



OLD TESTAMENT: JOSEPH IN EGYPT

lesson 11

BIG IDEA

Joseph prospers in Egypt then suffers in prison. He has dreams which the Lord uses to show his glory, to free Joseph and to prepare Egypt for famine.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8

KEY VERSES

Genesis 39 - 41

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON: SKIT

- Bible
- 2-3 feet of paracord
- pack of mint Lifesavers
- practice Lifesaver trick so it works smoothly (see lessons script)
- *Experience Mission will a baseball cap and bear ears*

CRAFT - GOD'S FAITHFULNESS CHAIN

- Colored paper cut into 1" x 6" strips, 20 per child
- Glue (or several staplers and staples)

GAME - PRISONER'S BASE

- Ropes or chalk to mark bases, prison and boundaries



WORKSHEETS

- copies of coloring pages (one per child)

EM PROVIDES

- scissors
- staplers
- hole punches

Psalm 8

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(extend hands to sides)

You have set your glory in the heavens.



(extend hands high)

Through the praise of children and infants you have



("stop" hand)

established a stronghold against your enemies,

To silence the foe and the avenger.



(index finger over lips)

(wiggle fingers both hands)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,



The moon and the stars which you have set in place,



(point to moon and stars)

What is mankind that you are mindful of them,



(shrug shoulders)

Human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels



(flat hand at waist)

And crowned them with glory and honor.



(make crown with hands)

You have made them rulers over the works of your

hands;



(open hands)

You put everything under their feet:



(stomp feet)

All flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,



(hands like claws)

The birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea, all that swim

the paths of the seas.



(hands together wiggle like fish)

Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



(arms up as if cheering)



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT

Lesson 11

CAST

TL wears baseball cap. Bear wears bear ears.

LIFESAVER TRICK

Cut string to two feet. Break one Life Savers candy in half. After the break, put water on the broken ends and mend it. The mended Life Saver will now break easily and quietly during your object lesson. Your Life Saver should look whole, as if never broken. Practice a few times so the lesson will run smoothly.

SCRIPT

TL Hi Bear! Can you be my helper today?

Bear Of course! But can you finish the story about that poor guy, Joseph. Remember how he had those crazy dreams; then he got thrown in a pit; then sold as a slave; then that mean lady told a bad lie about him; and then he got thrown in prison. And he didn't even do anything wrong! (Shake head) I just don't get it. How could God let all those bad things happen?

TL Wow, Bear. These stories from the bible really had an impact on you. I'm glad. Everyone wrestles with these questions from time to time. I think you're going to like the next part of the story. We need one more volunteer from the audience. (Choose a kid to come up)

TL Bear and [name of volunteer] I need each of you to hold one end of this cord and stretch it out. This cord represents Joseph's life. See all these knots on one side, those represent all the trouble Joseph has faced in the past. He got thrown in a pit by his jealous brothers (point to a knot); he was sold as a slave in Egypt (point to second knot). Now this little ring (hold up mended Lifesaver) represents Joseph (slide mended Lifesaver on the cord and let it hang in the middle). For a while things went very well for Joseph because God blessed everything Joseph did. Potiphar noticed Joseph's good work and made him an important servant. But then more trouble hit. Potiphar's wife lied about him (tie a third knot on the other side of the Lifesaver); and then he was thrown in jail (tie a fourth knot). Joseph was stuck in jail for a crime he did not commit. He couldn't change his predicament; he could only trust God (Place towel over string). And that was the right thing to do. God was with him and made him successful, even in prison!

Bear Huh? How can someone be successful in prison?

TL Bear, God can do anything. It turns out that the man who was running the prison was pleased with Joseph, so he put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners. Joseph did a very good job at overseeing the prison.

Bear That's pretty cool. Except he IS still in prison.

TL Yes and he remained there for quite a while. During his time in prison, Pharaoh became angry with



OLD TESTAMENT: JOSEPH IN EGYPT

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 2)

Lesson 11

two of his servants, the chief baker and the butler. He had them throw into prison. Joseph met them and became their friend. One night both the baker and the butler had disturbing dreams. The next morning Joseph noticed that they were sad so he asked them, “Why do you look so sad today?”

“We both had dreams,” they said, “but no one can tell us what they mean.”

