Understand that the trials are for your good and that God is with you in them

Memory verse

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" Psalm 46:1

Visual aids

- ♦ Flashcards: 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 2-4, 2-5 and 2-6

Or

- ♦ Figures: J-1, J-7, J-8, J-9, J-11, J-12, J-15, J-16, J-17, J-18, J-19, J-20, J-21, J-22 and J-23
- ♦ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene. An indoor tent scene may be substituted in scenes 1 and 2.

And

- ♦ Something made from gold (eg a ring or brooch)
- ♦ Write out the central truth on a card and clip to flannelboard or show as you teach the central truth
- ♦ For short object lesson: Additional flashcards, or large sheet of paper or whiteboard (see page 16)

Lesson outline

Introduction

How is gold prepared for making jewellery?

Progression of events

- 1 Joseph tells his second dream
- 2 The brothers hate Joseph even more CTS
- 3 Jacob sends Joseph to see his brothers
- 4 Joseph goes to Shechem CTS
- 5 He finds them in Dotham
- 6 Brothers see him coming and plot against him
- 7 They throw him in a pit CTS

Climax

They sell him to traders CTS

Conclusion

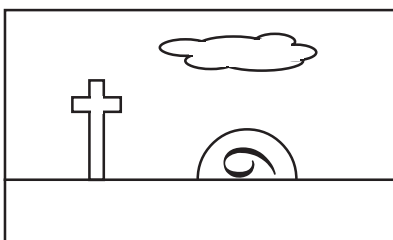
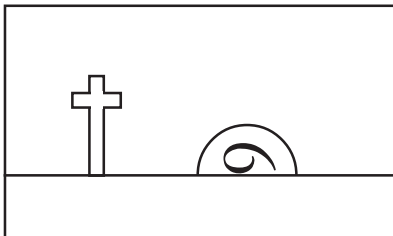
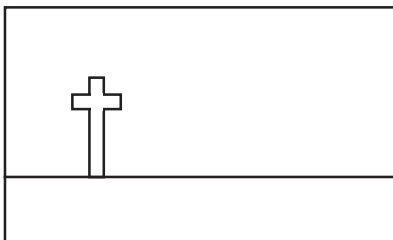
They take Joseph's coat to Jacob CTU, CTS

Use the diagrams below to prepare a simple drawing as you present the Gospel.

Step 1: Draw two lines to form a cross and one line to represent the ground underneath.

Step 2: To the right of the cross add the tomb by drawing a half circle. Inside the half circle write the number 6 flipped on its side to form the opening and rolled away stone.

Step 3: Draw a cloud above the tomb.



Short object lesson

The Gospel for you and me

Draw a cross on a sheet of paper or white board.

Why did Jesus die on the cross?

Let children share.

Did you know that you're a sinner? The Bible says, "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). When you shove your brother or play a mean trick on someone or lie to your mum about doing your homework you sin. And there's a punishment for sin. The Bible says, "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). When some of you do chores you get paid some pocket money. The money you earn is your wages. In the same way you have already earned wages for your sin, and the wages is death (separation from God forever in Hell). But God, who created you, loves you! He loved you enough to send the Lord Jesus, God the Son, to pay for your sin. Jesus died in your place!

After Jesus died He was buried. Three days later He came back to life.

Draw tomb.

The Bible says, "Whoever believes in Him (Jesus) will receive remission of sins" (Acts 10:43). When you believe in Jesus, who died to pay for your sin then rose again, God will forgive your sin. Someday you can go to Heaven - that's where Jesus is right now! But someday He's coming back to Earth for a special reason.

Draw cloud.

Jesus is coming back to Earth to take those who've believed in Him to Heaven to be with Him forever. Have you believed in Jesus as your Saviour?

Lesson

Hold up something made from gold, perhaps a ring or brooch.

Gold is very precious. Can you tell me where gold comes from? Yes, it is often mined and when it is taken out of the ground it doesn't look at all like this. It has to be heated to a very high temperature to take away all the things that are not gold, and then just the pure gold is left. When that is done it is ready to be made into a ring, or something else. In a way, Joseph is like gold. As you listen now, try to think how that is so. How is Joseph like gold? I will ask what you think when we come to the end of the Bible lesson.

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor or tent scene. Place Joseph (J-12), his brothers (J-7, J-8, J-9 and J-11) and Jacob (J-1).

"I've had another dream," Joseph announced one day.

His brothers were not too happy about that but they listened anyway. His father Jacob listened too.

"I dreamed that the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to me," Joseph continued.

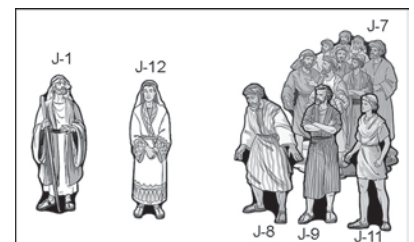
"Shall I, your mother (meaning Leah) and your brothers bow down to you?" asked Jacob in amazement.

The brothers were angry, jealous, furious. What would this young brother of theirs think of next? They nicknamed him "the Dreamer" and how they hated him. God was saying something in these dreams but the brothers were not interested. They would rather not hear what God was saying. They did not want to listen to Joseph either and they made that very clear to him.

Joseph was the one who trusted God and yet he was the one who had the hardest time. The brothers were mean, they hated him and they showed their hatred. It is often like that for God's children. King David who wrote a lot of the Psalms in the Bible, often told God how difficult life was for him, while those who didn't love God seemed to have fewer problems. The Lord Jesus said that those who follow Him will have hard times (John 16:33). All God's children, those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour, have hard times - not all the time of course. Perhaps you are the only Christian in your family, or in your class and it is very difficult for you. It may be you have a sickness that goes on and on. Have you thought, "It is harder for me than for anyone else," or "It's not fair, I'm a Christian"? Remember it happens to all God's children at some time. I have problems too, and Joseph certainly did.

It was hard to listen to the brothers' jibes. I am sure Joseph was very glad the brothers went far away from home to care for their father's sheep.

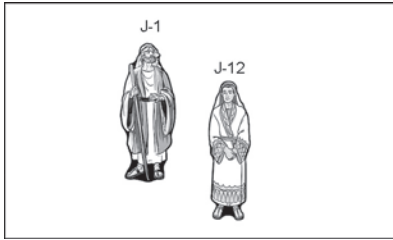
Flashcard 2-1



Preschoolers might enjoy play-acting Joseph's dream. Have them form a circle around one child (as the sun, moon and stars around Joseph) and bow down to him. Let them take turns being Joseph. Show "sun, moon and stars" symbol.

CTS

Show card with central truth - "all God's children have hard times".

No flashcard for this scene

Jacob's sons had got into serious trouble in Shechem (Genesis 34). He may have feared they would get into further trouble or be victims of revenge.

No flashcard for this scene**CTS**

Let the children locate Hebron (Joseph's home) and Shechem on a map. Point out the distance Joseph had to walk. Children remember more when they can see what you are teaching. Preschoolers will enjoy "leading Jacob's flocks to Shechem".

Preschoolers would enjoy searching for Joseph's brothers. Before class hide one or more visuals representing Joseph's brothers and let preschoolers find them.

Point out Dothan on a map.

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Outdoor or tent scene. Place Jacob (J-1) and Joseph (J-12).

After they had been gone for some time Jacob, or Israel as he is often called, became concerned about them.

"Come here, Joseph," he called one day. "I want to send you to your brothers. They are taking care of the flocks of sheep and goats at Shechem."

"Here I am," Joseph answered, meaning, "I am willing to go."

"See if things are going all right with them. See if they are having any problems with the flocks. And, bring word back to me as to how everything is going," his father said.

Joseph knew that his brothers hated him, yet he willingly obeyed his father.

Remove all figures.

Scene 3

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place Joseph (J-15).

It was a long journey from home to Shechem, about fifty miles. Fifty miles of walking ... and probably not looking forward to seeing his brothers at the end of it all. Yes, it was hard, but Joseph did it because it was right. Sometimes it is just because you, Christian boy or girl, do right that you have a hard time.

Let me tell you about Susan. She decided that she could not leave out Nada, the new girl, from their fun. At breaktime in school she asked her to come and play. When the other girls saw it they said, "If you want Nada, you won't have us." It was hard for Susan. It happened because she did what was right. God has not promised that His children will have an easy time. Joseph knew it would be hard when he met up with his brothers. But where were they? Joseph had walked for nearly two days before reaching Shechem. The men and the sheep were nowhere to be seen.

"What are you looking for?" asked a stranger.

"I'm looking for my brothers," Joseph replied. "Tell me please, do you know where they are?"

"They have moved on," the man explained. "I heard them say they were going to Dothan."

Dothan was fifteen miles further away but Joseph was glad of the information and headed off to find them.

While he was still quite a distance away from them, they saw him.

Remove Joseph (J-15).

Scene 4

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place well (J-18), brothers (J-16 and J-17) and sheep (J-19).

“Look,” they said, “here comes the Dreamer!” The brothers planned what they would do to Joseph when he came near.

“See this empty well,” one of them said, “let’s kill him and throw his body in here. We’ll say, ‘Some wild animal must have killed him’. Then we’ll see what will become of his dreams.”

But Reuben, the oldest, did not like to think of them doing such a terrible thing. “Do not sin against the child, let’s not kill him,” Reuben said. “Let’s just throw him into the pit (the empty well) without hurting him.”

Reuben was planning to come back and take Joseph out of the pit and send him back home. Of course, that would be after the other brothers had gone. Reuben must have been afraid of his brothers, even though they were all younger than he was. It’s not easy to speak out against wrong when you are the only one, though it is the right thing to do. Reuben said nothing more.

Replace brothers (J-16 and J-17) with figures J-7, J-8 and J-9. Place Joseph (J-15).

When Joseph arrived, they grabbed him and pulled his special coat from his shoulders.

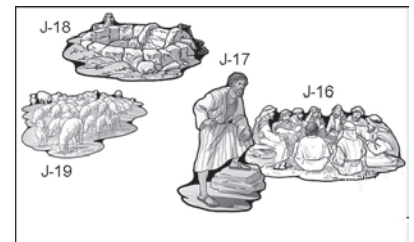
Remove Joseph (J-15).

Joseph could see they had planned some wicked thing. He tried to talk to them, but they would not listen. They just threw him into the pit.

Replace brothers (J-7, J-8 and J-9) with figure J-16.

It all happened so quickly and it was over before Joseph realized what was going on. For some reason Reuben left the group. This was the worst thing yet to happen to Joseph. The brothers did it and God allowed it. We can be sure when these hard things happen that God allows them for a very good reason. Sometimes God uses difficulties to teach us to trust Him. Just like the heat makes gold pure, hard times make our faith pure and strong. It was like that with Samantha. She could not understand why her dad walked out on them. Samantha knew the Lord Jesus as her Saviour, she was a child of God. During those difficult months she often cried, and she often told God how hurt and upset she was. Actually she talked far more to God then, than when life had been easy. God was truly her refuge and strength and He was more real to her. Also she learned to try to do little things to help her Mum. God brought good out of Samantha’s hard time and He would work it out for Joseph too. But it was difficult to remember that as he looked up out of the deep pit.

