



OLD TESTAMENT: JOSEPH'S FAMILY

Lesson 12

BIG IDEA

Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt to buy food during the famine. Joseph is troubled and needs to figure out how to respond. Ultimately he responds with forgiveness and reunites with his brothers and his father.

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 8 and/or Genesis 50:20

KEY VERSES

Genesis 42-50

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE LESSON

- Bible
- Cast: TL wearing baseball cap, Bear wearing bear ears
- *EM provides baseball cap and bear ears*

GAME - PROGRESSIVE RELAY

- 3 x 5 cards with various instructions written on them (see game directions)
- Two chairs (find these in the community)

CRAFT - FAMILY TREE

- Photocopies of tree and leaves, one per child (see templates)
- Crayons or markers
- Glue

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 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 12

STAGING

TL wears baseball cap. Bear wears bear ears.

SCRIPT

Bear and TL enter stage and greet each other

TL Hi Bear! What are you up to today?

Bear (Rub hands together as if anticipating doing something wicked) I'm plotting my revenge!

TL Revenge? Plotting? What's going on?

Bear My friends were playing ball yesterday and they wouldn't let me play. Then they made fun of me and called me names.

TL Bear, that's terrible. I'm so sorry you had that experience. But are you sure revenge is the right solution?

Bear Right? Why should I do the right thing when they were mean first? Anyway, it's much more fun to plan my revenge. I'm trying to decide if I should focus on sabotage or hidden traps.

TL Bear, maybe you should be kind to them even though they were mean. How about I tell you a story while you cool off.

Bear Yah! Tell me more about Joseph. He was treated really bad by his brothers and by Potiphar. He's probably planning his revenge too. Maybe I can get some good ideas from Joseph.

TL Pharaoh, who was the king of Egypt had asked Joseph to be in charge of the whole land of Egypt and prepare the country for the famine that God told them was going to come. So Joseph traveled all over Egypt during the 7 years of good harvest. He stored up huge amounts of grain, more than he could even measure! At the end of the 7 years the famine began, crops didn't grow, animals had nothing to eat, and people in neighboring lands became desperate for food. They came to Egypt because Joseph had stored up plenty of food.

Bear Ahh. So the evil brothers are going to starve to death. Well, it's not much of a revenge, but it serves them right.



OLD TESTAMENT: JOSEPH'S FAMILY

BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (CONT. 2)

Lesson 12

TL Now Bear, you've got to stop jumping to conclusions. Remember, God is in charge and he has a big plan for this family. Don't you remember his promise to Abraham, that he would have more descendants than there are stars in the sky.

Bear Oh. Yah. Proceed then.

TL One day Joseph's father, Jacob, heard about all the grain in Egypt so he sent his ten oldest sons to buy some. Joseph's brothers came and bowed down to him not realizing who he was. But Joseph recognized them, but he pretended to be a stranger and tried to test them. He accused them of being spies, he demanded they bring their youngest brother Benjamin to Egypt to prove their honesty, he arrested one brother, and he hid money in their sacks of grain and sent them home.

That night each of the brothers discovered his money in his sack. Their hearts sank and they were shaking, "What is God doing to us? He must be punishing us for what we did to Joseph."

Bear Revenge. Am I right? Joseph is framing them and getting revenge.

TL When Jacob heard about the demand, the arrest and the mysterious coins in the bags of grain he was very worried. "Everything is against me!" he thought. Jacob sent all 11 of his sons back to Egypt with double the coins and a large gift. When Joseph saw the brothers with Benjamin, the gifts and the double amount of money he had a dinner prepared for them at his house.

Bear This is an interesting turn of events. Is it a set-up?

TL You'll see. Have patience. So, when Joseph came home they bowed down to him and presented their gifts.

Bear Hey! That's just like Joseph's dreams. You know, the ones where the stars bowed down and the stalks of grain bowed down, remember!

TL Right you are, Bear. God gave Joseph that dream and it came true many, many years later in an amazing, unimaginable way.

Bear (In awe) Cool....

TL Joseph asked about their father and then when he saw Benjamin he was so overwhelmed that he went to his room to weep. After a little while he washed his face, controlled his emotions, came back out to the brothers and sat them down from oldest to youngest and ate with them. Later, he hid his special silver cup in Benjamin's sack. In the morning Joseph sent his steward to them saying, "Why have you repaid good with evil? Who took my master's cup?"



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BIBLE LESSON • SKIT (CONT. 3)

Lesson 12

Whoever has the cup will be my slave.” He searched their bags starting with the oldest and ending with the youngest, Benjamin, where he already knew he would find the cup. The brothers tore their clothes in anguish and tried to explain everything to Joseph. Suddenly, Joseph could no longer control himself...