“Only God knows what dreams mean. Tell me your dreams.” Joseph replied.

The butler said, “In my dream I saw a vine with three branches. It budded and filled with grapes. I squeezed them into Pharaoh’s cup and gave him a drink.”

Joseph smiled. “Your dream has a happy meaning. Three days from now, Pharaoh is going to take you out of prison and give your job back to you. When this happens, please try to help me if you can. I was taken from my home by force. And I haven’t done anything wrong to be put in prison for.” So, the butler promised he would help.

Then the Baker said, “I dreamed I was carrying three baskets of baked goods on my head. But before I could deliver them to Pharaoh, a great cloud of birds came and ate all the loaves and cakes.”

Joseph was sad to tell the baker the meaning of his dream. “The three baskets are three days. In three days you will be put to death by Pharaoh’s order.” Sure enough, Pharaoh’s birthday came three days later. He gave a party for all the people who worked in his government and on his staff. Just as Joseph had predicted, the butler was restored to Pharaoh’s service, but the chief baker was sentenced to a terrible death.

Bear But the Butler told Pharaoh about Joseph, right? Joseph gets out of jail, right?

TL Actually, the butler forgot all about Joseph and his promise to help him.

Bear (Shocked) Noooooooo! That can’t be right. I thought you said God was with him and was making him a success. This doesn’t make sense.

TL You’re right. God’s ways don’t always make sense to us. Perhaps Joseph struggled with that too. The bible doesn’t tell us what Joseph thought and felt. But we can tell by his actions that he was good, kind and patient during his time in the prison. He actually ended up staying in the prison for two more years.

Bear Gee, that would be hard. What happens next?

TL While Joseph was still in prison in Egypt, something happened which changed everything. One night Pharaoh had a dream that was very disturbing. The next morning he became very worried about what the dream might mean. Pharaoh called together the wisest magicians and thinkers of Egypt and told them about his dream, but they were just as confused as he was. Then the butler spoke up. He said, “Now I remember that Pharaoh was once angry with his servants and he put me and the baker in prison. While we were in prison we both had a dream. There was a Hebrew man named Joseph who told each of us the meaning of our dreams. Things turned out exactly as he said they would.”



OLD TESTAMENT: JOSEPH IN EGYPT

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (PAGE 3)

Lesson 11

So, Pharaoh immediately sent for Joseph and told Joseph about his disturbing dream. He said, “I saw seven fat cows come out of the Nile River, followed soon after by seven thin cows. Then the thin cows ate the fat cows! Then I had another dream. Seven plump ears of grain spouted from a stalk, followed by seven withered ears of grain. The withered ears ate up the plump ears!”

Joseph listened to Pharaoh and answered, “God is trying to tell you the same thing in both dreams. The seven fat cows and plump ears of grain mean that Egypt is going to have seven years of good crops and great wealth. But these years of plenty will be followed by seven years of famine, when crops will be poor and no one will have enough food. That’s what the thin cows and withered ears mean. The famine will be so terrible that it will make everyone forget the seven good years. God has planned all this, and it is going to happen soon. I would suggest that Pharaoh find a wise man to help the country prepare for this emergency.”

(As you tell the final part of the story, place hands under the towel. Keep the whole Lifesaver hidden in one hand. Carefully break apart the mended Lifesaver in the other hand and grab the towel off with the same hand. Reveal the whole Lifesaver)

Pharaoh listened carefully then he said, “The spirit of God is in Joseph. No one is as wise and understanding as he is. Therefore, he will be in charge of my palace and all the people must obey your orders. Only I will be greater than you, because I sit on the throne.

Bear Wow! That was cool!

TL Thank you Bear. You can see that the cord still has knots in it; they didn’t disappear. Joseph’s bad experiences did not disappear either. However, just like I was able to remove the lifesaver from the knotted up cord, God was able to save Joseph from his troubles. God never forgot Joseph, whether he was in a pit or in jail. He will never forget you either, or me, or anybody here.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who was with Joseph in prison?
- Did God fix Joseph’s problems immediately?
- Who gave Joseph the wisdom and understanding of dreams?
- Could Joseph have figured out the dreams by himself?
- Could Joseph have solved his problems by himself?
- When have you had to be patient for a long time?
- How are you practicing patience in your life now?
- Does God ever forget you?



