

LESSON 23

Joseph Is Attacked by His Brothers

GENESIS 37:12-36



BIBLE TRUTH

GOD SAVED JOSEPH SO THAT HE MIGHT ONE DAY SAVE US

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: toy

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 23)

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 23

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Providence of God

SUPPLIES: Joseph and his brothers flannelgraph set; several upper case letter *P*'s made of flannel

Puppet Show

SUPPLIES: puppet; bag of candy

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 Joseph's brothers' jealousy led them to attack him.

This story is about how the Joseph's brothers' sin of jealousy grew unchecked till they were actually going to kill their brother. The idea of killing a brother might be hard for the young students in your class to comprehend. You can show them how the same sin works in their hearts to bring it on to their level.

If you have toys in your classroom like blocks or some other toy, pull them out and ask the children what one of them might do if they wanted to play with a toy but someone else was playing with it. They might say they would ask the person to share. But you can counter, but what if they won't share? Then what would they do? Try to lead them to the conclusion that they might consider hitting the person. We have all seen this happen with small children—that they resort to hitting when they don't get what they want.

The sin of jealousy shows up in our lives when someone has what we want and we are willing to sin to get it for ourselves. Jealousy reveals that we are not content with what we have and want what someone else has. This almost always leads us to anger—anger that often leads us to hit or yell. Then ask the children to name some things that make them angry with their friends or family.

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

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 23, "Joseph Is Attacked by His Brothers," 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 happened in this story?**
(Help the children by giving them clues to retell the story in their own words.)

■ **Why did Joseph’s brothers attack him?**

(They were jealous of his coat and the special attention their father gave Joseph. They also did not like his dreams.)

■ **Why didn’t they kill Joseph?**

(Reuben, Jacob’s eldest son stopped them.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

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

■ **What is a slave?**

(A slave is someone who is forced to work against their will for another person without getting paid for their work.)

■ **What did Joseph’s brothers do with Joseph when the slave traders came along?**

(They sold their brother to them for twenty pieces of silver.)

■ **Where did the slave traders take Joseph?**

(They took him to Egypt.)

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 23—one copy for each child

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

■ **How do Joseph’s brothers explain to their father what happened to Joseph?**

(The brothers told Jacob that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.)

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: Matthew 27:17–23

Joseph was treated unfairly by his brothers because of the brothers' resentment and jealousy. This is one of many Old Testament stories that look forward to the life of Jesus.

Joseph was betrayed, bound, and sold into slavery by his jealous brothers. But later God would use Joseph to save his brothers. Like Joseph, Jesus was unjustly turned over to Pilate out of envy, which is very similar to jealousy. And later, Jesus would make a way of salvation.

When we look at the life of Joseph, we see a picture of Jesus who was betrayed, bound, and crucified by his own people because they were jealous of him and resented him.

- Did Joseph's brothers tell their father the truth?

(No, they lied to him.)

- Why did they lie?

(They were afraid to tell their father the truth because they would be punished and they might have to go to Egypt to find him.)

The Providence of God

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Joseph and his brothers flannelgraph set
- ✓ several upper case letter *P*'s made of flannel

Using the flannelgraph, retell the story of Joseph being attacked by his brothers.

Explain to the children that nothing happens by accident. God is secretly working behind all that happens. God is working everything according to his plan. This is called providence. Tell the class that you are going to place a letter *P* for providence over items in the story that speak of God's secret work behind the scenes.

Here are some places to place a letter *P* while telling the story.

- God allowed Joseph’s brothers to see him coming a long way off. This gave them time to plan their attack. It also gave Reuben time to convince his brothers not to kill Joseph.
- God provided the dry well as an alternative to killing Joseph.
- God provided the slave traders to take Joseph away from his angry brothers to Egypt, where God would use him to become a wise ruler.

When you are done, help the children to see that God is secretly at work behind the scenes of even the most evil times. Encourage them that God is also at work in this way in their lives. See if they can remember what word the letter *P* stands for.

Puppet Show

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ puppet
- ✓ bag of candy

This puppet show requires two adults. It shows how sinful jealousy can spread and lead to other sins as well.

Teacher: *(not the one with the puppet)*: Hi Puppet. How are you today?

Puppet: I’m fine. What do you have in the bag?

Teacher: *(with hesitation)* Oh, this ... This is a surprise.

Puppet: What is the surprise for?

Teacher: Well, I got a bag of candy as a present for a very special friend.

Puppet: *(turning and speaking to the audience in a whisper)* I’ll bet that candy is for me. I’m a special friend!

Teacher: Yes, this candy is for someone really special.

(Puppet turns to audience and nods as though this confirms that he is getting it.)

Puppet: I’ll bet the person you got it for just lo-ov-es candy.

(Puppet turns and nods to the children again.)

Teacher: Why, yes he does.

(Puppet nods a third time.)

Puppet: When are you going to give it to him?

Teacher: I'll give it to him in a little while. He will be here any minute. Listen, Puppet, can you hold this? I don't want him to see it in my hands when he gets here. I'll tell him you are holding a surprise for him.

Puppet: *(less than enthusiastically as the teacher leaves)* Sure, great!
(with sarcasm) Great, all I get to do is hold it. *(asking class)* Why can't this candy be for me? It should be you know. I am her friend too!
(Puppet drops candy accidentally on the table as he is talking.)

Puppet: Oh no, I dropped it. I hope none of it got banged up ... Like this!
(Puppet smashes down on the candy obviously angry.) And this! *(Puppet smashes the candy repeatedly.)*

Teacher: *(walking back into the room)* Puppet! What are you doing to that candy? Why, you are angry!

Puppet: I guess I got a little jealous when I found out the candy was not for me.

Teacher: Now look at the candy; it is all banged up. Jealousy is a terrible sin that will lead you to do all kinds of mean things.

Puppet: I'm sorry for ruining the candy. Please forgive me. I'll go right to the store and buy you a new bag.

Teacher: I forgive you. I think I will need a new bag. I can't give this one away all smashed up.

Puppet: You were right, teacher. Jealousy is a very serious sin.

Ask the class the following questions:

- **What happened in the puppet show?**
(The puppet wanted the candy. When he did not get it, he got angry.)
- **Did Joseph's brothers get angry with Joseph?**
(yes)
- **What did they do to Joseph?**
(threw him in a pit)

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.

LESSON 23 - JOSEPH IS ATTACKED BY HIS BROTHERS