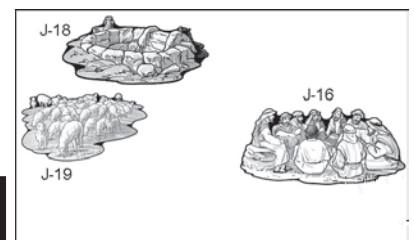
Flashcard 2-2



This was actually a dry cistern that was sometimes used for storing grain or water. It was bottle-shaped, narrow at the top and wider at the bottom. Occasionally such cisterns were used to temporarily hold prisoners.



Flashcard 2-3



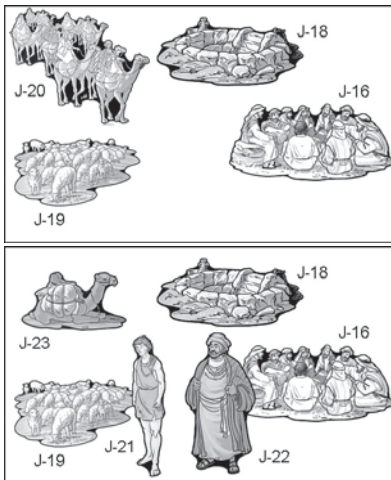
CTS

This teaching and application is based on 1 Peter 1:7.

The brothers would later recount how Joseph pleaded with them for his life (Genesis 42:21).

These were Ishmaelite traders from Midian in Arabia. Dothan was located on a main north-south caravan route. You may want to bring some spices to class for the children to smell. This will help children and preschoolers remember the lesson.

Flashcard 2-4



Flashcard 2-5

Some children would enjoy role-playing this scene of the brothers plotting, then selling Joseph.

For preschoolers, bring 20 silver coins and let them count.

CTS

In Acts 7:9 Stephen testifies that the patriarchs (Joseph's brothers) became envious and sold Joseph into Egypt, but God was with Joseph.

Scene 5

The brothers paid no attention as Joseph begged them to help him out of the pit. I can just hear Joseph crying from the bottom of the pit. "Don't leave me here ... Judah, take me out ... Simeon, why are you doing this to me? ... Levi, help me!"

But nobody listened - the brothers just sat down to eat their lunch!

I can imagine they were mean enough to laugh and joke about what they had done to Joseph. While they were eating, they noticed a group of traders on camels coming near to them. Judah suddenly had an idea. He shared it with his brothers.

Scene 6

Place camels (J-20).

"What good is it going to do us to kill our brother and hide him here?" he asked. It seems that Judah had not planned to follow Reuben's suggestion. They were still planning that Joseph should die. "Come on," he said to the others, "let's sell him to the traders in this caravan. That would be better than to kill him. After all, he is our brother. We could even make some money from him." (Last sentence inferred from verse 26, "what profit ...") Judah may have chuckled at his clever idea. And, the other brothers agreed with him.

Replace camels (J-20) with traders (J-22 and J-23). Place Joseph (J-21).

They lifted Joseph out of the pit and offered him for sale. They would have argued about the price. "Twenty pieces of silver. That's all I'll give you," the trader said. Judah and the others agreed to that, and Joseph was sold for that amount ... twenty pieces of silver.

Remove Joseph (J-21). Replace traders (J-22 and J-23) with camels (J-20).

The camel caravan moved on, taking Joseph with them. His brothers never expected to see Joseph again.

Remove all figures, except well (J-18).

Joseph was taken away to a strange land by men he did not know. It seems so cruel and unfair. He was the one in the family who lived to please God and he had such a hard time. Remember the Lord Jesus said that those who follow Him will have difficulties. In the Bible there are some wonderful words about Joseph going to this strange land. We read, "But God was with him" (Acts 7:9). That made all the difference. If the Lord Jesus is your Saviour, you too can be sure that God is with you whatever happens. That is what we learned in our memory verse. Shall we say it together? "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

When there are big problems at home, when you are sick, where friends turn against you, God is with you. He will help you through.

Perhaps you feel very alone but you are not alone. Joseph must have felt lonely, away from his father, away from his own country, but he was not away from his Heavenly Father.

Scene 7

Place Reuben (J-8).

Reuben had a bit of kindness in his heart for Joseph. As he had planned, he returned to the pit to take Joseph out. Looking into the darkness of the pit he could not see Joseph down there. He may have thought it was just too dark and called, "Joseph." No answer. Then, Reuben realized Joseph must not be there!

Remove all figures.

He hurried to find the others. "He's gone!" he exclaimed. "He's not in the pit. Where can I go to find him?"

The Bible does not tell how they explained Joseph's disappearance to Reuben. Since he was the oldest, Reuben was sure his father would hold him responsible. "Whatever can I tell Father?" he may have asked.

Together they decided what to do. They killed one of the goats and dipped Joseph's special coat in the blood of the goat. Then they took the coat home to Joseph's father.

"We found this," they lied. "Is it your son's coat or not?"

Jacob knew it was. "Oh, it is my son's coat," he said. "A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph is without a doubt torn in pieces."

It was very sad to see Jacob's sorrow. Nothing anyone could say would comfort him. (Of course, his sons never planned to tell him the truth.) "I will be in sorrow for my son until I die," Jacob said. And day after day, he was still weeping.

What had jealousy led the brothers to do?

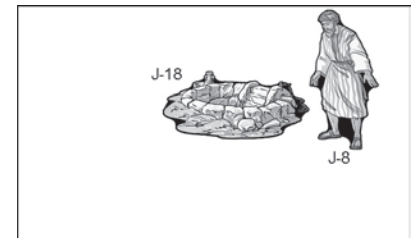
Allow children to respond.

Remember what we learned last week. Beware! It is a sad thing to be captured by it, as these men were. Who are you like today? Are you rather like these brothers? You have heard about God, you have heard the Gospel but you are still held captive by the wrong you do. Won't you trust the Lord Jesus to set you free? You can do so now, just where you are. Maybe you are a bit like Joseph. You know you are God's child but sometimes it is so hard. Remember this happens at some time or other to all God's children. God will use the problem or difficulty to make your trust in Him stronger. Best of all He is with you, to help you through.

Now let's think of the question about the gold.

Allow the children to answer. During the brief discussion, make sure the children understand that difficulties can purify our faith and we can learn to truly trust God. Conclude by praying for Christian children who are having difficulties.

Flashcard 2-6



Jacob still seemed to be reaping from the life of deception he had sown. It's ironic that the sons used goat's blood on the coat as Jacob had used goat skins to deceive his father Isaac.

CTU

Since this lesson is focused on Christian growth, the message of salvation is condensed. You will want to reinforce the presentation of the Gospel at another point in the class hour.

CTS

Provide take-home cards which include the teaching emphasis for the saved child.

Review game

Adventures with Joseph

Label 12 x A6 cards as follows:

- ♦ “say the memory verse” (3 cards)
- ♦ “500 bonus points” (3 cards)
- ♦ “jealous brothers, lose a turn” (3 cards)
- ♦ “thrown into a pit, lose a turn” (1 card)
- ♦ “Joseph’s second dream, extra turn” (1 card)
- ♦ “sold to merchants, lose a turn” (1 card)

Refer to Lesson 1 for instructions on how to play the game.

Preschool review game

Sun, moon and stars

Create a four-piece puzzle of the sun, moon and 11 stars from Joseph’s dream.

Lay the puzzle pieces on the floor or add flocked paper or paper towel scraps to the back of each piece to use on your flannelboard. Use preschool questions from Lessons 1 and 2.

When a child answers a question he may place a piece in the puzzle. When the puzzle is completed count the 11 stars, which stood for Joseph’s brothers. Point out the sun and moon which stood for his parents.

Repeat as interest and time allow.

Review questions

- 1 What was Joseph’s second dream? (The sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to him.)
- 2 Why did Joseph have to go to Shechem? (His father wanted to hear news of them.)
- 3 Why did Joseph go looking for his brothers, even though he knew they hated him? (He obeyed his father.)
- 4 How do we know that all God’s children have hard times? (God has not promised that His children will have an easy time.)
- 5 What was the first thing the brothers did to Joseph when he found them? (They grabbed him, pulled off his special coat and threw him into a pit.)
- 6 For how much did they sell him? (Twenty pieces of silver.)
- 7 Why does God allow hard times to come to His children? (God uses difficulties to teach us to trust Him.)
- 8 What could comfort Joseph as he was taken to a strange land? (God was with him.)
- 9 Which brother had planned to take Joseph out of the pit? (Reuben.)
- 10 What did the brothers do when they returned to Jacob? (They killed a goat, dipped Joseph’s special coat in the blood and took it to Jacob.)
- 11 What did Jacob believe about Joseph? (A wild animal had eaten him.)
- 12 In what ways was Joseph like gold? (In the same way that gold is heated to purify it, God used the difficulties to “purify” Joseph and teach him.)

Preschool review questions

- 1 What two things did Joseph dream about? (Bundles of grain; sun, moon and stars bowing down.)
- 2 After Joseph’s brothers took him out of the pit, what did they do to him? (Sold him.)
- 3 What did Joseph’s father think had happened to him? (That he had died.)
- 4 What should you remember about God, even when you are away from your family and home? (That God is with you and will help you.)

Lesson 3

Joseph the prisoner

Scripture for teachers

Genesis 39-40

Central truth

God helps His children live for Him - wherever they are

Application

Saved: Ask for His help and prove the truth of Philippians 4:13

Memory verse

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13

Visual aids

- ♦ Flashcards: 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 3-6 and 4-2

Or

- ♦ Figures: J-20, J-21, J-22, J-24, J-25, J-26, J-27, J-28, J-29, J-30, J-31 and J-32
- ♦ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene (Egyptian), plain background and prison interior scene

And

- ♦ Write out the central truth on a card and clip to flannelboard or show as you teach the central truth
- ♦ Add the following wordstrips when you bring out the appropriate application: "doing dull work", "saying 'no' to sin" and "telling the truth"
- ♦ Photocopy the take-home card referred to at the end of the lesson
- ♦ For short object lesson: Sign with word "sin" and a cloth

Lesson outline

Introduction

The camels enter Egypt

Progression of events

- 1 Joseph is bought by Potiphar
- 2 Joseph given responsibility in Potiphar's home CTS
- 3 Potiphar's wife tempts Joseph
- 4 Joseph refuses to sin CTS
- 5 Joseph is imprisoned
- 6 He is given responsibility in prison CTS
- 7 The butler and baker are imprisoned
- 8 The butler and baker dream

Climax

Joseph interprets the dreams CTS

Conclusion

The butler forgets Joseph

Teaching the memory verse

The lesson is applied only to saved children. When explaining the memory verse, it would be good to include the following emphasis for unsaved children.

Have you ever told a lie? Yes - it is easy to lie. It is easy to lose your temper. Yet that is not the way God wants us to live. Perhaps you have decided, "I'm going to stop telling lies," or "From today I'll be good." But it doesn't work. You just cannot stop doing wrong. You cannot live for God, the way you are. It is just as impossible as it is for my pencil to write. There it is, lying on the table. I say to it, "Please write", or "Draw a picture." But it cannot.

Our Bible verse says, "I can do all things through Christ" - that's the secret. Only when the Lord Jesus is in your heart and life, can you live in a way that pleases God. You need Him to take away all your sin and to be your Lord. If you do not have Christ you cannot stop lying, or losing your temper.