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CRAFT

Lesson 11

• CRAFT •

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS CHAIN

Objective: Kids will decorate a coat to remember Joseph's special coat. There are two options below.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- scissors
- staplers
- hole punches

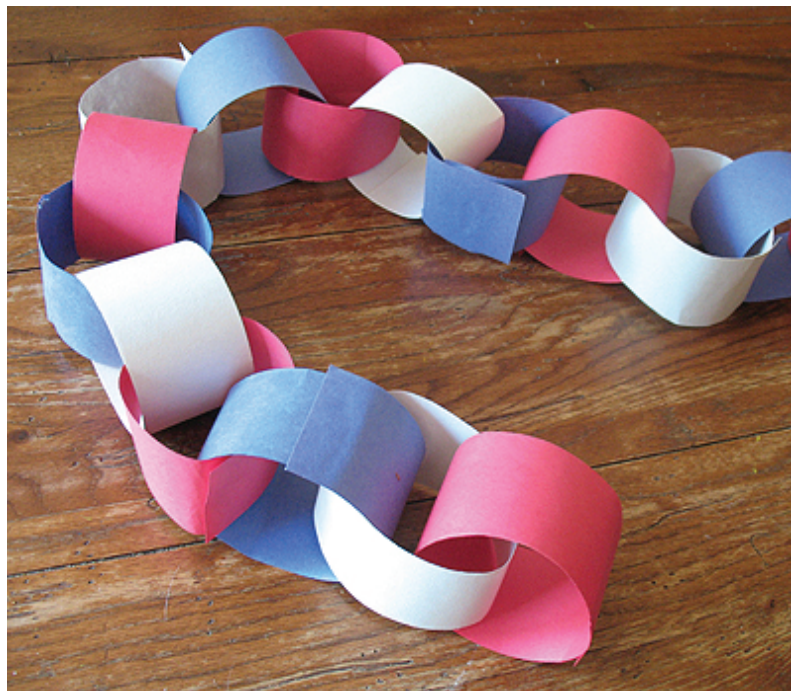
DIRECTIONS

Cut out 1" x 6" strips of colored paper - about 20 – 30 makes a nice chain. On each one write a word that describes God's faithfulness: real, loyal, trustworthy, dependable, faithful, devoted, good, holy, and pure. (Consider brainstorming words on with kids and writing them on a white board so kids can copy). Make your first link by bending over one strip and gluing it together, then keep linking the strips and gluing until all are done.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Colored paper cut into 1" x 6" strips, 20 per child
- Glue (or several staplers and staples)

EXAMPLE





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GAME

Lesson 11

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: PRISONER'S BASE

The object of Prisoner's Base is to capture all the members of the other team while not being captured yourself.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Ropes or chalk to mark bases, prison and boundaries

DIRECTIONS

Choose two team captains to put two teams together or separate a group of even numbered kids into two random groups. One group will be team A and one team B. Choose a Prison Guard for each team to guard the prisoners from escaping.

Mark out a "home base" for both teams on opposite sides of the room or area you are playing the game in. Use sidewalk chalk if on pavement, or you can mark out an area with jump ropes.

Mark out a "prison" for each team. The prison for team A and the home base for team B will be on one side of the playing area and the prison for team B and the home base for team A will be on the other side of the playing area.

Line up both teams hand in hand to form two lines, one for team A and one for team B, stretching out from home base to home base in the middle of the playing area.

Chase a member of the opposite team. The player on team A farthest away from team A's home base will break from the chain and run toward home base, and the player on team B farthest away from team B's home base will break from the chain to chase him. While these two are running, the next member of team B at the end of the chain will break free and run toward home base while the next member of team A at the opposite end chases him and so on.

Go to prison if you are running toward your home base and are tagged by the member of the opposite team who is chasing you. If you hit home base first before you are tagged, go to the end of your team's line to play again.

Escape from prison when a member of your team in play runs through to the prison and tags you without getting tagged first. If the attempted rescuer is tagged by the opposite team's prison guard, or the member of the opposite team who is chasing him, before tagging you, he will join you in prison. If you, the prisoner, are successfully tagged, the prison guard must let you both free to return to the end of your team's line.

Win the game if your team captures all the members of the opposite team.



Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams

