



JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 37

FOCUS VERSES: Psalm 145:13, Isaiah 26:4,
Deuteronomy 7:9, Proverbs 21:1

Summary: Joseph was his father's favorite son out of twelve brothers. His brothers hated him. One day, they schemed to throw him into a pit and tell their father he was dead. They sold Joseph to a caravan of traders, and he was taken to Egypt. Joseph encountered more terrible situations, but God was using every single event for good. Eventually, God would use Joseph's circumstances to place him in a position of power in Egypt, where he would save many lives.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



God can be trusted.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



WHY CAN GOD BE TRUSTED?
Because He is completely good, everything God does is right and good. He is completely faithful.



CAN WE TRUST GOD WHEN THINGS DON'T GO OUR WAY?
Bad things happen because we live in a broken world. We can trust that God has a plan and He is good.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?
Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: REPORTING ABUSE

If you have concerns about a kid's safety, what do you do? A mandatory reporter is someone who is legally required to report kid welfare concerns. Qualifications for mandatory reporting differ from state to state, so make sure you are aware of your state's laws. Most importantly, commit to doing the right thing to help ensure kids are safe.

- **Identify abuse:** You do not have to be 100 percent sure that a kid is in danger to get help. It is not your job to conduct an investigation, and doing so can potentially endanger the kid even more.
- **Report to Church Leadership:** Talk to the church staff leader who oversees your area. Share your concerns and the actions you have taken so far.
- **Report to authorities:** Contact your local child protective services or law enforcement agency. An alternative is the National Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-4-A-CHILD.
- **Keep confidentiality:** This is definitely not a subject for prayer requests. Let the authorities do their job and avoid reaching out to the family or to other people.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

One survey indicated that 14 percent of American adults expressed that suffering in the world leads them to believe that there is no God.* This idea can be confusing for kids as they learn that God is good and loving. It is important that we also help them understand who God is and His role in suffering as well. In today's lesson, kids will learn God is in control of everything and uses bad situations for His glory. You may have kids in your group who have experienced trauma that has left them wondering how good and kind God really is. You can be a safe place for them to share their story, listening without judging their questions. It's okay to say something like, "I don't know why that happened, but I do know that God is good and loves you." Consider sharing an age-appropriate story of how you've seen God work through tough times in your own life. Most of all, reiterate that even in our deepest hurts, God is very real and He is near.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Faithful: loyal; doing what you say you're going to do

Good: worthy of approval, right

Trust: confidence someone or something is reliable and will do what is expected

Unchanging: always stays the same

Bible TEACHING

JACOB'S DREAM GENESIS 27-28



PRAY: God, You are good and You keep all Your promises! Thank You that You never change and we can always trust Your Word. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, skein of yarn, robe

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Pull the yarn from the middle of the skein so that it doesn't tangle.

Say: God promised Abraham that he would have a great land, a large family and that his family would be a blessing to the whole world.

Call up a volunteer to be "Abraham." Ask the volunteer to hold one end of the yarn.

Say: He promised Abraham a son in his old age. God kept that promise. Abraham's son was named Isaac.

Call up another volunteer to be "Isaac." Have Isaac stand next to Abraham and hold the yarn a short distance away so that the two are linked together.

Say: When Isaac grew up, God made the same covenant, or promise, with Isaac as He had made with his father. Isaac married Rebekah and they had twin boys named Esau and Jacob.

Show teaching illustration: Isaac with His Twins.

Call up three volunteers to be "Rebekah," "Esau" and "Jacob." Have each hold the yarn so that all five volunteers are linked together. Have Jacob stand on the very end and add some extra length of yarn between him and Esau.

Say: As time passed, Isaac grew older and could not see well. He wanted to give Esau his blessing before he died. Rebekah made a plan for Jacob to pretend to be Esau so that he could receive the blessing instead. Jacob wore his brother's clothes and even put goat skin on his hands and neck so he would seem hairy like Esau.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Place the robe around Jacob's shoulders.

Say: He took delicious food to his father, letting Isaac think he was Esau.

Say: The plan worked. Isaac gave Jacob the blessing intended for Esau. Esau was furious and wanted to kill his brother. Rebekah told Jacob he should run away to Haran, where her brother Laban lived.

Have Jacob take a few steps away from the other volunteers without letting go of the yarn. Then have him sit down on the ground.

Say: Jacob left his home. Along the way, he stopped and camped for the night, using a stone as a pillow. He had a strange dream.

Show teaching illustration: Jacob's Dream.

Have Jacob close his eyes and pretend to sleep.