When I lift up my pencil and use it, then it can write and draw. When Christ takes charge of you, you can do "all things" which God wants you to do.

"... Christ who strengthens me" - He makes all the difference. First He saves you, then He strengthens you. If you are tired of trying to be good and you really want to live for God, trust Him as your Saviour. Then you will know that through His strength you can live the Christian life.

Short object lesson

Transferred sin

Hang a sign with the word "sin" around a child's neck.

Who can tell me what sin is? (Wrong things you think, say or do.)

What are some ways children sin?

Allow response.

God says, "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23) and deserve God's punishment for sin, which is death (separation from God forever).

Some children try to deny their sin. They say they never do wrong things. But is that true? (No.) The Bible says, "If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him (God) a liar" (1 John 1:10). God is truth and when He says, "all have sinned", He means **all**. Do you see (child's name's) sin? He may not think it's there, but God says it is and you can be sure that other people see it too!

Other children try to erase their sin.

Give a cloth to the child and ask him to try to wipe sin from his sign.

If they've stolen something they return it. If they've told a lie, they tell the truth. If they've hurt someone's feelings, they say they're sorry. While it's important to do those things, there's nothing you can do to erase your sin.

Still other children try to cover their sin.

Have the child try to hid sin with the cloth.

They do good things like going to church, giving money and helping others. Some children do so many good things you might think they never do wrong. I can't see (child's name's) sin anymore, but do you suppose it's still there?

Have child remove cloth.

Yes, it's still there.

God knew that you needed someone to take away your sin.

Remove sign from child's neck.

That's exactly what Jesus did when He bled and died on the cross.

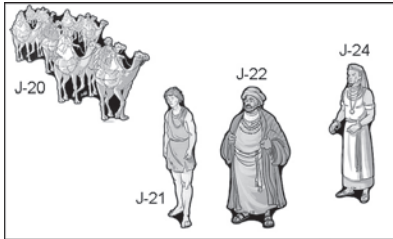
Place sign around your neck.

He took your sin on Himself as if He had done the wrong things you've done. I couldn't have done that for you, because I've sinned too. Only Jesus, the perfect Son of God, could do that! After Jesus died He was buried, but three days later He rose from the dead. Today He's alive in Heaven, where there's no sin or death.

Have you asked Jesus to take away your sin? He wants to do that for **you**!

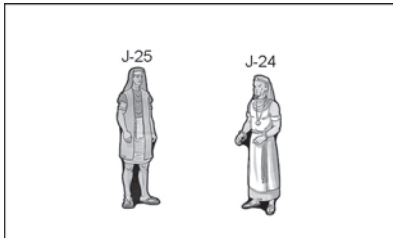
Flashcard 3-1

Children would enjoy tracing Joseph's journey from Dothan to Egypt.



Potiphar - his name means "dedicated to Ra", the sun god worshipped in Egypt.

Flashcard 3-2



If time allows ask the children what Potiphar might have seen or heard that indicated God was with Joseph.

CTS

If you have taught the CEF lessons on the

Lesson

Scene 1

Optional background: Outdoor scene (Egyptian). Place camels (J-20).

A camel caravan is entering the capital city of the country of Egypt. They have lots of things to sell. Perfumes and spices. Probably jewels and gold and ebony wood. And at least **one** young slave. Who was the young man to be sold as a slave? Yes, Joseph was about to be sold a second time.

Place Joseph (J-21), trader (J-22) and Potiphar (J-24).

Joseph was bought by Potiphar who was an important man in the country of Egypt. Potiphar was an officer of the king, called "the captain of the guard" (Genesis 39:1). Potiphar put Joseph to work!

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Use plain board (no background). Place Joseph (J-25) and Potiphar (J-24).

The Bible does not tell us what kind of work he did. But it was probably hard work, and not very interesting. A new slave would have had to do things more experienced slaves did not want to do. So what do you think Joseph did? Pout? Grumble? Complain? "Why do I have to be here? Those cruel hard-hearted brothers of mine! If I were home with my father, I wouldn't have to do this miserable work. I'll just take my good old time doing it. And I don't care if it's done right or not. This man, Potiphar, doesn't mean anything to me."

No, that is not the way Joseph acted.

God helped Joseph to live for him, even though he was far away from home and the work was hard. Joseph did his work well, knowing that the Lord was with him. He was not working only for Potiphar, he was doing his work for the Lord. Because he did his work so well, Potiphar soon gave him more important things to do for he saw that Joseph was different from his other slaves. The Bible says he "saw that the Lord was with him" (Genesis 39:3). God hasn't changed since those days. He is still with His children - those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour. If you are His child, He is with you and will help you live for Him, just where you are. Perhaps you find it boring to do the jobs you have at home. Is your school work very dull or difficult? God wants you to do it to please Him. He will help you remember to empty the garbage, He will help you to willingly tidy your room. With His help you can do your best at your school work. If you are His child, He promises to help. He will not fail you just as He did not fail Joseph.

Because Joseph pleased his master so well, Potiphar promoted Joseph until he was in charge. Because Joseph did his work heartily, Potiphar

put Joseph in charge of all his house. Joseph was over all the others who worked for Potiphar. Of course, Joseph didn't get any raise in pay, because slaves did not get paid! The Bible says that God "blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was on all that he (Potiphar) had in the house and in the field" (Genesis 39:5). Joseph was shown favour and kindness and he did well in all of his work. Everything was going well for Potiphar. He had given Joseph so much responsibility that the Bible says Potiphar did not even know what he owned. He entrusted it all to Joseph (Genesis 39:6). All Potiphar knew was that he had plenty to eat at meal times!

Remove Potiphar (J-24). Place Potiphar's wife (J-26).

Joseph was good looking - a very handsome young man. Potiphar's wife noticed that. She watched day after day as he did his work around the house. She may have thought, I want Joseph to pay more attention to me than to his work. I want him to love me. She told Joseph what she was thinking.

But, Joseph said, "No." He knew it would be wrong, and he told her so. "Look," he said, "your husband trusts me. He does not even know what he owns. I'm in charge of it all. How could I do anything so wrong as to take his wife from him and do this great sin against God?"

Replace Joseph (J-25) and Potiphar's wife (J-26) with figure J-27.

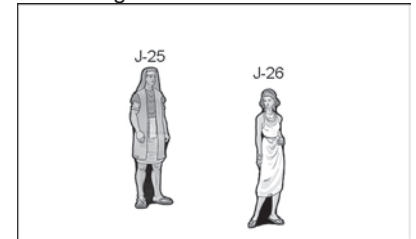
But she kept on pestering him and he kept on paying no attention to her. Then, one day when she was alone in the house, Joseph had to go there to do his work. She moved close to him and took hold of his coat, again asking him to make love to her. Joseph just slipped out of his coat and hurried out of the house.

Living for God often means saying "no" to sin - as Joseph had to do. Perhaps there is a gang in your street and they try to make you steal from a shop (*use example of taking drugs, or another suitable application*). Sometimes there are TV programmes and videos that show the very sin that Joseph refused to do with Potiphar's wife. God does not want you to watch those things. He will help you turn it off, or leave the room. The Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus is able to help those who are being tempted (Hebrews 2:18). If you are God's child, come to God and ask for His help to say "no" to wrong. When you do, you will "find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). God is for you, He will help you live for Him. That is why Joseph said "no" to Potiphar's wife. Of course she was furious.

Replace Joseph and Potiphar's wife (J-27) with Potiphar's wife (J-28).

There she stood with his coat in her hand. Joseph could not have imagined her angry thoughts. To think that a slave would ignore her like that! Well, she would get even. She started to scream. Some of the men who worked there ran to where she was.

patriarchs, you may want to mention that this is another example of how God was keeping His covenant promise to make Abraham's family a blessing.



Flashcard 3-3

Our young people need to be taught God's standard for sexual purity. However, be very sensitive to the maturity level of the children you teach. For younger children explain Potiphar's wife's actions by saying "she wanted him to love her" or "she wanted to be with him instead of her husband".

Flashcard 3-4



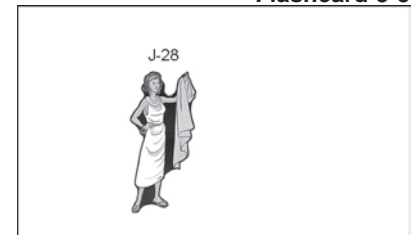
Commentators estimate Joseph spent ten years working in Potiphar's house. It is unclear how long he had been there when Potiphar's wife started bothering him, but he may have endured the temptation for years.

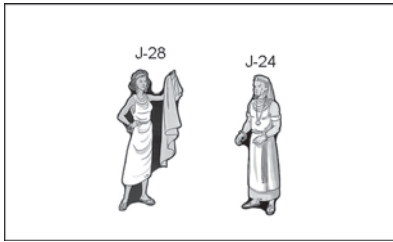
CTS

Be careful to use examples appropriate for the ages you teach.

Show "no" symbol for preschoolers.

Flashcard 3-5





“Look,” she cried, as she held up Joseph’s coat. “My husband brought that young slave in here to insult us. He tried to make love to me. When I screamed, he left his coat and ran.”

Place Potiphar (J-24).

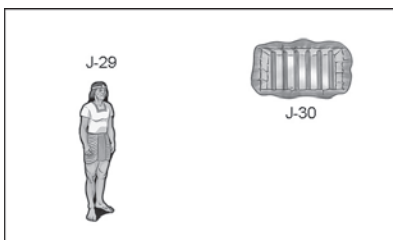
She then put the coat aside until her husband came home. She told him the same lie, showing Joseph’s coat again.

Potiphar’s wife was a wicked woman. She wanted love from a man other than her husband. She was also selfish and proud and determined to get what she wanted. When she couldn’t, she told a most terrible lie.

The lie his wife told sounded like the truth to Potiphar. He had good reason to be angry with Joseph, and he was. He was so angry that he put Joseph in jail! It must have been hard for Potiphar to lose such a good slave. But, he was not going to have anyone else make love to his wife, and there was no-one to tell him the truth. Joseph may have tried, but surely he would believe his wife before he would believe his slave. So, Joseph was thrown into jail; and Potiphar probably tried to forget about him.

Remove all figures.

Flashcard 3-6



Joseph referred to his prison as a dungeon (Genesis 40:15). It was a stifling place, probably partially underground. Prisoners were generally chained by the neck and the feet. Psalm 105:18 refers to Joseph as being “in irons”.

CTS

Scene 3

Optional background: Prison interior, or plain board with prison window (J-30). Place Joseph (J-29).

It must have seemed to Joseph that things could not be worse. Prisons were often dark, damp and smelly. But even there God was with Joseph. Even there God helped Joseph live for Him. Joseph didn’t grumble or complain. He did not sit down and feel sorry for himself. The chief jailer noticed him and was kind to him and gave him some work. Imagine living for God in that horrible place. Yes, it is possible, when you belong to the Lord Jesus. Listen to these wonderful words in the Bible. “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

Are you finding it nearly impossible to do right where you are? Perhaps no-one knows how difficult it is for you; but God knows. If you are His child, He is with you and He will help you. Tell Him all about it and ask for His help. Perhaps you would like to talk with me and pray together. This is a wonderful thing about belonging to the Lord, we can share our problem with another Christian. If you want to talk, stay in your seat when the meeting is over and I will come to you. But if you are God’s child, He will help you live for Him and do what is right, even when it is very difficult. It was difficult for Joseph too, even though the jailer showed him kindness; and put him in charge of other prisoners. But still, Joseph was in jail for something he had not done.

