

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 7
Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 37)

Theme: Joseph as a Hero

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Word in its inmost sense treats of the Lord Himself. Joseph represents the Lord.
- B. The Lord protected Joseph and prepared him to become a great man.
- C. The Lord provides that when we endure experiences that may seem very hard, they serve as a means to our spiritual growth.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduce the Story

- 1. Last week we learned about a man named Jacob who had twelve sons. He loved the two youngest sons, Joseph and Benjamin, the most. But Joseph was his favorite.
- 2. The ten older sons hated Joseph. They hated him because he was the favorite. They hated him because he had dreams that he would grow up to be greater than they. And they hated him because he told Jacob, their father, when they did bad things.
- 3. Today you will hear the story of Joseph and his brothers.

B. Tell/Read the Story

Retell Genesis 37 (see attached retelling).

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Which son did Jacob love more than the others? (Joseph)
- 2. What did Jacob make for Joseph? (A coat of many colors)
- 3. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him? (Because he was his father's favorite; because he dreamed that he would be greater than they; and because he was different from them)
- 4. What did Joseph's brothers want to do to Joseph? (Kill him)
- 5. What did Reuben do to help Joseph? (He suggested they put Joseph into a pit instead of killing him.)
- 6. Reuben wanted to save Joseph from the pit, but the other brothers sold Joseph as a slave. Who did they sell him to? (A group of traders on their way to Egypt)
- 7. What made their father, Jacob, think that a wild animal had killed Joseph? (The brothers dipped Joseph's coat of many colors in blood and brought it to their father.)

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8. How did Joseph help his brothers many years later in Egypt? (He gave them food when they didn't have enough food to eat.)
9. Was Joseph angry with his brothers for sending him away as a slave? (No, Joseph forgave them.)

D. Further Ideas

1. Do you ever feel angry with a friend or your brother or sister? Joseph's brothers were angry with him and wanted to kill him even though he had never hurt them. We should never be like Joseph's brothers. We should never try to hurt someone when we are angry with him or her.
2. Who saved Joseph's life? (Reuben) Who do you think gave Reuben the idea to help his brother? The Lord. The Lord wanted to keep Joseph safe. The Lord knew that Joseph would become a great man in Egypt and help lots of people.
3. Sometimes a sad thing will happen to us or to someone we love. Perhaps a grandparent dies or someone gets very sick. Perhaps a good friend moves away, or we lose a pet. But whenever something sad happens, the Lord works to bring something good out of it, Just as Joseph went from being a slave in Egypt to being a great man!

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Joseph's Coat," *Lori's Songs I* (Side 1, first song).
Teach children the chorus of this song. Play the tape and have the children join in for each chorus.

B. Activities

1. Materials needed for each child:

A clothespin figure of Joseph ready to be clothed:

- ❖ Wrap about 6" of pipe cleaner around clothespin to make arms, making loops at both ends for hands
- ❖ Draw a face with markers.
- ❖ Attach yarn or fake fur for hair.

A square of white cloth (5" x 6") taped to newspaper

Markers

2. Procedure

- a. Children use markers to make a multi-colored coat for Joseph.
- b. Teacher cuts a slit for the head, puts it on the clothespin figure and ties at the waist with yarn.
- c. *Optional:* Make stands for Joseph of play dough, plasticine, or blocks of Styrofoam.

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IV. Teaching Aids

- A. *Joseph and his Brothers* by Maud and Miska Petersham.
- B. Other illustrations of the Joseph story.
- C. Felt board pieces (such as Fuzzy Felt Bible Stories) to help tell the story

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. *The Sower*, Vol. I, "Joseph and His Brothers," Gen. 37, pp. 146-151.
- B. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 1, "Joseph and His Brothers," Gen. 37, pp. 376-388 (especially Primary and Junior levels).

Retelling of Genesis 37

Joseph's Coat of Many Colors

Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children. He made him a tunic (a piece of clothing like a coat) of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak nicely to him.

Now Joseph dreamed a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. Then he dreamed still another dream and told it to his brothers. "Look, I have dreamed another dream. And this time, the sun, the moon, and the eleven stars bowed down to me." (This dream showed that he would be greater than his brothers and his parents.)

Then Joseph's brothers went to feed their father's flock. And Jacob sent Joseph to his brothers to see that all was well with them and the flocks.

When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they planned to kill him. "We shall say, 'Some wild beast has devoured him.'" But Reuben said, "Let us not kill him. Put him in this pit which is in the wilderness." (Reuben planned to save Joseph later and take him back to his father.)

When Joseph came to his brothers, they took away his tunic of many colors, and they cast him into a pit. And his brothers sat down to eat a meal. Then they saw a group of traders on their way to Egypt. They sold Joseph to the traders for twenty shekels of silver.

Then they dipped Joseph's tunic in blood and took it to their father. Jacob recognized it and said, "It is my son's tunic. A wild beast has devoured him. Without doubt Joseph is torn to pieces." And Jacob was very sad.

Read as a preview for next week's lesson:

The traders sold Joseph as a slave in Egypt. Because Joseph was good, the Lord was able to keep him safe and help him. Joseph became a great man in Egypt.

Years later there was a famine, and there was not enough food to eat. But there was enough food in Egypt because Joseph was in charge of the food, and he was prepared for the famine. Then Joseph's brothers came to Egypt asking for food. They did not recognize their brother, Joseph. But he recognized them, and he gave them food. He was happy to help them because he forgave them the evil they had done to him.