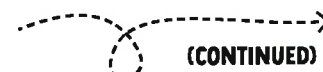
Read Genesis 28:12–13 directly from the Bible: *And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring.*

Say: God also told Jacob, "Your descendants will stretch from west to east and from north to south. All the families of the Earth will be blessed through you. I am with you wherever you go."

Have everyone clap for your five volunteers and invite them to return to their seats.

Say: Our volunteers demonstrated something important for us. The yarn represented God's promise to His people. Jacob deceived his family and ran away from home in shame, but was he ever disconnected from God's promise to his family?

Allow the kids to answer.

 (CONTINUED)

Bible

TEACHING
CONTINUED

Say: God made the same promise to Jacob that He had made to Abraham and Isaac. God had a plan for Jacob. Jacob had lied, schemed and tried to get ahead by doing things his way, but God showed Jacob that the true source of hope was in God and His promises.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: God kept His covenant to bless the nations through Abraham's family. God had a plan for Jacob even when it seemed his mistakes would mess things up. God's promise carried on for many generations until one day, the greatest gift of all would come through the family of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—our Savior, Jesus.

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

UPS AND DOWNS

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors

OR

IT COULD BE WORSE!

SUPPLIES: None

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

DOMINO VERSE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, 44 dominos

OR

GOD COMMERCIALS

SUPPLIES: Bibles, printable pages, scissors

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

ROLL-A-SITUATION

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, die, printable page

OR

WATER PRAYER

SUPPLIES: Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, large bowl, pitcher, water, paper towels



UPS AND DOWNS

SUPPLIES:

Printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out (1 card per kid).

LEADER TIP: For large groups, print additional cards and divide kids into groups. Ensure you have the correct number of matching cards for your kids. If you have an odd number of kids, join the activity!

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that God always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Say:** Sometimes difficult things happen, and we don't always understand why.
5. **Say:** I have some cards here. Some of them have a tough situation on them. The others have a positive way to handle that situation.
6. **Say:** When I start the activity, your job will be to find someone who has the card that goes with yours.
7. *Hand out a card to everyone and have kids mingle around your space.*
8. *Have kids find the pair to their card.*
9. *Have kids discuss in their pairs how their difficult situation can be used for good. Encourage kids to discuss if there is something from their own lives that was difficult but turned out positive.*
10. *Collect the cards and play additional rounds as time allows.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Sometimes we experience tough situations, and we don't understand why. But God does. God wants to use these tough situations to help us grow closer to Him! Today we are learning about the tough situations that Joseph went through and how he learned from them.



IT COULD BE WORSE!

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: To increase engagement, have kids discuss each situation in pairs.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that God is unchanging, which means that God never changes and always stays the same. How have you seen this week that God is unchanging?
4. **Discuss:** Have you had a good day turn bad? What happened?
5. **Say:** I will read a good situation and you will have to think of how that situation could be worse.
6. **Say:** Here is the first situation: You go to the beach for the day, and the water is perfect. I want you to think of what could happen to make this good situation bad.
7. *Encourage the kids to suggest different ideas—popcorn style.*
8. *Continue playing using the following good situations:*
 - You are invited to a birthday party.
 - Your team wins six games in a row.
 - Your parents let you choose your favorite restaurant for dinner.
 - Your new video game has arrived, and you can't wait to play it.
 - You have no homework.
9. **Say:** Wow. All of those situations went from good to bad. Sometimes life can feel like that! But we can also have bad things turn to good, too!
10. **Discuss:** Have you ever had any situations that went from bad to good? What happened?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today we are learning about a person in the Bible who had some very good situations and some very bad situations happen to him.



DOMINO VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, 44 dominos

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

LEADER TIP: Print copies of the Memory Verse teaching slide for each group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Hebrews 13:8 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about God?
3. **Discuss:** What tough times did Joseph go through?
4. **Discuss:** Did God change because of what was happening to Joseph? How did God show that Joseph could trust Him?
5. **Discuss:** Have you ever been through a tough time while trusting that God was in control and loved you?
6. *Divide kids into groups of four. Give each group some dominos and make sure they have a surface where they can set them up.*
7. *Instruct kids to take turns saying one word of the verse, and as they do, stand up one domino. The next kid will say the next word and set up a second domino next to the first one. Kids will continue until they have said the whole verse and created a line of dominos.*
8. **Discuss:** Does God change when bad things happen? How do you know?
9. **Say:** Knock over your first domino and see what happens!
10. **Discuss:** Why can God be trusted?
11. **Say:** Because He is completely good, everything God does is right and good. He is completely faithful.
12. **Say:** Just like these dominos all reacted the same every time, God always responds the same way, with goodness, faithfulness and love. He never changes, so we can trust Him completely.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

The same God who was faithful, good, loving and in control during Joseph's hardest moments never changes. The same God can be trusted in our lives today and forever.