Remove all figures.

Scene 4

Place butler (J-31) and baker (J-32).

One day Joseph was put in charge of two new prisoners. Guess who introduced them to Joseph?

Place Potiphar (J-24).

Potiphar! ("The captain of the guard" - cf. Genesis 40:4, 39:1.) He had not forgotten him. He learned that Joseph could still be trusted.

Remove Potiphar (J-24).

Joseph learned that these were men who had worked for the king of Egypt. The kings of Egypt were called Pharaohs. The Bible says that Pharaoh was angry with these men, though it does not say what they did to make him angry.

One of them had been Pharaoh's chief baker. In a large palace, such as Pharaoh must have had, there would have been many persons who cooked and baked delicious things to serve at the king's table. This new prisoner was the man who had been in charge of all the baking.

The other was Pharaoh's chief butler. He was the one who served the king wine, or whatever he wanted to drink. There were others who served at the king's table, but this man was the one who was in charge. He was the chief, or the head butler.

The Bible says Joseph served these men, which may mean that he took them their meals, as well as doing other things for them. They had been there for some time when one morning Joseph saw that they were quite upset and very sad.

"Why do you look so sad today?" Joseph asked.

"We are sad because of some dreams we had," they answered.

Do you think that may have reminded Joseph of anything?

Give opportunity for answers.

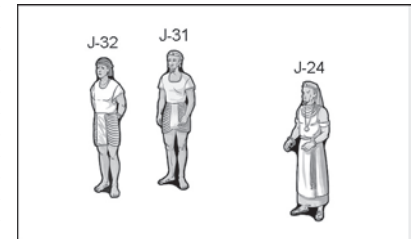
Joseph must have quickly thought back over the years. It was over ten years ago that he, too, had some strange dreams. He may have thought the way things looked now, there was surely no way those dreams could ever come true.

"There is no-one here to tell us the meaning of our dreams," the prisoners explained. They knew magicians were often called upon to give the meaning of dreams (Genesis 41:8). They felt helpless because there were no magicians there, and the dreams did seem important.

Joseph's reply surprised them. "Does not the meaning of dreams belong to God?" he said. "Please tell me your dreams."

The butler spoke first. "In my dream I saw a vine with three branches," he said. "I saw buds; then quickly, the buds became blossoms; and as

Flashcard 4-2



Show objects identifying a baker (biscuits) and butler (juice) for preschoolers.

Children would enjoy role-playing this conversation.

Count to three with preschoolers.

Children may play-act Joseph's request to the butler.

quickly, the blossoms became bunches of ripe grapes. I had Pharaoh's cup in my hand, and I took the grapes and squeezed the juice into the cup and gave it to him."

Immediately Joseph understood it. As he said, God knew what the dream meant, and God gave him the meaning. "The branches are three days. Within three days you will be out of jail, back in Pharaoh's palace, and serving his wine as before," Joseph explained.

Then, he added something else. "Think about me when you are back serving the king," he said. "Will you please be kind to me and ask Pharaoh if he could do something to get me out of this place? I was stolen away from my homeland, and since I came to this country, I have done nothing wrong that I should be in this dungeon."

At last Joseph had some hope of being set free, if someone other than Potiphar could free him. Pharaoh was a more important man than Potiphar. He could do it if he wanted to.

The baker was waiting to be told the meaning of his dream. The meaning of the butler's dream was so wonderful and he was eager to hear what Joseph had to say to him.

"This was my dream," he said. "I had three white baskets on my head. In the top basket there were all kinds of good baked things for Pharaoh. But while the baskets were on my head, the birds came and ate the baked things out of the basket."

Joseph understood that dream, too. "The three baskets are three days," he said. "Within three days Pharaoh will punish you by death. Your body will be left for the birds to eat."

You think, how horrible! Perhaps you wonder why Joseph even told him the meaning of the dream. Remember, Joseph didn't make the dream say that. God gave the meaning of the dream, and even though it was not pleasant, he had to do it. We do not know what the baker had done. It may have been something for which he deserved to die. Joseph told the truth, even though it was difficult to do so. Living for God means being truthful and honest. God will help you to be truthful about your age, even though you could go cheaper on the bus if you said you were younger. Supposing you notice that a shop assistant gives you too much change when you buy something, what should you do?

CTS

Allow children to respond.

When the rest of the class lie to the teacher it is hard to be different, but God will help you to be honest. He helped Joseph to tell the truth, to do dull work, to say "no" to sin. God's Word says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). All things means **all** things. You will never be in a situation where He cannot help. It was wonderful how God helped Joseph.

Remove all figures.

Scene 5

Joseph's message to the baker came true. His message to the butler also came true. The Bible says in three days Pharaoh had a birthday and on that day he had a feast. Also on that day the things happened which Joseph said would happen to the butler and the baker. Then, the Bible adds one very sad sentence. "Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him" (Genesis 40:23).

Joseph waited and waited and waited ... but, there was no word from Pharaoh that he would ever be set free. He must have been disappointed, yet he just kept on doing his work in prison. He still did it "heartily, as to the Lord" (Colossians 3:23), until one day ... oh, that's next week's lesson! You won't want to miss that exciting Bible lesson.

I have little cards with "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". If you love the Lord Jesus, why don't you take one as you leave. This week write down what the Lord helps you do - perhaps to say "sorry" to someone, or to do the dishes, or to tell the truth. Bring it next week and you can share what you could do through Christ.

Review questions

- 1 How did it happen that Joseph was working for Potiphar in the land of Egypt? (He was sold as a slave.)
- 2 Why was Potiphar pleased with Joseph's work? (Joseph did his work well and without complaining.)
- 3 How do you know that Potiphar was pleased with him? (Potiphar promoted Joseph until he was in charge.)
- 4 In what ways did God help Joseph live for Him? (He helped him to work well and without complaining.)
- 5 Why did Joseph end up in prison? (Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph.)
- 6 Why can Christians live for God wherever they are? (God is always with them and will help them.)
- 7 One day Potiphar introduced Joseph to two new prisoners. Who were they? (Pharaoh's chief baker and chief butler.)
- 8 Why were the butler and baker sad one morning? (They had each had a dream and could not understand the meaning.)
- 9 Why could Joseph tell the meaning of the dreams? (God knew what the dreams meant and He gave Joseph the meaning.)
- 10 Why was it hard to be honest to the baker? (Joseph had to tell the baker he would die three days later.)
- 11 What unkind thing did the butler do to Joseph? (He forgot his promise to tell Pharaoh about Joseph.)

No flashcard for this scene

Review game

Adventures with Joseph

Label 12 x A6 cards as follows:

- ♦ "say the memory verse" (3 cards)
- ♦ "500 bonus points" (4 cards)
- ♦ "new home, extra turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "Potiphar's favourite, extra turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "Potiphar's wife's favourite, lose a turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "run away from temptation, extra turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "sent to prison, lose a turn" (1 card)

Refer to Lesson 1 for instructions on how to play the game.

Preschool review game

Yes or no

Place red and green circles or squares on opposite sides of classroom.

Use preschool questions from Lessons 1-3. If the answer is "yes", the child goes to the green and stands on it. If "no", he goes to the red. In either case, he gives more information about the answer or chooses someone else to do so.

- 12 Why can Christians be sure of God's help to live for Him? (We will never be in a situation where He cannot help - "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" Philippians 4:13.)

Preschool review questions

- 1 Was Potiphar pleased with the way Joseph did his work? (Yes, Potiphar put Joseph in charge of all he had.)
- 2 When Potiphar's wife grabbed Joseph's coat and tried to tempt him, did Joseph stay and talk to her? (No, he slipped out of his coat and ran away.)
- 3 Who helped Joseph to explain to the butler and the baker what their dreams meant? (God.)
- 4 Did God know Joseph was in prison? (Yes, God was with Joseph even in prison and helped him do well.)

Lesson 4

Joseph rewarded

Scripture for teachers

Genesis 41:1-57

Genesis 42:6-26

Central truth

God rules over everything, everyone, everywhere

Application

Unsaved: Submit to His rule in your life

Saved: Think of His greatness and worship Him

Memory verse

“But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases” Psalm 115:3

Visual aids

- ♦ Flashcards: 4-1, 4-3, 4-4, 4-5, 4-6, 5-1 and 5-2

Or

- ♦ Figures: J-29, J-30, J-31, J-33, J-34, J-35, J-36 and J-37

- ♦ Backgrounds (optional): Prison scene, palace scene and outdoor scene

And

- ♦ For teaching the central truth write the words “God rules” on a silhouette of a crown
- ♦ At appropriate times in the lesson add wordstrips “everyone”, “everything” and “everywhere”
- ♦ For short object lesson: Large sheet of paper or whiteboard

Lesson outline

Introduction

It is hard to wait ...

Progression of events

- 1 Joseph’s imprisonment continues CT
- 2 Pharaoh dreams
- 3 His magicians cannot tell the meaning
- 4 Butler remembers Joseph CTU
- 5 Joseph brought to Pharaoh
- 6 Joseph tells the meaning of dreams CTU, CTS
- 7 Joseph is promoted CT
- 8 Seven years of plenty
- 9 Seven years of famine

Climax

- 10 Joseph’s brothers come for grain CTU
- 11 Joseph meets them CTU

Conclusion

They, except Simeon, return to Canaan
CTU, CTS

Short object lesson

The Gospel for you and me

Write the word "good" on a sheet of paper or white board.

Some children and even adults think that only good people go to Heaven. Is that true?

Allow response.

How many people do you think are good enough to go to Heaven?

Let children share. Open your Bible to Romans 3:12 and let a child remove a slip of paper with the number zero on it.

Here in my Bible it says, "There is none who does good, no, not one" (Romans 3:12b).

Only God is good (Mark 10:18). God is holy (perfectly pure from all sin) and only God's perfect home, Heaven, is pure from sin. God, who created you, loves you and wants you to live with Him in Heaven someday. It's a place where there's no sickness or sadness, troubles or pain.

When God made the Earth, it too was a good place (Genesis 1:31). Then one day Adam and Eve, the two people God had made, chose to sin by disobeying Him. And ever since then the Earth has not been a good, sinless place.

Cross out "good".

All of us are born with sin in our hearts. When you talk back, disobey or say, think or do anything else that breaks God's laws, you sin. Is sin good? (No!) If you have sin in your heart, are you good? (No!) So how many good people are there in the world? (None.)

God says you deserve the punishment for sin, which is death (separation from God forever). But Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to take that punishment for you. Jesus didn't deserve to die! He was good, but He bled and died on the cross for your sin and mine. After He died He was buried. Three days later He came back to life. Today He's alive in Heaven.

Are you going to Heaven? Since there are no good people in the world, what kind of people go to Heaven?

Write the word "saved".

The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31). It's not good people who go to Heaven, it's saved people. Listen carefully during our lesson today and we'll talk more about how you can be saved and know you'll go to Heaven someday.