Bear And he revealed his true identity and made them slaves for the rest of their lives! Revenge! I told you!

TL No, actually, his heart began to soften. He sent all his attendants away and he revealed his true identity through tears. “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” The brothers were terrified and couldn’t answer him. “Come close to me,” Joseph said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt. Do not be afraid or angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. He wants to save your lives and deliver you! So really, it was not you who sent me here, it was God!” Then he hugged his brothers and wept. When Jacob heard that his son Joseph was alive and well, his sad spirit revived and became full of joy again. The family settled near Egypt and Joseph took good care of them. The brothers had children, and grandchildren and great grandchildren and soon they became known as the nation of Israel.

Bear Wow. That is totally NOT the way I thought it was going to work out. I mean, Joseph had so many opportunities to get revenge. He had so many bad things happen to him. But...it turned out way, way better.

TL That’s exactly how God works. We should always have hope in God’s big, perfect plan, even when we can’t fix the problems in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Why do you think Joseph didn’t reveal himself to his brothers at first?
- Why do you think he tricked them by putting their money back and put his silver cup in Benjamin’s bag?
- Do you think Joseph changed between when he had his first dreams and when he became a governor in Egypt? How?
- Why do you think God waited so long to bring the family back together?
- Do you ever have problems that you can’t seem to fix?
- Is it easy to wait and hope in God?
- In what ways has God worked in your life?
- How can you talk to God? How does God communicate with you?



OLD TESTAMENT: JOSEPH'S FAMILY

CRAFT & GAME

Lesson 12

• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: FAMILY TREE

Kids will color and cut out Joseph's family tree

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, hole punches, staplers

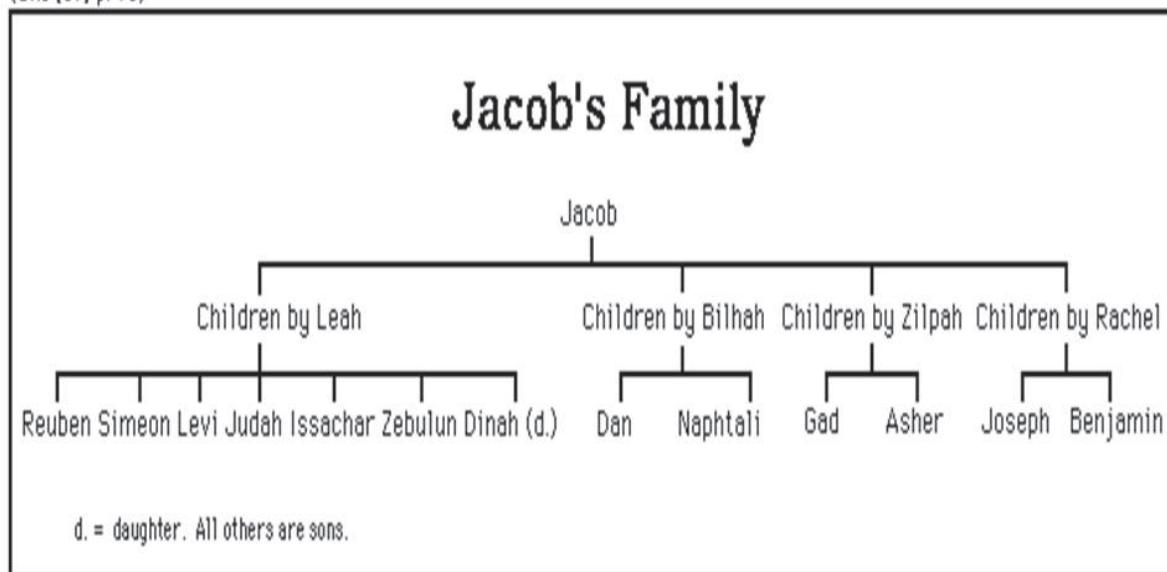
MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- Photocopies of tree and leaves, one per child (see templates)
- Crayons or markers
- Glue

DIRECTIONS

- Color Jacob's Family tree brown
- Color the individual leaves
- Glue the leaves on the tree in order by family using the chart below

(BKC [OT] p. 76)





OLD TESTAMENT: JOSEPH'S FAMILY

CRAFT & GAME

Lesson 12

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: PROGRESSIVE RELAY

The object Progressive Relay is to work together as a team to carry out all the instructions.