GOD COMMERCIALS

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, printable pages, scissors

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out.

LEADER TIP: Find a few examples of cheesy, over-the-top commercials to show kids to help them brainstorm.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What tough times did Joseph go through?
2. **Discuss:** Did God change because of what was happening to Joseph? How did God show that Joseph could trust Him?
3. **Discuss:** Have you ever been through a tough time while trusting that God was in control and loved you?
4. **Discuss:** Why can God be trusted?
5. **Say:** Because He is completely good, everything God does is right and good. He is completely faithful.
6. **Say:** Let's discover what the Bible tells us about God's trustworthiness.
7. **Say:** Each group will get a picture. You will work together to decide how the picture shows that God can be trusted and then read the verses. You will then make a commercial, "selling" or convincing everyone on what you learned, including your verse!
8. *Divide kids into groups of four and give each group a verse. Give groups time to brainstorm and create a commercial sharing their topic and verses.*
9. *Gather kids together again and invite each group to present their commercial. Discuss each set of verses.*
10. **Discuss:** How does knowing that God can be trusted help you when you face difficult situations?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God created everything. He is sovereign over, or in control of, all of creation. There is nothing God doesn't control. This means that we can trust Him, even when hard times come. He will work through the world to accomplish His purpose.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

HOW CAN I KNOW THIS IS TRUE?

Discuss: What have you learned about ancient Egypt in school?

Say: Isn't it cool to think that Joseph was living in the middle of the culture you've learned about in school? Historians have not yet found much in Egyptian history that talks about Joseph, but scientists and historians are making new discoveries all the time. In fact, archaeologists have discovered evidence of a massive drought in Egypt and the surrounding areas. While there is disagreement about the date, it is possible that this was the cause of the famine mentioned in Joseph's story. We can always trust that God's Word is true.

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN?

Discuss: Have you ever heard anyone say that if God is real, He wouldn't let bad things happen?

Discuss: Why might someone feel that way? How would you answer?

Discuss: What does the Bible have to say about that?

Say: It can be very hard to understand how a good God who loves us and is in control of everything would let bad things happen. First, we know that we live in a world broken by sin. God's design for the world did not include the terrible things that we experience today. But just like with Joseph, He uses hard times in our lives to fulfill His greater plan. He uses pain to bring us closer to Him and make us more like Him. Bad things happen to everyone, but that doesn't mean God isn't real. It just means that our world is broken. God is with us during the hard times, and He uses every situation for good. God says in Isaiah 41:10: *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*



ROLL-A-SITUATION

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, die, printable page

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).
Print the printable page.

LEADER TIP: Brainstorm scenarios ahead of time that are relevant to use for your group. Consider using a timer to discuss questions if you have a talkative group.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What happened in Joseph's life that was out of his control? What didn't go his way?
2. **Discuss:** Can we trust God when things don't go our way? How?
3. **Say:** Bad things happen because we live in a broken world. We can trust that God has a plan and He is good.
4. *Lead kids to find Deuteronomy 7:9 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
5. **Discuss:** What promise did you hear in this verse?
6. **Say:** This verse promises that God is faithful to a thousand generations! He will not forsake or leave us. We can trust Him.
7. **Say:** Let's discuss how we can handle things that happen in our lives.
8. *Choose one kid to go first and roll the die. Use the printable page to read the corresponding situation. If a number is rolled that has already been rolled, think of a new situation to discuss. Discuss each scenario.*
9. **Say:** God is in control! He loves you, knows what is best and has a plan for you. But because we live in a broken world full of sin, we still experience hard situations, sickness and pain. We can ask God for help and remember that He is always with us.
10. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change and You always do what is right and good. Help us trust You, even when things don't go our way. Amen.
11. **Say:** God can be trusted. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



WATER PRAYER

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, Take-Home page, writing supplies, large bowl, pitcher, water, paper towels

