



JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Young Preschool • #OT9 • August 4, 2024

Concept

God is always with His children.

Goal

Children will learn that Joseph believed that God was always with him. They will learn that God is always with His children, who can talk to Him wherever they are and know He is with them.

Passage

Genesis 37, 45:1-15

Key Verse: "... the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made to go well." Genesis 39:23

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 4, Ella K. Lindvall <p>Learning Activity #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Laminated, magnet-backed pictures of:</i><ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ <i>Jacob</i>◦ <i>Joseph</i>◦ <i>Joseph's brothers</i>◦ <i>merchant</i>◦ <i>camel</i>	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed Joseph, brothers & merchant, 1/child• Dot stickers in several bright colors, 5-6 stickers of each color/child

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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How often we forget or choose not to believe that God is in control. All trials have to pass through the screen of His permission before they come into our lives. The same is true with nations. No matter what leaders plot or scheme, God has the final say over what actually happens (Psalm 2).

“The most trivial and the most important, the most likely and the most unlikely circumstances are made to minister to the development of God's purposes. In chapter 39 Satan uses Potiphar's wife, and in chapter 40 he uses Pharaoh's chief butler. The former he used to put Joseph into the dungeon; and the latter he used to keep him there, through his ungrateful negligence; but all in vain. God was behind the scenes. His finger was guiding all the springs of the vast machine of circumstances, and when the due time was come, he brought forth the man of His purpose, and set his feet in a large room. Now, this is ever God's prerogative. He is above all, and can use all for the accomplishment of His grand and unsearchable designs. It is sweet to be able thus to trace our Father's hand and counsel in everything. Sweet to know that all sorts of agents are at His sovereign disposal; angels, men and devils—all are under his omnipotent hand, and all are made to carry out His purposes...

"...That 'all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose,' is writ large across our lesson. And well for us if we take this to heart. But the trouble is, we grow so impatient under the process, while God is taking the tangled threads of our lives and making them 'work together for good.' We become so occupied with present circumstances that hope is no longer exercised, and the brighter and better future is blotted from our view. Let us bear in mind that Scripture declares, 'Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof' (Ecc. 7:8). Be of good cheer, faint heart; sorrow may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. So it was with Joseph. For a season he suffered wrongfully, but at the last God vindicated and rewarded him. Remember Joseph then, troubled reader, and 'let patience have her perfect work.'"[1]

[1] Arthur W. Pink, Gleanings in Genesis, © 1922, 1950 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, pp. 372-374.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

The week before class – Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in your heart and the hearts of the children as He prepares you all for the time together.

Activity Stations:

- **Hand Skit – "This is the Father"[1]**

- **Instructions:** Hold up one finger at a time as you say the rhyme. On the last line, hold up all your fingers to represent "the family." Introduce the fingerplay by telling the children that they are going to learn about a boy named Joseph and his family.

Rhyme:

This is the father short and stout, (thumb)

This is the mother with children about, (index finger)

This is the brother tall you see, (middle finger)

This is the sister with a toy on her knee, (ring finger)

This is the baby sure to grow, (pinky)

And here is the family all in a row. (all five fingers)

Count your fingers – 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

[1][1] Jackie Silberg, Games to Play with Two Year Olds, ©1993 Jackie Silberg, Gryphon House, Inc., p. 32.

Introduction Lg. Group

Today we are going to learn about Jacob's son, Joseph. Some things happened to him that weren't fair. But God was with him and Joseph knew that God is always with His children. Joseph knew it didn't matter what people did to him because God was in control. That's what our verse for today tells us, "... the LORD was with Joseph; and whatever he did, the LORD made to go well" (Genesis 39:23). Let's read what happened to Joseph. Let's find out how Joseph trusted God.

Read Aloud book – "Joseph and His Brothers"

Instructions: Read pages 5-31 of Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol.4.

When Joseph was a grown-up there was no food where Joseph's father and brothers lived. Joseph's brothers had to go to Joseph to buy food. Joseph was grown up so his brothers didn't know who he was. But Joseph knew his brothers. Joseph had forgiven them for letting the men take him away. He told his brothers that God is always with His children. Even though they had done a very bad thing to him, God had used their very bad choice to send Joseph to Egypt so they would have food. And so Joseph's father and his brothers came to Egypt to live with him.

Joseph believed that God is always with His children. Joseph loved God and talked to God all the time. God was with Joseph everywhere he went, whatever happened to him. God helped Joseph to forgive his brothers.

Lesson Lg. Group

Lesson Continued

God told Joseph that because He is always with His children He sent Joseph to a place where his family would have food. God wants to be with us all the time, too. If we ask Jesus to be our friend and forgive our bad choices, He will always be with us. We can talk to God anytime or anyplace. Whatever happens, we can always talk to God and know that He is with us.

Let's pray now and thank God that God is always with His children.

Let's make a picture to remind us that even though Joseph's brothers were mean to him and let men take him away, God is always with His children.

Transition

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

Craft – Joseph & His Brothers

Instructions: Give each child a picture to color with crayons or markers. Decorate with dot stickers.

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

Storytelling

Instructions: Have the children reenact the story using the provided laminated figures.

This is Joseph. (Show picture of Joseph without his coat.) He was Jacob's young son (show picture of Jacob). Joseph had a lot of older brothers and one younger brother named Benjamin (show picture of Jacob's brothers). Joseph's dad, Jacob, loved Joseph very much. He loved him so much that his older brothers were angry. Don't they look angry? One day Jacob made a beautiful coat of many colors for Joseph (show picture of Joseph wearing coat). Joseph loved the coat and he wore it all the time. This made his brothers so angry they wanted to hurt Joseph.

One day Joseph's brothers were taking care of their father's sheep. Jacob asked Joseph to go find his brothers. When his brothers saw him coming they said, "This is our chance—we can do what we want to Joseph out here and we can tell our father a wild animal attacked him!" When Joseph came near, they grabbed him and took his coat from him. Then they had another bad idea and said, "Let's sell Joseph to one of these men who will take him far away." So that is what they did. (Show picture of merchant and camel.)

What happened to Joseph was terrible! But do you know what? Joseph knew that God is always with His children, no matter what happened. Do you want to know what happened to Joseph? Well, some men took him to a land called Egypt. The king of Egypt put Joseph in charge of selling food to all the people.

Learning Activity#3 Lg. Group

Follow Me and Pray

Instructions: Play a version of “Follow the Leader” to demonstrate how you can talk to God and trust Him anyplace all the time. Ask the children to follow you to chairs, the floor, under the table, etc., and say a short prayer thanking God for being with you. With older children, you can add pretend scenarios, like being out for a walk, being alone in the dark, laying on the beach, seeing a snake on the ground, etc., and possibly have the children take turns making up the situations.

Note: This is a great game when the toys are cleaned up and you are waiting for the parents to return.