

LESSON 22

Joseph's Dreams

GENESIS 37:1-11



BIBLE TRUTH

A MAN PLANS HIS COURSE, BUT THE LORD DETERMINES HIS STEPS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 22)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

Where Is Jesus?

SUPPLIES: Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is Jesus?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: Snack food/water

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY 5–10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) 20–30 MIN

Coloring Page 22

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

Acting Out the Dreams

SUPPLIES: a child-sized coat decorated with colored ribbon, streamers, etc.

A Special Coat

SUPPLIES: 3-inch squares of colorful fabric (one for each child)

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today's lesson the children will learn how God gave Joseph a dream about the future.

This story is a very popular one. So lead a discussion seeing how much of the story the children know already. Keep their answers short and allow many to share. If no one mentions the dreams of Joseph, be sure to visit that topic.

Ask, "Does anyone remember that Joseph had some very important dreams?" Then ask several questions about dreams. "Has anyone here had a dream?" "Has anyone ever heard about someone else's dreams?" Then, tell the children that God used dreams to speak to his people. That is what he did with Joseph.

As they listen to the story, tell the children to listen closely for Joseph's dreams and what the Bible says they mean.

Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 22, "Joseph's Dreams," from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION 5 MIN

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What is this story about?**
(*Joseph's dreams*)
- **What did Joseph see in his dream?**
(*sheaves of wheat bow down to him and stars and the sun and moon bow down to him*)
- **Who did Joseph's brothers think the wheat and the stars were?**
(*They thought the stars and the wheat were a picture of them bowing down to their brother.*)

- **Did Joseph’s brothers like his dream or did it make them angry?**
(It made them angry.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking:

- **Did you ever have a dream?**
(Allow some of the children to share about their dreams, being ready to cut them off if they share inappropriately.)
- **Did you know that God could speak to people in dreams?**
(Accept any answer.)
- **Who can remember another person God spoke to in a dream?**
(Joseph: God used an angel appearing in a dream twice; first to convince Joseph to marry Mary who was with child and second to tell them to run away to Egypt to escape Herod who wanted to kill Jesus.)

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY **5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS **20-30 MIN**

Coloring Activity

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ coloring page 22—one copy for each child

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- **How do Joseph’s brothers look as he tells them his dream?**
(They look upset.)
- **What is Joseph wearing?**
(He is wearing a special colorful coat that his father gave him. Have the children color the coat many different colors.)

Where Is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

Passage: Psalm 105:1–19

Psalm 105 briefly tells the story of God's wonderful works and of his covenant promise to Abraham, the promise to send a Savior. It speaks of God's promise to Abraham lasting forever. It also tells the history of God's work among the Israelites.

We haven't read about this yet, but Joseph is about to find himself alone in Egypt after his brothers sell him as a slave. Verse 17, speaking of the Israelites, says that God "sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave." How did God "send" Joseph? He did it by arranging all the elements of Joseph's life. Every event, every day, was part of God's plan.

The most important part of God's plan was completed when Jesus died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. But God's plan still continues today, in every event and every moment. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, even today God is continuing to bless all nations through the spiritual offspring of Abraham, who are now called Christians.

- **Reread aloud Joseph's dreams.**

(Ask the children to draw some of the things found in Joseph's dreams in the sky above him. Have them color the sheaves of wheat yellow.)

Acting Out the Dreams

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ child-sized coat decorated with colored ribbons, streamers, etc. (*Note: Some Bibles describe Joseph's coat as multicolored, others describe it as richly ornamented. The actual Hebrew only tells us that it had long sleeves. Some suggest the coat was more than a decorative gift but the kind of coat a manager not a laborer would wear.*)

Read Genesis 37:5–7. Choose a volunteer to take the role of Joseph and wear the multicolored coat. The other children should pretend to be the brothers. Other children could play the role of the wheat that bows down. Tell the story again and have the children act out the dream. Then follow the story line of the second dream in verses 9 and 10, assigning some children to be the stars, moon, and sun.

A Special Coat

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ 3-inch squares of colorful fabric (one for each child)

Read Genesis 37:3–4. Tell the story of Joseph’s multicolored special coat and show the children the colorful material. Ask them, “Do you think this might be like the material used to make Joseph’s coat?” Then ask the class, “Who would like a scrap of material?” Give only two children a square of the material then ask the following questions.

- How did it make you feel to get a piece of the material?
(I felt special.)
- Do you think Joseph felt special when his father gave him the many-colored coat?
(yes)
- How did his brothers feel when they didn’t get a colorful coat?
(sad)
- The Bible says his brothers hated him because of the coat. What does hate mean?
(It means you really don’t like something or someone.)
- How did you feel when you did not get a square of material?
(sad)

Tie together the way Joseph’s brothers felt and how the children who did not get a square felt. Give each of the children a square of the material to remember the sin of Joseph’s brothers.

PRAY **5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for all you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as another way for the children to remember what today's lesson was about.