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).
Fill the pitcher with water.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What bad things happened in Joseph's life? How did Joseph respond? What plan did God have for him?
2. *Lead kids to find Proverbs 21:1 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
3. **Discuss:** What does this verse tell us about what God controls?
4. **Discuss:** What do you think it means?
5. **Say:** This verse compares God's control over a king's heart to how a stream of water is directed. Let's do an experiment and see how water is directed. Look what happens as I pour water over my hand into the bowl. I can move my hand and direct the water to any side of the bowl.
6. *Allow each kid to direct the water with their hands.*
7. **Say:** If God can control and direct the hearts of a king, then He can definitely control and help us! Let's pray and ask God to help us with any difficult situations we are facing in our lives.
8. *Invite kids to share prayer requests. After each kid shares, have someone in the group pray for them, either aloud or silently. Continue until you have prayed for everyone who has a prayer request to share.*
9. **Say:** God is in control! He loves you, knows what is best and has a plan for you. But because we live in a broken world full of sin, we still experience hard situations, sickness and pain. We can ask God for help and remember that He is always with us.
10. **Pray:** God, thank You that You never change and You always do what is right and good. Help us trust You, even when things don't go our way. Amen.
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ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

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UPS AND DOWNS

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

PAGE 1 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 card per kid).

***A friend said
something
mean
about me.***

***I was kind to
someone who
spread a mean
rumor about me.***

***I'm not invited
to a friend's
house when
others are.***

***I know I can't be
invited to
everything, so I
find something fun
to do on my own.***

***Someone asked
to copy
my homework.***

***I said my friend
couldn't copy
my homework
but I helped
them complete
it instead.***



UPS AND DOWNS

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

PAGE 2 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 card per kid).

***I tried my best
at the game
but still
didn't win.***

***I cheered on
kids who did
great in
the game.***

***I was asked to
apologize for
something that
was an accident.***

***I told someone I
was sorry when
I accidentally
hurt them.***

***I have to sit
by someone
that is mean
to me.***

***I can show
kindness to
someone who
isn't always
kind to me.***



(Psalm 145:13)



(Isaiah 26:4)



GOD COMMERCIALS

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

PAGE 2 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out.



(Psalm 33:4)



(Psalm 18:30)



ROLL-A-SITUATION

OLDER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

PAGE 1 OF 1

PREP: Print the printable page.

SITUATIONS:



Your best friend is moving away.



Your parents are fighting a lot.



Your soccer team loses the championship game.



There are some kids at school making fun of you.



Your parent lost their job.



Your grandma is very sick.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: BELOW ARE A FEW QUESTIONS YOU CAN USE TO DISCUSS EACH SITUATION. VARY WHICH ONES YOU ASK EACH TIME.

- What can you remember about God in this situation?
- What can you pray for?
- How would you feel in this situation? Is there a verse that can help you?
- Who can help you? Who can you talk to about this situation?



TAKE-HOME

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

BIBLE PASSAGE: GENESIS 37 Joseph's brothers were jealous and sold him to traders who took him to Egypt. Even in hard times, God was faithfully at work and later made Joseph a leader who saved many lives.

POINT TO JESUS: Joseph was Jacob's beloved son who was mistreated and rejected. Hundreds of years later, there would be another man who was mistreated and rejected by those He came to serve. Jesus, God's beloved Son, died to save the whole world from sin.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday
and today and forever.*
(HEBREWS 13:8)

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!



**WHAT IS SOMETHING FUNNY THAT
HAPPENED IN YOUR GROUP?**



WHY CAN GOD BE TRUSTED?

Because He is completely good,
everything God does is right and
good. He is completely faithful.



**HOW CAN WE TRUST GOD WHEN
THINGS DON'T GO OUR WAY??**

Bad things happen because we live
in a broken world. We can trust that
God has a plan and He is good.

HOW IS GOD INVITING

ME

TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

☐ I can talk to God about ...

☐ I wonder ...

☐ I can remember ...

☐ I can ...



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Read Proverbs 3:5-6 together. What are some ways people lean on their own understanding rather than trust God?

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Why bad things happen can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. [Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**



GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week! Read each passage and answer the three questions.

☐ **DAY 1**

Read: Genesis 37:18-24

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ **DAY 2**

Read: Genesis 39:1-4

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ **DAY 3**

Read: Genesis 45:1-8

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?

☐ **DAY 4**

Read: Psalm 20:6-7

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS





COMPLETE THE COMIC

MAKE NEW WORDS

How many words can you make out of this phrase?

GOD CAN BE TRUSTED

STICK MAN

1. Think of a word from today's story.
Draw a blank for each letter.

2. Find a partner to guess letters.

3. If they guess a letter from your word,
write it in the blank.

4. If they guess a wrong letter, draw a
piece of the stick man.

5. Can they guess your word before the
stick man is complete?



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