Lesson

It is hard to wait, isn't it? As you wait for your birthday, or Christmas, or that football match, time seems to pass so slowly.

Scene 1

Optional background: Prison scene. Place Joseph (J-29) and prison window (J-30).

It must have been like that for Joseph too. There in prison he waited to be set free. Maybe he thought, "Surely the butler has spoken to Pharaoh, perhaps today the message will come." But it did not. The butler forgot Joseph for **two whole years**. During that time Joseph must have thought over the dreams he had had long ago. They made no sense now. Had God forgotten him? No! Even when the worst possible things happen, God is in charge of it all. He rules over all and He does not forget His children. The Bible says, "He (God) rules by His power forever" (Psalm 66:7). He is not a weak God, He is a great mighty God. He can do whatever He pleases. Even when it is hard to understand because of sad things that happen. God still rules. Although Joseph, His child, was in prison, God was in charge.

Remove all figures.

Optional background: Palace scene. Place Pharaoh (J-33), magicians (J-34) and butler (J-31).

One morning when the butler went to serve the king, Pharaoh was very troubled. He was surrounded by the greatest magicians and wise men in the land. The butler just listened as Pharaoh talked.

"I had a very strange dream last night," he said. "I dreamed I was standing on the bank of the Nile River. Seven fat, nice looking cows came up out of the river and began to eat in the meadow. Then seven other cows came out of the river. They were skinny, and poor sickly-looking animals. They stood beside the good cows ... and then, ate them up! Then I awoke; and fell asleep again, and had another dream. Seven good full heads of grain grew on one stalk. (Only one head of grain grows on a stalk.) Then after that seven poor, almost empty heads of grain grew and the poor heads of grain ate up the good heads of grain. Then, I awoke again. What do my dreams mean?"

The magicians and the wise men were troubled as Pharaoh spoke. They did not know. But the butler was thinking and remembering! He spoke to Pharaoh.

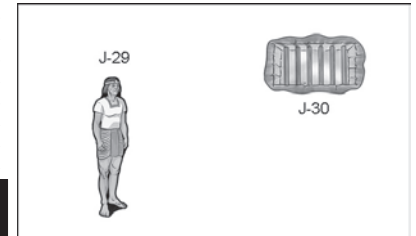
"I remember something," he said. Perhaps the butler was thinking he should have remembered it two years ago. The Bible tells us the butler said, "I remember my faults (or my sin)" (Genesis 41:9).

"Pharaoh was angry with his servants," the butler said, "and the chief baker and I were put in jail. During that time we each had a dream, and there was a young man there who told us what the dreams meant. Our dreams came true, exactly as he said. He had been a slave to

Let children briefly share examples, or mention one or two such as waiting for a birthday or special trip.

Flashcard 4-1

Show "prison bars" symbol for preschoolers.

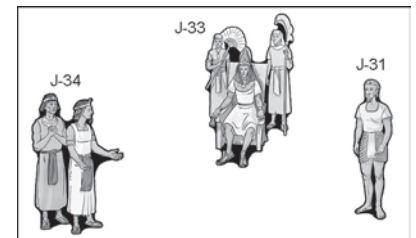


CT

Let children recall events from the previous lesson, especially if new children are present. You may also want to let children locate Egypt on a map, showing how far from home Joseph was. Children enjoy using maps.

Flashcard 4-3

Preschoolers might enjoy counting off the months on a calendar and holding up two fingers for years.



You may want to let a child portray Pharaoh telling his dream. Print the words on a card for him to say. Younger children can repeat the words after you, counting to seven.

Flashcard 4-4

The magicians and wise men used witchcraft to interpret dreams and visions.

CTU

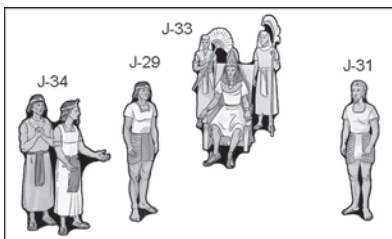
Potiphar, the captain of the guard, and he was a Hebrew.” (Hebrew is another word for the Jewish people.)

The king gave an order. “Go,” he said, “and bring that man here.”

The Pharaoh did not know or love the one true God, neither did the butler. They worshipped other gods. Yet right now they were doing what the one true God had planned. God rules over all people, even over those who do not love or obey Him. In the Bible we read that compared with God, the people of the earth are like grasshoppers (Isaiah 40:22). Perhaps you ask, “Why does God allow people to do wrong?” God has not made people like robots. He allows them to choose. He allows you to choose. Today, perhaps, you stole something, you told a lie, you hurt another boy and God didn’t stop you and He has not punished you. That does not mean that He cannot. But He is loving and patient too. For a time He waits for you to turn from your sin to Jesus Christ. If you do not, one day when you meet God He will judge you for every wrong you have done. Then you will see that He rules, for no sin you have done will go unpunished. The Bible says that after death comes God’s judgement. Then everyone will see that God is “the blessed and only Ruler” (1 Timothy 6:15 NIV). Until that time, God allows people to choose how they live. They cannot, however, do what He does not allow. God made sure that Pharaoh and the butler did His will.

How excited Joseph must have been when the message came. “You must go to the palace.” He was set free immediately. He shaved and dressed and was taken to Pharaoh.

Flashcard 4-5



Scene 2

“I have dreamed a dream and there is no-one here who can tell me what it means,” Pharaoh explained. “I have heard that you can understand dreams and tell what they mean.”

Listen carefully to Joseph’s answer. “I cannot tell what dreams mean,” he said, “but God will tell you the meaning of the dream.”

The butler must have remembered that Joseph said that before explaining **his** dream.

Pharaoh repeated the dreams to Joseph, as he told them to his wise men and magicians. He told something more than when he shared the dreams the first time. “I never saw such poor cows in all the land of Egypt as those second ones that came out of the river. After the poor cows ate up the good cows, they were still poor and sickly-looking. You could not tell any difference in them from before.”

Pharaoh added, “I told these dreams to the magicians, but they could not explain them to me.”

“God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do,” Joseph said. Notice, he kept on talking about his God. “The two dreams mean

the same thing. The seven good cows and seven good heads of grain are seven years. These years are seven good years. The seven poor cows and seven poor heads of grain mean seven poor years, seven years of famine. This is what is meant when I said God is showing Pharaoh what He is going to do,” Joseph explained more clearly. “There will be seven years of great plenty all over the land of Egypt. The crops will be better than ever before. There will be much more food than the people can eat. But after those seven good years, there will be seven years of famine. The crops will not grow. [Perhaps there would be no rain.] The famine will be so terrible that the people will even forget the good years they had. It will be very bad.”

Joseph made it clear that he could explain the meaning of the dream only because God had shown it to him. God knows our thoughts and dreams, God knows the meaning of everything. He knows what will happen and what has happened. If God did not know everything, He could not rule over all, for sometimes He would be taken by surprise. But He does know **everything**, the Bible makes it clear that He even knows every little thing about you and me.

Listen to these words from the Bible.

Read Psalm 139:2-4.

If you do not love the Lord Jesus, don't you see how frightening it will be to meet this Mighty Ruler. You won't be able to hide any of your sin from Him. He even knows about those mean thoughts, those wrong things that no-one else knows about. What a ruler He is. Christian boy and girl, remember how great your God is. It is important to think about His greatness and to tell Him, “God, you are very great.” Only He could give the meaning of Pharaoh's strange dreams.

Then, Joseph gave Pharaoh some advice. “Your two dreams were alike because God will surely cause this to happen. And, God will make it happen soon. Pharaoh should look for a man who is wise enough to be in charge of all the land of Egypt.”

Imagine Joseph, the Hebrew prisoner, being so bold as to tell the great Pharaoh of Egypt what to do! When we are doing what God wants us to do, when we are truly serving the Lord Christ, and not just man, He gives us the courage to speak the right thing.

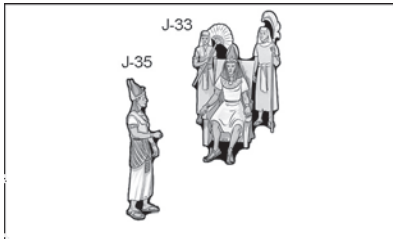
Joseph went on with his advice. “Choose such a man,” he said, “and let him have men to work for him. During the seven years of plenty, food should be gathered and put in storage. Then, when the years of famine come, there will be enough food so that all Egypt does not starve.”

As Pharaoh and his servants listened to Joseph, they knew that was good advice. The king looked at his servants and said, “Can we find another man like this?” He pointed to Joseph and added, “The Spirit of God is in him.”

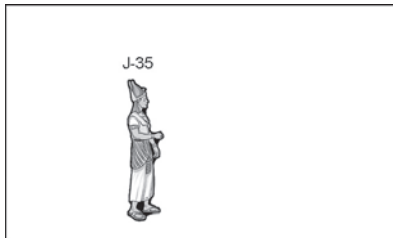
CTU

CTS

Flashcard 4-6



CT



No flashcard for this scene

Joseph's appointed officers collected a fifth of the harvest to store in strategically located cities where the food would be accessible to all. During the famine the grain was sold for money or exchanged for cattle. Later the grain was exchanged for land or contracted servants. Afterward Joseph returned seed to the people to sow in exchange for a fifth of

First Potiphar, then the jailer, now Pharaoh. All realised that the Lord was with Joseph.

Pharaoh spoke to Joseph. "Since God has shown you all this, there is surely no-one else as wise as you. You shall be that man you asked me to set over all the land of Egypt. Only I will be greater than you. You will be second in power."

Remove butler (J-31) and magicians (J-34). Replace Joseph (J-29) with figure J-35.

Pharaoh took a ring from his finger and put it on Joseph's finger. That ring was the sign of power, or authority. The one who wore it had the right to sign and do things in Pharaoh's name. Then, Joseph was dressed in fine robes, such as princes wore. Pharaoh put a gold chain around his neck, and presented him with a chariot and horses. By this time Joseph must have thought **he** was dreaming! His life seems to have been filled with dreams, but this was no dream. He had been brought from prison to a palace and made a ruler all in one day!

Pharaoh gave an order that when Joseph rode in his chariot through the land, his servants should call, "Bow the knee to him." And so it was done. It may be that at first the Egyptians honoured Joseph because they were forced to do it. But soon they must have learned to love him, because of all that he was doing for them.

It was a very strange situation - a Hebrew man ruling in Egypt. God did not only rule in Canaan, He also ruled in Egypt. He rules everywhere! Can you tell me some far away lands?

Allow children to participate.

Yes, He rules in all of those places. The Bible tells us that you cannot get away from Him (Psalm 139:7-10). He rules everywhere, because He is everywhere and He rules for ever and ever. How great is our God!

Scene 3

Remove Pharaoh (J-33).

It must have been an encouragement to Joseph to know that God was with him there in Egypt too. He had a very important and difficult job. During the years of good harvests he made sure that a lot was stored away. In the end so much was kept that it was impossible to keep records of it all! God sent good harvests - He doesn't only rule over people, He rules everything - even the weather.

The years of famine came. When the food became scarce the people came to Pharaoh and Pharaoh sent them to Joseph. Joseph was called the governor of Egypt. He opened the storehouses and sold the people food. The famine reached much farther than Egypt. Soon people from other countries came to Joseph to buy food, because the Bible says, "the famine was severe in all lands" (Genesis 41:57).

