

Ask students to turn to **Genesis 37:1-4**. Then read those verses.

Discussion Questions:

What does it mean to pick favorites? When someone chooses a favorite pet over other pets, or chooses a favorite cousin, child, or grandparent. Or, when someone picks a favorite friend and leaves other friends out. To basically choose one over the others.

What was the consequence of Israel choosing Joseph as the favorite and giving him a special coat in verse 4? The other brothers hated Joseph and couldn't say anything nice about him.

How do you think it made Joseph feel? Sad and left out.

How do you think it made the other sons feel about their dad having a favorite son? Sad and left out.

Should we pick favorites? No, because someone will always feel sad and left out and it could cause people to be mean to the others.

Let's look at what the Bible says about picking favorites. For students who are old enough to read well, let's turn to and read aloud the following verses from the Bible about what God says in regards to picking favorites:

Leviticus 19:15

“Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly.

James 2:9

But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

Romans 2:11

For God does not show favoritism.

What does God think of showing favoritism or picking favorites? He says it is a sin and He doesn't do it and we shouldn't do it either!

Allow for other questions if any before moving on.

3) Design Joseph's Coat Activity Sheet

15-20 minutes



Hand out one sheet to each student along with crayons or markers. Read the instructions aloud and have the children design, color and draw Joseph's special coat. When finished have students help clean up before moving on to the next activity and ensure they write their name on their page.

*Feel free to use glue sticks and scrap pieces of colored paper, ribbon, or stickers to embellish their designs.

4) Joseph's Dreams and Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Optional: you can use visuals while reading from the Bible.

Ask students to turn to **Genesis 37:5-11**. Read those verses.

When finished, hand out one activity sheet to each child along with pencil crayons. Read the directions aloud and help them if needed look up verses and fill in the answers. If time you can

have them color the page, or for younger children they can color if they are too young to write in the answers. Remind students to write their names on the page and help clean up before moving on to the next activity.

Answers:

Dream	Binding	Grain	Field	Rose	Stood
Bowed	Intend	Reign	Rule	Hated	Dream
Brothers	Sun	Moon	11		

Discussion Questions:

What did Joseph do that upset his brothers? Told them of dreams where he would rule over them.

Why would this upset them? They knew he was his dad's favorite and now he is saying he will get to rule them and even rule over his whole family including his father as well.

Do you think Joseph was trying to cause trouble? Allow students to answer. But probably no, he just didn't realize that telling the dreams to his brothers would be upsetting to them, he might have been excited or proud about having the dreams and wanted to share the news with them.

5) Optional – Craft Paper Bag Joseph's Special Coat 10-15 minutes

Before class ensure you have one large paper bag for each child along with scissors, glue, crayons, markers, and then scrap ribbon, stickers, buttons, yarn, sequins, and/or construction paper pieces. For younger students, you may want to pre-cut the bags for them and let them just decorate their coats.

As children are sitting around the table, hand out one bag to each child; explain to them that like Joseph we too are going to make a special coat!

- 1) Hand out scissors to share along with pencils. Ask children to write their name on the paper bag and then cut the paper bag down the center of ONE side only – this will make the front of the coat. See picture.
- 2) Next, cut a neck hole and two armholes as shown. Help younger Students and tell older students to draw the circles first before cutting.
- 3) Hand out materials described in the list above for students to decorate their own special coat using glue.



Have students clean up when finished and let coats dry if used white glue.

6) Optional –Sun, Moon, Stars Observation 5-10 minutes

*Before class take a black paper plate or heavy black cardstock paper and cut out stars, moon, and sun design on it using a sharp knife – be careful! Ensure you have a working flashlight as well.

During class with flashlight, have students sit around you on the floor and then turn off the lights in the room. Using the flashlight shine it through your paper plate shapes as you point the light to the ceiling and watch the show on the ceiling as kids can see the images of the sun, stars, and moon you made reflect through the light.

Let each child carefully take the flashlight and take turns shining it through the plate. Remind students not to shine the light into people's eyes. Talk about Joseph's dreams and how this would affect his relationship with his family while students take turns shining the light. Say to students, **"Each of you will get a turn to shine the light, how would you feel if only one of you got to**

shine the light but I wouldn't let anyone else? We need to remember to not pick favorites but to be fair to everyone - as God doesn't want us picking favorites!"



7) Optional - Snack: Small fruit pieces with different colors 5 minutes

Hand out small pieces of different colored fruit to each child - ensure there are no allergies. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, "**when Jacob gave Joseph a coat - it had many decorations or ornaments on it just like these fruit pieces - many colors, shapes and sizes. We each received fruit today - how would you feel if only one of you received fruit but no one else? We need to remember not to pick favorites but to be fair to everyone!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

8) Optional - Songs 5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

- 1) **Old Testament Books of the Bible - Sung to the Alphabet song**
- 2) **Father Abraham Song with Actions** - see lyrics from Lesson 1
- 3) **Sons of Jacob** (to the tune of "Ten Little Ladybugs")

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,
Issachar, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali,
Gad and Asher, Joseph, Benjamin - These are the sons of Jacob.

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Pray that God will help us remember not to pick favorites but to be right and fair with everyone. Pray that if we are in a situation that someone is a favorite - we won't hurt them because they are being chosen over us but pray to God instead for help.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!