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- 3 x 5 cards with various instructions written on them (see below)
- Two chairs

INSTRUCTIONS

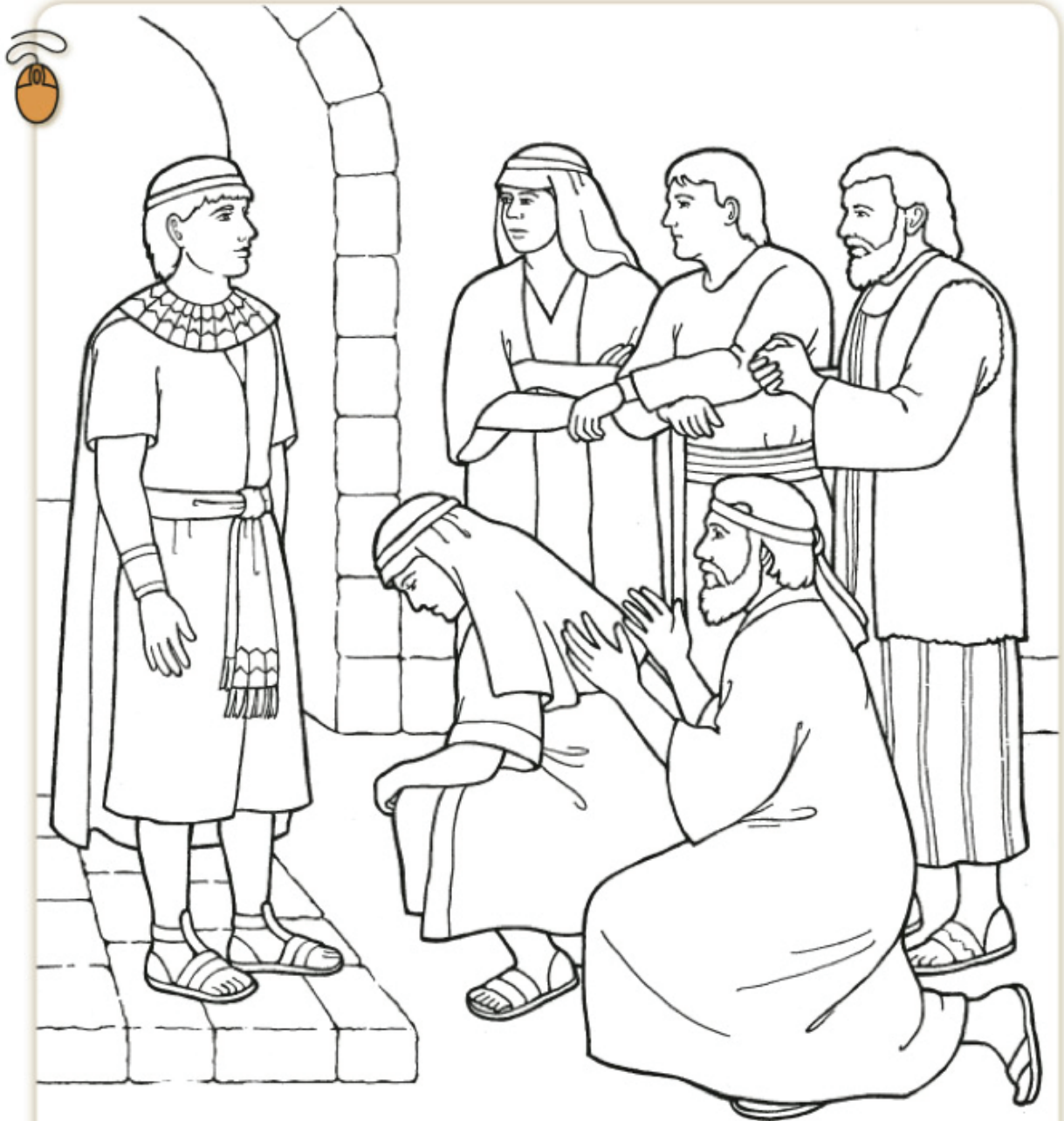
Use this relay to teach your kids the value of teamwork.

- Set two chairs at one end of the area.
- On each chair, place a stack of 3X5 cards on which you've written relay instructions kids will carry out. You'll need one-half as many instructions as you have kids, and a set of them for each team.
- Shuffle each set of instructions independently.
- Form two teams. Have teams line up in single-file lines on the side of the room opposite the chairs.
- On "go," the first person on each team will run to the chair, take one 3X5 card, follow the instructions, tag the chair, run back to his or her team and lock arms with the next person in line. Both of them will run back to the chair, take one 3X5 card, follow the instructions together, tag the chair, lock arms again, run back to their team and lock arms with the third person, and so on.
- This continues until all team members have been included and made it back to the starting line.

Sample Relay Instructions: Sing "We wish you a Merry Christmas", do five jumping jacks, run around the area, run backward to your team, hop to your team, run around the chair two times yelling "God forgives."

(Think of your own ideas to write on a card)

Coloring Page



Joseph Forgives His Brothers

*I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved,
nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life
(Genesis 45:4-5).*