Joseph's servants must have kept records of how much food was being sold.

Place interpreter (J-36) and brothers (J-37).

One day, as Joseph was busy selling food, he saw some men from another country coming to his storehouses. A group of ten men were together. They came in front of Joseph and bowed their faces toward the ground. Who were they? Yes, they were Joseph's brothers.

Can't you see a little of God's plan in this? God had chosen the children of Israel (Jacob's family) to be the people through whom the Saviour would come one day, hundreds of years later. He made sure they would not starve in this famine. He would never allow them to be wiped out. When the right time would come, God would send His only Son to a Jewish family. Yes, God rules and carries out His plans. He continued to work things out so that His Son did come at the right time. Jesus Christ came into the world. He lived a perfect life. He died on the cross and was punished for our sin. He rose again and is alive for ever. This was God's great plan of salvation. He has done this so that you can be in God's kingdom. God rules over all the world but He rules also in the hearts of people - His people. When you trust the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, God begins to be the Ruler of your life. You love Him and obey Him. You are taken out of Satan's kingdom and put into God's kingdom. This is all possible because God ruled over all that happened. He made sure that Jacob's family was not wiped out.

In God's time the sons of Jacob came asking for food.

Scene 4

Immediately Joseph knew them. His brothers! But he did not let them know he knew ... and they did not recognize him. He had been eighteen or nineteen years old when they last saw him. Now, he was thirty-nine. He was dressed like an Egyptian. He spoke the Egyptian language. He also spoke in a rough voice.

"Where did you come from?" an interpreter repeated the question in the Hebrew language.

"We came from the land of Canaan to buy food," they answered. The interpreter gave their answer to Joseph.

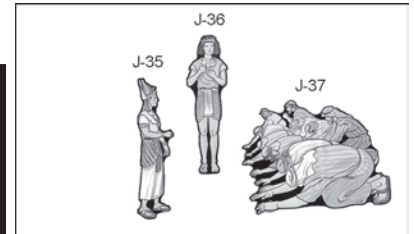
The Bible says, "Then Joseph remembered ..." (Genesis 42:9). What do you think he remembered? His dreams! Dreams of over twenty years ago had come true.

"I think you're spies," he said. "You've come to see how Egypt is suffering from the famine."

"No, my lord," they answered, "your servants have come to buy food. We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants are not spies."

their harvest (Genesis 47:13-26). God had been preparing Joseph for this administrative position through his leadership experiences in Potiphar's house and in the prison.

Flashcard 5-1



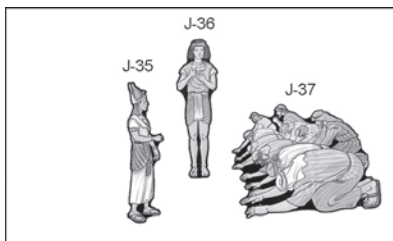
CTU

Flashcard 5-2

Joseph could speak both the Canaanite and Egyptian languages but chose to communicate through an interpreter. He apparently meant to conceal his identity until he could discern whether his brothers had experienced a change of heart toward him.

Preschoolers may pantomime going to prison and spending three days and nights there.

Flashcard 5-1



You may want to have several children role-play the brothers as they discuss their situation. Give them cards to read with dialogue from the passage.

Imagine them calling themselves Joseph's servants! But, they knew him only as "the governor of Egypt."

Joseph spoke roughly. "I still think you're spies," he said.

Their reply was really sincere and earnest. "Your servants are all brothers," they said, "the sons of one man in the land of Canaan. We have a younger brother back home with his father. And one brother is no more." (That was the same as saying, "he is dead.")

Joseph was glad to know that his father was still alive and that Benjamin was all right. But he said, "I still think you're spies. If you want to prove to me that you are not, send for your younger brother to join you here. One of you may go home to bring him. The rest of you will be kept in prison until he returns. If you won't do that, I'll know you are spies."

To give them time to think about that, Joseph put them all in prison for three days.

When Joseph brought them out of jail, he spoke more kindly.

Scene 5

"I have decided to keep just one of you here, and let the rest of you go home," he said. "I do worship God," Joseph said.

It was as if he was saying, "Because I love God I'm going to show kindness to you." They didn't deserve kindness, of course. But, Joseph was going to be kind to them, even if they didn't deserve it.

"If you are honest men, let me keep one of you here in prison. The rest of you may take your food and go home to your families, but bring your younger brother to me if you want to prove your honesty. Then I will know you are not spies and you will not die."

The punishment for spies was death, so it is no wonder the brothers were afraid. They talked about it in front of Joseph. They had no idea that he understood their Hebrew language!

"We are truly guilty because of our brother," they said. "When we saw his fear and heard his cries, we would not listen. That's why this trouble has come to us."

Then Reuben spoke. "Didn't I tell you not to harm him? But you would not listen. Now, are we going to die because you were responsible for his death?"

They still didn't trust this governor. Of course, Joseph understood every word they said and knew they were talking about the time they sold him. When he turned and walked out of the room, they did not know it was because he couldn't keep back his tears.

Remove all figures.

Here was a man in whose heart and life God ruled. The brothers deserved punishment. They did not deserve grain, they did not deserve kindness. But Joseph loved them. This was possible only because Joseph belonged to God and God was in charge of his life. Perhaps today you know that God should rule your heart too. Haven't you seen a little of the greatness of God? It is a serious thing to sin against Him. It will be a fearful thing to meet Him unless He is ruling in your heart. You need to come to the Lord Jesus today. He can forgive all your sin and bring you into God's kingdom. That is why He died. Then you can belong to God, you can love Him and obey Him, just like Joseph. Joseph, however, realized that the brothers needed to learn some hard lessons. So when he came back to them, he took Simeon and ordered him to be tied up and put in jail. The other brothers paid for their grain and started on their way.

It is amazing and wonderful how God worked things out - and we haven't finished the story yet! Only God could do that for He alone rules over all. He has all power, He knows all things. But how do you stand with Him? Please don't think that it doesn't matter if you just go your own way. One day you must meet Him. Won't you come to the Lord Jesus now and tell Him you want things to be right between you and God. The Bible says that God made the Lord Jesus a Prince and a Saviour so that people could turn from their sin and be forgiven (Acts 5:31). Ask Him to forgive you. Then God will be your God and your King.

Christian boy and girl, thank God for being such a great Ruler. Often think about His greatness and say to Him, "How great you are." As you praise Him, think of our memory verse, "But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases" (Psalm 115:3).

Review questions

- 1 When did the butler remember Joseph? (When he heard Pharaoh telling about his dream and the magicians and wise men could not interpret it.)
- 2 Why could Joseph give the meaning of Pharaoh's dream? (God told him what the dream meant.)
- 3 How do we know that God rules? (He knows everything - our thoughts, dreams, every little thing about us.)
- 4 Where does God rule? (God rules everywhere and He rules over all.)
- 5 Why did God want to make sure the children of Israel were kept safe? (God had chosen the children of Israel, Jacob's family, to be the people through whom the Saviour would come one day, hundreds of years later.)
- 6 What was the meaning of Pharaoh's dream? (God was going to send seven years of good harvests, followed by seven years of famine.)

CTU

For preschoolers use examples of sin that are more appropriate to their age - taking a toy that belongs to a friend, disobeying Mum or Dad, etc.

CTU

CTS

Review game

Adventures with Joseph

Label 12 x A6 cards as follows:

- ♦ "say the memory verse" (3 cards)
- ♦ "500 bonus points" (3 cards)
- ♦ "interpret baker's dream, extra turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "interpret butler's dream, extra turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "baker's and butler's dreams come true, extra turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "forgotten in prison, lose a turn" (1 card)

- ♦ “released from prison, extra lose a turn” (1 card)

Refer to Lesson 1 for instructions on how to play the game.

Preschool review game

Prison bars

Cut out four to six grey or silver construction paper slips (2-3 cm wide). Mount with reusable adhesive onto an A4 piece of black construction paper.

Use preschool questions from Lessons 1-4. As a child answers a question he may remove a prison bar. Remind the children that after Joseph waited two years he was freed from prison.

- 7 How did Pharaoh prepare for the famine? (Pharaoh gave Joseph the job of seeing that during the years of plenty food was gathered and put in storage, so that during the years of famine there would be food for the people.)
- 8 What showed us that God ruled over Joseph’s thoughts and attitudes? (Even though his brothers deserved punishment, Joseph loved them.)
- 9 Why is there so much sin and wrong, if God rules over all? (Because God allows people to choose.)
- 10 When will each person meet God? (When they die.)
- 11 Who are the only people who do not need to fear to meet Him? (Those who belong to Him, those in whose hearts God is ruling.)
- 12 How long will God’s rule last? (For ever and ever.)

Preschool review questions

- 1 Who was with Joseph even in prison? (God.)
- 2 When the butler and baker had dreams they did not understand, what did Joseph do? (Told them the meaning.)
- 3 What did the butler remember when nobody could tell Pharaoh the meaning of his dream? (That Joseph had told him the meaning of his dream.)
- 4 When things don’t work out the way you think they should, what should you do? (Wait for God to work them out.)

Carry-over activity

After club, or at home, each child could design a poster which says “God rules over ...” Then choose an aspect of His rule and illustrate this. Display the posters during next week’s class.

Lesson 5

Joseph cares for his family

Scripture for teachers

Genesis 42:27-45:28

Genesis 47:12

Genesis 50:15-21

Central truth

God's Word promises that "all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28)

Application

Unsaved: You must trust Christ and so begin to enjoy this promise

Saved: Believe this wonderful promise

Memory verse

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God" Romans 8:28

Visual aids

- ♦ Flashcards: 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 5-4, 5-5 and 5-6

Or

- ♦ Figures: J-7, J-8, J-9, J-11, J-35, J-36, J-37, J-38, J-39, J-40, J-41, J-42 and J-43
- ♦ Backgrounds (optional): Outdoor scene, open tent scene and rich indoor scene. You could substitute pillars on plain board for indoor scene.

Lesson outline

Introduction

Making a jigsaw puzzle

Progression of events

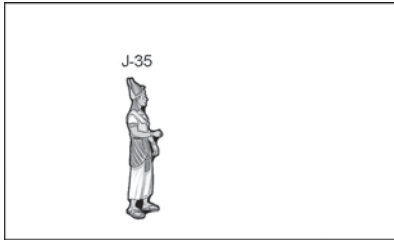
- 1 Joseph sees God's plan unfold CT
- 2 Brothers find money in sacks CTU
- 3 They tell Jacob what happened
- 4 Later, they return to Egypt
- 5 Jacob is heartbroken when Benjamin goes CTS
- 6 The brothers meet Joseph and later leave Egypt
- 7 Egyptian messenger discovers silver cup
- 8 All return to Joseph CTU

Climax

- 9 Joseph reveals his identity
- 10 The brothers fear
- 11 Joseph says it was God's plan CTS

Conclusion

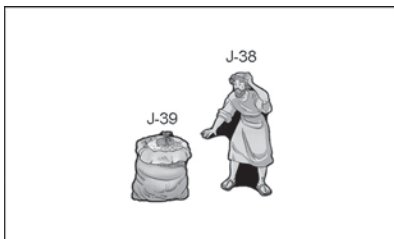
Jacob comes to Egypt and all are cared for
CTS, CTU



CT

No flashcard for this scene

Let preschoolers pretend to travel with the brothers.



