



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:

HE

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

WE

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.

ME

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

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, printable pages, 2 bowls, 1 small ball, table

2**FIND IT IN
THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides

3**BIBLE
TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS
(GENESIS 37)**

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, index card, envelope, 4 pieces of paper, writing supplies, 4 calculators

4**REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

5**LARGE GROUP
WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Say: I'm so glad you are all here! One of these bowls has a small ball hidden underneath it. In a moment, one of you will guess which bowl the ball is under. Before you do, I'll secretly show everyone else where the ball is and choose some people to give good advice. The rest can try to trick you! You'll get to ask three people which bowl to choose. But listen carefully! Not everyone will be very helpful. After you've asked three people, lift one bowl to see if you guessed correctly.

Call up a volunteer to be the guesser. Have the guesser turn around, cover their ears and close their eyes. Pick up the bowls and show everyone else the ball. Show the group the first printable page, indicating who will be trustworthy. Pick new volunteers and continue playing as time allows.

Say: In life, there is only one source we can always trust—God. Even when we don't understand His ways, we can trust that He is working for His glory and our good.

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, printable pages, 2 bowls, 1 small ball, table

PREP:

Print the printable pages and stack them face down on the table. Place the two bowls upside down on the table in front of your space. Place 1 ball under one of the bowls.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: Wow, Carson had to really trust Lee to climb Kilimanjaro.

Discuss: Why do you think Carson trusts Lee so much?

Say: God proves over and over in His Word that we can trust Him! Today's Brite Idea is: God can be trusted.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



Why can God be trusted?



Can we trust God when things don't go our way?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE

Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching illustration: Jacob's Dream

Say: Last week we learned about Jacob's dream and how God never changes.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible.

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Genesis. Genesis is the first book of the Bible and found in the Old Testament.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline.

Say: This story falls in the "Patriarchs" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened at the beginning of the 12 tribes of Israel!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme.

Say: This month we are focusing on the truth that God is unchanging.

Say: This week we will discover together that even when everything seems to go wrong, God can be trusted.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Genesis. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Genesis 37).

Bible TEACHING

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS GENESIS 37



PRAY: God, You are in control even when we don't understand what's going on. May Your Word convince us of that truth today. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, index card, envelope, 4 pieces of paper, writing supplies, 4 calculators

PREP:

Write the number 1 on an index card and place the card in a sealed envelope.

LEADER TIP:

Use older kids who know how to divide two numbers.

Say: Today I need four volunteers who can do a math problem to come to the front while I tell today's story. This math problem will use addition, subtraction and division, but don't worry—you can use a calculator!

Invite the four volunteers to the front of the space and give each a piece of paper, a writing supply and a calculator.

Say: Here's your first challenge: Write any number higher than 10 on the top of your page, but don't show me what number you choose. Leave plenty of space to do some math!

Give your volunteers a moment to write their numbers down.

Say: God promised Abraham that his family would become a great nation and he would have more descendants than anyone could count. God kept His promise, and Abraham had a son named Isaac, who later had a son named Jacob, who later had 12 sons.

Say: Add 12 to your number.

Give your volunteers a moment to add their numbers.

Say: One of Jacob's sons was named Joseph. Jacob loved Joseph the most, even making him a beautiful robe of many colors.

Show teaching illustration: Joseph's Coat of Many Colors.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: Joseph's brothers were very jealous of him. One day Joseph's brothers had an idea: "Let's get rid of him for good. Let's throw him in this pit and tell our father a wild animal attacked him."

Say: So the brothers grabbed Joseph, took his robe and threw him into a deep hole in the ground. Soon afterward, a group of traders came by. The brothers had a new idea. They sold Joseph for 20 shekels of silver, and the traders took Joseph to Egypt, where he would be sold as a slave.

Say: Now subtract 20 from the number in your previous answer.

Give your volunteers a moment to do the math.

Say: Then the brothers dipped Joseph's robe in animal blood and sent it back to their father. Jacob believed his beloved son was dead and was devastated.

Say: Meanwhile, back in Egypt, Joseph experienced more terrible times. He was falsely accused of something he didn't do, imprisoned and remained forgotten there by others for many years.

Say: But God had a plan. He was in control of Joseph's whole life, even when the hard things happened. God put Joseph in Egypt on purpose. God proved He cares about the details of His people's lives, even down to the food they ate!

Say: Now add 8 to the number from your previous answer.

Give your volunteers a moment to do the math.

Say: Many years later, God put Joseph in a position to help God's people when a great famine came.

Say: People needed food, and God used Joseph to rescue the entire country and save God's people, the Israelites—even his brothers!

Show teaching illustration: Joyful Reunion.

Say: In doing this, God kept the covenant (or promise) He made to Abraham all those years ago! You can hear Joseph's complete trust in God in the words he spoke to his brothers:

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Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Read Genesis 45:8 directly from the Bible: *So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.*

Say: Now divide your number by the first number you wrote down. When you get your answer, hold up your number with your fingers.

Give your volunteers a moment to do the math. They should all arrive at the number 1. Take out the index card out of the sealed envelope and reveal that you knew their answer before they even started.

Say: I knew before you started what answer you would reach at the end, just like God knew from the beginning that He would miraculously use Joseph's life to save all those people. We may not understand how God works, but we can absolutely trust that He is always the One in control.

Have everyone hold up one finger and say, "God is the One in control!" Thank your volunteers and have them return to their seats.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: 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. Even when the circumstances around us seem terrible, God always has a plan!



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

INSTRUCTIONS: Everyone should indicate their answers by making a mountain with their arms (hands high above head and fingers touching) to answer yes, or making a valley with their arms (arms in a downward V) to answer no.

- 1. Did God still have a plan when Joseph was thrown into a pit by his brothers?**

Mountain: Yes

Valley: No

- 2. Did God still have a plan when Joseph was sold as a slave?**

Mountain: Yes

Valley: No

- 3. Did God still have a plan when Joseph was falsely thrown in prison?**

Mountain: Yes

Valley: No

- 4. Did God still have a plan when Egypt experienced a terrible famine?**

Mountain: Yes

Valley: No

- 5. Is everything God does right and good?**

Mountain: Yes

Valley: No

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

- 6. Can we trust God when things don't go our way?**

Mountain: Yes

Valley: No

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



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer

HE

Why can God be trusted?

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

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer

WE

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.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

(HEBREWS 13:8)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video
after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, we trust You no matter what happens, good or bad. You have a plan and we choose this week to believe You are completely faithful. Amen.