

LESSON 26

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

GENESIS 43–46



BIBLE TRUTH

BEHIND THE PLANS OF MEN STANDS THE PLAN OF GOD

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

SUPPLIES: Index cards (dozen)

2. BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

SUPPLIES: *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 26)

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 26

SUPPLIES: markers/crayons

The Hidden Cup in the Sack of Grain

SUPPLIES: eleven brown paper lunch bags; one small foil-wrapped paper cup; towel for Joseph to use as a headdress

Joseph’s Troubles

SUPPLIES: three drawings—a hole in the ground (a pit), a chain, and prison bars; on the reverse side of each drawing, draw a cross and the words “God’s Plan”

7. CLOSING PRAYER 5 MIN

TOTAL 60–75 MIN

THE LESSON

OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION 5 MIN

In today’s lesson the children will hear the story of when Joseph reveals his identity to his brothers and how God is behind even their selling him into slavery.

Instructions prior to class: Write the name of Jacob’s sons on twelve index cards: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

Review the names with the class several times. Divide the class in half. Have children on your right try to remember one of the names. If they guess a name give them that card to hold. Then give the children on your left a try. Continue until they can’t remember any more names. You can give them clues. Play several times to help them remember the names.

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

BIBLE STORY 10 MIN

Read story 26, “Joseph Reveals Himself to 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?**
(Joseph sold grain to his brothers, but it soon ran out, and they came back for more. Joseph played a trick on his brothers to see if they had become honest men.)
- **What was the trick Joseph played?**
(He had his servant place a silver cup in Benjamin’s bag to make it look like Benjamin had stolen it.)
- **How did Joseph’s brothers react when he told them who he was?**
(They were very afraid.)
- **Why were they afraid?**
(They remembered what they had done to Joseph and thought that he might punish them.)

SNACK QUESTIONS **10 MIN**

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

- **Even though it was Joseph’s brothers who sold him into slavery, who really was in control of sending Joseph to Egypt?**
(It was God working out his plan to provide for Israel that sent Joseph to Egypt.)

- **Can you think of other terrible things God planned for great good?**
(Jesus’ death on the cross—though the Romans and the religious leaders killed Jesus, the Bible tells us that it was God himself who planned that his Son should die for the sins of man.)

- **What do Joseph’s life and the cross of Jesus help us to understand about God?**
(He works all things together for his good; he is in control of everything, even evil [Acts 2:23].)

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 26:47–56; Luke 23:33–43

Joseph was betrayed, thrown into a pit, and sold into slavery by his own brothers. But Joseph was ready to forgive them completely for what they had done to him.

Joseph had grace from God to forgive his brothers, and this gives us a glance forward to Jesus. Jesus was betrayed by his friend, Judas, deserted by all his disciples, and crucified by his own people. He, too, extends forgiveness to the very ones who hurt him, and to anyone else who repents of their sin.

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 26—one copy for each child

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

- Which person in the picture is Joseph?
- Who can remember Joseph's youngest brother's name?
(Benjamin)
- What do you think Joseph's brothers thought when they were caught with silver in their sacks?
(They were afraid.)
- What do you think Joseph's brothers thought when Joseph revealed that he was their brother?
(They thought he would be mad at them for throwing him into the pit and selling him into slavery.)

The Hidden Cup in the Sack of Grain**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ eleven brown paper lunch bags
- ✓ one small foil-wrapped paper cup
- ✓ towel for Joseph to use as a headdress

Before class, place the paper cup in one of the lunch bags.

Choose one student to be Joseph and one to be Benjamin; the rest can be the brothers. Give the sack with the cup to Benjamin. Read through the Bible account and come up with a few lines for Joseph and his brothers.

Encourage the children to act out their roles. For instance, when the cup is found in Benjamin's sack the brothers should act afraid. End the skit by having Joseph take off the headdress and tell his brothers who he is.

Joseph's Troubles

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ Three drawings, each on a separate sheet of paper: (1) a hole in the ground (a pit); (2) a chain; and (3) prison bars. On the reverse side of each drawing, draw a cross; add the words "God's Plan" under each cross.

Review the major hardships in Joseph's story: that he was thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, and imprisoned. As you get to each of these three hardships, hold up the picture that illustrates it. *(Don't show the cross on the back of the paper.)*

After you are finished with each part of the story, ask the class, "If you were Joseph, whom would you blame for all the bad things that happened to you?" The class should say that it was Joseph's brothers who did all that to him. *(Feel free to lead them to that conclusion because on the surface it is true.)*

Finally, go back to the three pictures. One at a time, talk about the person responsible for Joseph's trial. But then turn the pictures over revealing that God himself was behind each one. Joseph's brothers threw him into the pit and sold him into slavery. Potiphar and his wife caused Joseph to end up in jail in Egypt. But God was behind it all.

Read Genesis 45:5–8, which explains how God was behind it all!

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.