Let preschoolers pretend to open a sack and be surprised to find the silver coins. Show "sack" symbol.

CTU

Lesson

Have you ever put together a jigsaw puzzle? Some are very difficult and it is hard to figure out how all the pieces fit together. Joseph's life had been like that (*place Joseph - figure J-35*). Parts of his life just did not make sense. When he became governor of Egypt, he must have thought of the dreams he had had as a lad. He began to understand why God had allowed these very difficult years in Egypt. Can you suggest why God allowed the difficult things?

Discuss with the children - show that Joseph's faith was strengthened, he learned the Egyptian language and writing, he understood the lives of the rich and the poor.

God was working it all out lovingly and wisely. There is a promise in the Bible which tells us that He does that for all His children. "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28). God is the Ruler over all, that is why He can work **all** things for good, in your life, and in Joseph's.

Remove Joseph (J-35).

Scene 1

Use plain board (no background). Place brother (J-38) and grain sack (J-39).

His brothers, however, could see little good coming to them. They were journeying home without Simeon.

At the place where they stopped for the night, one of them opened a sack to get grain for his donkey.

"Look at this," he exclaimed, "there is silver in the sack."

The brothers turned to each other, shaking with fear. "What is this that God has done to us?" they asked. Each time something went wrong, the brothers thought they were being punished. Each one had a guilty conscience. God has made you and me with a conscience. It is like a little voice inside that makes us see that we are doing wrong. Your conscience reminds you of the wrong you did, often when you go to bed at night. Do you have a guilty conscience today - right now you think of wrong you did and tried to hide? There is only one cure for a guilty conscience. God planned one way for you to have this put right. Listen to what He says in the Bible - "the blood of Christ, who ... offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God" (Hebrews 9:14). Jesus Christ, God's only Son, took your guilt and blame when He died on the cross. He alone can take away your sin and make your guilty conscience clean. You must trust the Lord Jesus to do that for you. Then you can love and serve God. If you are troubled by a guilty conscience, you really want to trust Christ but you don't know how, I will be glad to talk with you about this. Do not leave when the meeting is over. It is very important that you know how to trust Jesus Christ. (*Designate a place where concerned children should go after the meeting.*) It is

wonderful to be free from guilt, but Joseph's brothers still thought about their sin. It just seemed to follow them all the time.

When they arrived home, they explained things to their father. "The man who is the governor of the land spoke roughly to us," they said. They told their father the whole story, explaining why Simeon did not come back then with them.

Remove all figures.

Scene 2

Optional background: Outdoor or open tent scene. Place Jacob (J-40) and brothers (J-7 and J-8).

"He said we were spies. We told him, 'No, we are honest men.' He said he would not believe that until we bring our younger brother down to him. When we do that, he will believe us and set Simeon free."

"No," Jacob said. "You will never take Benjamin down there. You're taking my children away from me. Joseph is gone. Simeon is gone. And now you want to take Benjamin? Never!" (From Genesis 42:36-38.) Reuben said he would be responsible to see that Benjamin came back safe. But Jacob said, "No! His brother is dead and if anything should happen to Benjamin I would die of sorrow."

No more was said until a much later time when the food they brought from Egypt was all gone. Everyone was thinking, but no-one was talking about what they were going to do. One day Jacob said, "Go to Egypt again and buy us some more food."

Judah spoke now. "There is no use for us to go if Benjamin cannot go with us. That man said he wouldn't even see us if we came without Benjamin."

Place Benjamin (J-11).

So they went through it all again. Jacob said Benjamin could not go. Judah said Benjamin had to go.

"Why did you tell the man you had a younger brother?" Jacob asked.

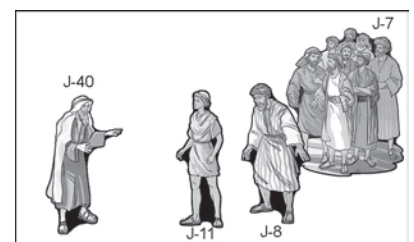
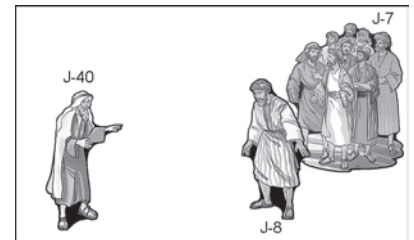
"Because he asked us. How could we know that he would say, 'Bring him here?'" Judah answered. Then Judah promised to be personally responsible for Benjamin's safety.

When Jacob saw that his family would starve without more food, he knew there was nothing else to do.

"Go," he said, "but take that man a present."

Jacob fixed a package with some honey and spices and nuts and a few other things; and told his sons to take double money with them - money to give back that which was returned and money to pay for the food they would bring home.

Flashcard 5-3



CTS

As they left, Jacob said, “And God Almighty give you mercy before the man, that he may send back Simeon and Benjamin.” Then, he added sadly, “If I lose my children, I lose them.”

Remove all figures.

Poor Jacob! It seemed impossible to him that it could ever work out for good. He loved God, but life was so, so hard. If you are God’s child, nothing changes that promise in God’s Word that He will work all things together for good.

When a chemist (pharmacist) makes up a medicine, he uses very precise, exact measurements. He puts in a tiny drop of one thing, mixes a tiny drop of another, more of another. In the end he has a good medicine. If he used too much of some things, it would be poison and not a medicine, but he does it exactly right. God handles each of His children like that. He knows how many problems to allow, He chooses the happiness to send. Putting them all together He works it for good - to make His children more like the Lord Jesus. If you are a Christian, believe this promise and trust God even if there is a death in your family, when you are sick, when you have big problems at home or school. Sometimes it is hard to trust God when life seems just too hard. That was how Jacob felt as he watched Benjamin leave with his other sons.

When Joseph saw his brothers coming, he knew immediately that Benjamin was with them. Joseph called his steward, the man who was in charge of his house.

“Make arrangements for these men to have dinner at my house at noon,” he said.

Flashcard 5-4

Scene 3

Optional background: Rich indoor scene. Place brothers (J-7, J-8 and J-11), Simeon (J-9) and interpreter (J-36).

When the men were sent to Joseph’s house, they were afraid. “It’s because of that money in our sacks,” they said. They tried to explain to the steward about that, but he didn’t pay much attention, saying that he had their money. They felt better when Simeon was brought from prison.

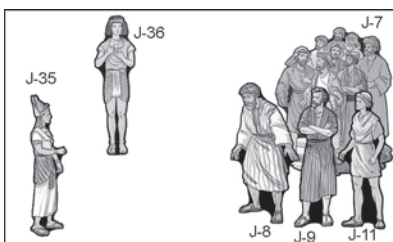
Place Joseph (J-35).

When Joseph came, they gave him their father’s present and bowed low before Him.

“Is your father alive and well?” he asked.

“Your servant, our father, is in good health,” they answered, bowing again.

Looking at Benjamin, Joseph asked, “And is this your younger brother about whom you spoke? God be good to you, my son,” he said to



Benjamin. Then, hurriedly, Joseph left. No one knew he couldn't keep back the tears because of all he heard and saw!

After Joseph came back, dinner was served. Joseph served their food from that which was brought to his table, and he served Benjamin five times as much as the others! During the meal everyone really had a good time. Later in the day their orders were filled and their bill was paid. The brothers stayed in Egypt overnight and early the next morning they left for home.

Remove all figures.

Can you imagine their joy? Simeon was with them. Benjamin was with them. Everything was going to be all right.

But, something had happened before they left that the brothers knew nothing about. It was all Joseph's plan. He had given the directions to the man who was in charge of his house. "Put their money back into their sacks again," he had said, "and, along with the money, put my silver cup in the top of the sack of the youngest one."

It was still very early in the morning. The brothers were just entering the country beyond the city limits, when they saw a man coming after them. They recognized him as Joseph's servant. He called to them to stop.

Scene 4

Optional background: Outdoor scene. Place brothers (J-7, J-8 and J-9), Benjamin (J-11) and Egyptian steward (J-41).

"Why have you done evil for good? Why have you stolen my master's silver cup?" he asked.

The men knew he was wrong. "Why do you say that?" they asked. "God forbid that we should do any such thing. We brought back the money we found in our sacks. So, why do you think we would steal silver or gold from your master? You may search us. If you find that one of us has it, you may have that one to put to death and the rest of us will be your slaves." They were really quite angry that he should accuse them of such a thing.

"Just the one who is hiding the cup will be my slave," the Egyptian said. "The rest of you may go free."

Place sacks (J-42) in front of Egyptian steward (J-41).

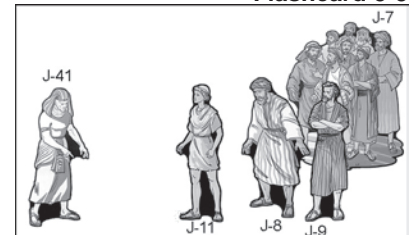
The search was begun. Beginning with Reuben, the oldest, each man opened his sack. Joseph's servant went from Reuben to Simeon to Levi to Judah to Dan to Naphtali to Gad to Asher to Issacher to Zebulun ... to Benjamin. And there he found the cup! How do you think those men felt? How could anything worse have happened?

Remove all figures.

To give extra portions in a meal signified a special relationship, which Joseph naturally felt toward Benjamin who, like himself, was Rachel's son. For preschoolers you may want to provide small crackers at this point. Give each child five to represent Benjamin's portion.

The royal cup was a drinking vessel but was also used by court magicians, who would look for supposed omens in the liquid it contained.

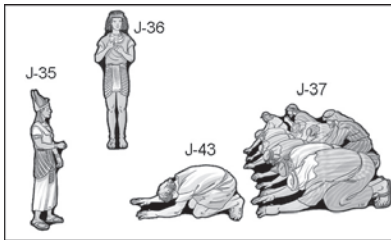
Flashcard 5-5



Several children could role-play this scene. To add interest, provide each child with a pillowcase stuffed with cotton or packing material (Styrofoam "peanuts") to represent the sacks. Place a "silver" cup in the last sack. Children will benefit from handling these objects related to the story. Preschoolers would enjoy counting the sacks and searching for the cup.



Flashcard 5-2



CTU

This obvious change in Judah signified his brothers' remorse and change of heart, freeing Joseph to reveal his identity to them.

Scene 5

Optional background: Rich indoor scene. Place Joseph (J-35), interpreter (J-36), Benjamin (J-43) and brothers (J-37).

Shaking with fear, the brothers tied up their sacks of grain and returned to the city and to Joseph. He was waiting for them. They fell down to the ground in front of him.

He spoke to them in an angry voice. "What have you done? Didn't you know I would know who stole my silver cup?"

Judah spoke for them. "What can I say to my master? How shall we speak? What can we do to prove that we are not guilty? God has shown up our sin. There is nothing to do but for every one of us to become your slaves." (From Genesis 44:16.)

