



JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Preschool-K • #OT9 • August 3, 2025

Concept

God is always with His children.

Goal

Children will learn that Joseph believed God was with him all the time even when everyone else was against him. They can talk to God anywhere, anytime and He will be with them just as He was with Joseph.

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>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>12' parachute</i> <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>The Praise Bible, Mack Thomas</i> <p>Learning Activity #3:</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 #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Printed Joseph in jail pyramid, 1/child• Crayons, markers• Glue sticks• Transparent tape• Scissors

*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 day of class – Cut out the pyramids for Learning Activity #2.

Activity Stations:

- **Parachute**

- **Instructions:** Go around the circle and assign the names of Joseph, his brothers (Reuben, Simon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Benjamin) and father, Jacob, to each participant, until everyone has a name. Then as everyone has their arms up (Ohh!), call out one name and these participants have to run under the parachute to another spot before it collapses on them (Ahh!). Continue until everyone has been called at least twice or you run out of time.[1]

[1]Adapted from:

http://www.compusmart.ab.ca/yowochas/games/Parachute_1.html

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 trusted God. Joseph knew that God is in control everywhere all the time. It didn't matter what people did to Joseph 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 listen to what happened to Joseph. Let's find out how he trusted God.

Lesson

Lg. Group

"Young Joseph"

Instructions: Read "Young Joseph" pages 58-68 of The Praise Bible. Follow with the discussion below.

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 in Egypt 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 selling him. He told his brothers that God is in control everywhere all the time. 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. Joseph learned that God is in control everywhere all the time. And so Joseph's father and his brothers came to Egypt to live with him.

Transition

Let's get into small groups.

Learning Activity #1 Sm. Groups

Joseph believed that God is in control everywhere all the time. He 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. God told Joseph that because He is in control everywhere all the time He sent Joseph to a place where his family would have food.

Learning Activity #1 Continued

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.

- Do you ever talk to God?
- What are some ways God shows you He is with you? (Teachers, share an age-appropriate personal example with the children.)

Let's pray now and thank God that He is in control everywhere all the time.

Transition

Let's make a picture to remind us that even though Joseph's brothers were mean to him and sold him to a mean man, God was with him everywhere all the time.

Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

Craft – Joseph & His Brothers

Instructions: Give each child a pyramid. Color the pictures, then help them fold and tape them.

Learning Activity# 3 Lg. Group

Storytelling

Instructions: Have the children reenact the story using the 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). Jacob loved his youngest son 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 had a very bad idea. 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. Just then, some men came riding by on camels. 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.) The brothers took Joseph's beautiful coat back to Jacob (show picture of Jacob and the coat). They lied to their father and told him that a wild animal had eaten Joseph. Jacob was very sad and cried for many days.

Learning Activity#3 Continued

Learning Activity#4 Sm. Groups

What happened to Joseph was terrible! But do you know what? Joseph knew that God is in control everywhere all the time, 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.

Follow Me and Pray

Instructions: Play a version of “Follow the Leader” to demonstrate how you can talk to God and trust Him anyplace. 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.