They hadn't stolen the cup, but they still felt guilty. Guilt for the way they treated their brother long ago still stayed with them. Is there sin that you have tried to cover-up, but you cannot forget it? Your guilty conscience tells you that things are not right. You are guilty before God. You must come to the Lord Jesus and tell Him you are guilty. Trust Him to take away your sin and guilt.

He will "cleanse your conscience from dead works" (Hebrews 9:14). You will begin to love God and you will know that for you too, He will work all things together for good.

Joseph's brothers could see no good in what was happening as they stood trembling before Joseph.

"No," Joseph said, "I would not take all of you for my slaves. Only the one in whose sack the cup was found. The rest of you may go to your father in peace."

Perhaps Judah moved nearer to Joseph and spoke softly. Perhaps he did not want the Egyptians who were there to hear what he had to say.

"Please let me explain," he said, "and do not be angry." Judah reminded Joseph of their first visit and of his questions about their family, how they said Benjamin could not leave his father, because his brother was dead and if anything happened to Benjamin, his father would die. He then told how Jacob, their father, was determined that Benjamin should not go, especially since the one son had been "torn to pieces" when he left home many years ago. Nothing must happen to Benjamin! Judah finished by saying, "If we come to our father and Benjamin is not with us, he will die. We will be responsible for our father dying of sorrow. I promised if Benjamin did not return with us I would take the blame forever. Now, please, will you not let me stay and be your slave and let Benjamin go home?" How different Judah was now from the time he suggested they sell Joseph to the traders!

Joseph looked around to the Egyptians who were in the room with them. "All of you leave," he ordered.

Remove interpreter (J-36). Replace brothers (J-37 and J-43) with figures J-7, J-8, J-9 and J-11.

Joseph and his brothers were left alone. Joseph no longer tried to hide his feelings. He sobbed aloud. Surely the brothers were wondering why the governor acted so strangely. When Joseph could speak he turned to his brothers with these words.

"I am Joseph! Is it true that my father is still alive?"

The Bible says they couldn't answer, they were terrified. They had been afraid before, but now they were more afraid than ever. JOSEPH! They remembered their treatment of him. Now, they were in his power. What would he do? They didn't know Joseph's plan.

"Please come near to me," Joseph said. The tone of his voice was no longer rough, but was very kind. The brothers moved near to him, while Joseph explained.

"I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. Don't be afraid or upset. It was really God who sent me here." Joseph could now look back and see how God worked good out of all the hard things in his life. "God sent me here to save lives," he said. "God sent me before you to save you and your families from death because of the famine."

Joseph knew about the nation God said would come through his father, Jacob; his grandfather, Issac; and his great grandfather, Abraham. God would not let that nation die in a famine or in any other way. God would keep His promise to bless the world through this nation. God's Son would be born into the world through that nation.

This was a wonderful plan. All God's plans are good and wise. If you are His child, He has a plan for you too. It is a good plan and He will carry it out. His plans are not just ideas that might happen, His plans will happen! Sometimes we just cannot understand why God allows some things to happen, we may not understand until we get to Heaven. But God has a good reason for allowing everything that happens to you, if you love Him.

Joseph could not understand when he was going through hard things, but now he did. And, he was trying to make his brothers understand. "It was not you who sent me here, but it was God," Joseph explained.

Before they could say another word Joseph told them his plans. "Hurry and go home to my father. Tell him all about me. Tell him I said he is to come down to Egypt. You shall live here, near to me. All of you, bring your families. I will take care of you during the rest of the famine ... five more years."

Flashcard 5-1



CTS

Flashcard 5-6

Have preschoolers pretend that you are Jacob and let each tell you the good news: "Joseph is alive!"

CTS

CTU

Such excitement! There were more tears. Mostly tears of joy. Joseph kissed all his brothers.

At last they were on their way again. Not only with the food they came to buy, but with more food, money, new clothes, wagons and donkeys.

Remove all figures.

"Joseph is still alive and he is the governor of Egypt," they told their father, Jacob. It was hard to believe, but when Jacob saw all the things they brought, he knew it was true.

What a reunion there was in Egypt! Joseph kept his promise to take care of all their needs while they lived there (Genesis 47:12). To Jacob and his family it was as if Joseph had come back from death. They must have seen that God worked out His good plan. All His plans are good - even when we cannot understand them. Are you puzzled by things that have happened to you? If you are saved, then this promise is for you. Learn it. Believe it, even when you don't understand. It is a special promise for those who love God, as Joseph did. Perhaps you are more like the brothers who were guilty. If God has shown you that you have sinned against Him, then turn from these wrong things that keep you away from God. Trust the Lord Jesus to take away your sin today.

Read again Hebrews 9:14.

He will take away your sin and guilt, then you can love God. The wonderful promise in Romans 8:28 will be for you too.

It is good to have a moment of stillness when the children can respond to God quietly in their hearts.

Review game***Adventures with Joseph***

Label 12 x A6 cards as follows:

- ♦ "say the memory verse" (3 cards)
- ♦ "500 bonus points" (4 cards)
- ♦ "brothers box, extra turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "throw brothers in prison, lose a turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "brothers return with Benjamin, extra turn" (1 card)
- ♦ "forgive brothers, extra turn" (1 card)

Review questions

- 1 If you are God's child, what is God's promise that will help you trust Him when you are in trouble? ("And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God" - Romans 8:28.)
- 2 On their first trip back from Egypt, what did Joseph's brothers find in their sacks? (Their silver was returned.)
- 3 Why did the brothers think God was punishing them? (Each one had a guilty conscience.)
- 4 What did Joseph say his brothers must do before he would give them more grain and free Simeon? (They had to bring their younger brother Benjamin with them.)
- 5 What is the only cure for a guilty conscience? (Come to Jesus Who took the guilt and blame when He died on the cross.)
- 6 What did Jacob say first about the brothers taking Benjamin to Egypt? ("No, you will never take Benjamin there. Joseph is already dead and if anything should happen to Benjamin I would die of sorrow.")

- 7 What did Joseph do when he saw Benjamin at his home? (He hurriedly left the room because he couldn't keep back the tears.)
- 8 What did Joseph have put in his brothers' sacks this time? (In each sack was the money they had used to pay for the grain, and the royal cup was also put into Benjamin's sack.)
- 9 What did Judah offer to do for Benjamin? (He would stay in Egypt as Joseph's slave and Benjamin could go home.)
- 10 Who did Joseph say had sent him to Egypt? (God.)
- 11 Why had God sent Joseph to Egypt? (So Joseph's family would be saved from death because of the famine.)
- 12 Why can God always work all things for good for all His children? (Because He is ruler over all.)

Preschool review questions

- 1 What did Joseph do with part of the food during the good years? (Saved it.)
- 2 What special people came to buy food from Joseph one day? (His brothers.)
- 3 Why did Joseph pretend he didn't know his brothers and act mean toward them? (To see if they had changed.)
- 4 Joseph forgave his brothers. Why did he want them to bring their families to Egypt? (So he could take care of them.)

♦ "provide for brothers and family, extra turn" (1 card)

Refer to Lesson 1 for instructions on how to play the game.

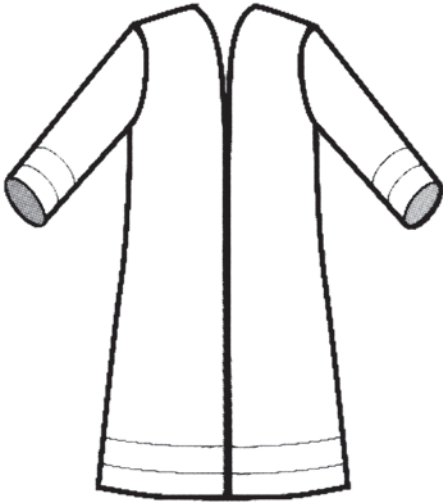
Preschool review game

Preschoolers' Favourite

Chose a favourite from the previous lessons.

Use preschool questions from Lessons 1-5.

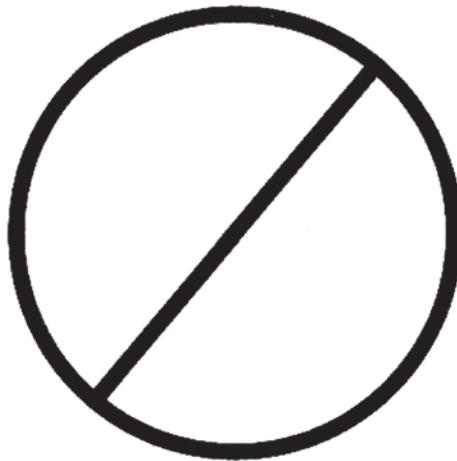
Preschool symbols



Lesson 1



Lesson 2



Lesson 3



Lesson 4



Lesson 5

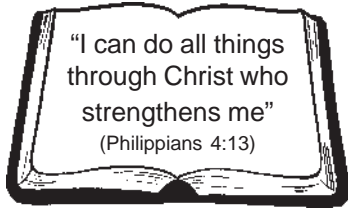
Pattern for Joseph's coat

(Lesson 1)



Take-home card

(Lesson 3)

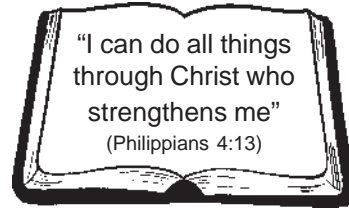


Things the Lord has helped me to do

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

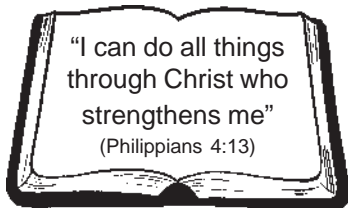


Things the Lord has helped me to do

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

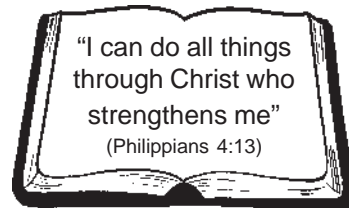


Things the Lord has helped me to do

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



Things the Lord has helped me to do

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Copy, cut out and keep in your Bible



Summary of steps for counselling the child who wants to come to Christ

Make sure the child understands about

God

Who is God?
God made us. He speaks to us through the Bible.
God is holy and pure. He loves us.

Sin

What is sin?
Sin is disobeying God's commands. It is against God.
Speak about specific sins.
The child is a sinner by nature and act. (We sin because we are sinners.)
Sin deserves punishment.

The Saviour

Who alone can take away your sin?
God the Son died on the cross for sinners.
The Lord Jesus rose again from the dead.
He is Lord of all.

Explain how to be saved

Explain what the Lord wants us to do, and what He will do.
Use a Bible verse (*John 1:12; 3:16; 6:37; Acts 16:31; Romans 6:23 or 10:13*).
What does the Lord want you to do?
What will the Lord do?
Warn about difficulties.
Ask: "Do you want to trust Christ, or would you rather wait?"
Encourage the child to pray audibly (if ready).

Speak about assurance of salvation

Go back to the Bible verse you used.
Speak about a changed life.
Tell him what the person who is truly trusting in Christ can know.

Give (later) some advice about the Christian life

Read and obey your Bible.
Talk to God, our heavenly Father.
Tell others what the Lord has done for you.
Ask God to forgive you when you sin.
Meet with other Christians.
Remember the Lord promises: "*I will never leave you*" (*Heb 13:5*).