

Lesson 11: Ephraim and Manasseh – Joseph’s Sons

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 47:27-48:22: Jacob blesses Ephraim and Manasseh
- 2) Review what they have learned so far about Joseph, Jacob, Manasseh, Ephraim and Joseph’s brothers with activities

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Large writing surface – like easel with paper or chalkboard (to play hangman) or piece of paper to show children as you play hangman.
- Marker
- Joseph’s Life Question Match-Up Activity Sheet – one per student

Optional

- Storybook of this chapter in Genesis with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board and characters to show the story of this chapter. (if available)

Snack:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| - Triangle Shaped Snack (like Cheese) | 1-2 per child |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Juice or water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance. Once children are seated say:

What did we study last week about Joseph? Joseph’s father and family moved to Egypt and went to Goshen to live as shepherds. Joseph wept when he saw his father.

This week we will see that Jacob, Joseph’s father, meets Joseph’s two sons and blesses them.

We will also review what we have learned so far.

2) Jacob Meets Joseph’s Sons – Ephraim and Manasseh

10-15 minutes

Optional: if you have a book with pictures showing this story you can show the pictures as you read from the Bible.

Ask students to turn to Genesis 47:27. Then ask them to follow along as you read.

Read Genesis 47:27-31

Discussion Questions:

How long did Jacob (Joseph’s father) live in Egypt? 17 years

How long did he live altogether? 147 years.

Where did he want to be buried? Where his fathers were buried in the field of the Hittites. Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Rebekah were also buried there. This was back in the land of Canaan not in Egypt.

What did Israel/Jacob do after he talked with Joseph? Worshiped God!

Read Genesis 48:1-22

Discussion Questions:

When Esau was to receive the blessing from his father Isaac, Jacob and his mother deceived Isaac and stole the blessing. Now Jacob is blessing Joseph's two sons Ephraim and Manasseh. Did Joseph trick his father when he found out Jacob was going to bless the younger more?

No. He just tried to explain to his father that he had his hand on the wrong child, but he accepted his father's decision and did not cheat, lie, or argue with him.

How does that relate to us today? Sometimes things might happen and we think we know a better way, or a way that is supposedly fairer. But it is never ok to trick, lie, or steal to get your way or to make what you want to happen occur. Trust in God that things will still work out alright. Like Joseph did!

Who was the youngest Manasseh or Ephraim? Ephraim was the youngest.

Who was the oldest? Manasseh.

Who received the greater blessing from Jacob? Ephraim – the youngest.

3) Joseph's Life Match Up Review Questions 15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with a pencil. Read the instructions at the top of the page then allow students to match the phrase with the answer. For those students who have trouble reading, read with them the questions and possible answers aloud so they can answer the questions. When done check answers as a group and then move on to the next activity.

Joseph's Life Question Match-up Seeing God's Plan	
*Match the questions on the left with the answer on the right. You may choose an answer more than once.	
Questions	Answers
1. Who did Joseph reveal himself to?	___ The famine
2. What did Joseph do to his brothers?	___ The entire family
3. Why did Joseph's family come to Egypt?	___ Shepherds
4. Where was Joseph's family to live?	___ 17
5. Who came to Egypt?	___ Israel/Jacob
6. Who was the first to come to Egypt?	___ God
7. Who did Joseph offer as a sacrifice?	___ Brothers
8. Who talked to Joseph in a vision?	___ God
9. What were Joseph's brothers to say was their occupation?	___ 130
10. Who was desirable to Egyptians?	___ Shepherds
11. Who blessed Pharaoh? Genesis 47:10	___ Forgiveness
12. Who did the Israelites eat the meal? Pharaoh? Genesis 47:18	
13. How many years did Joseph live in Egypt before he died?	

Answers:

3 5 9 & 10 13 6 & 11 8 1 4 12 7 2

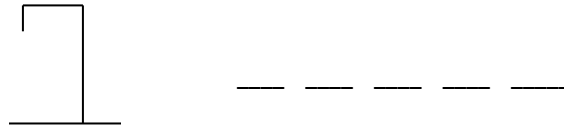
4) Hangman 10-15 minutes

Before class get a large easel or chalkboard with marker or chalk to show kids while playing the game of hangman. If neither are available sit around a table and hold up a page with the gallows and slots for the words underneath so all children can see – use a marker to fill in each letter as they say them. Play hangman with key words from the Bible story – when kids discover the word – ask them to explain why that word was important if they can, or you can explain if they can't remember.

Game instructions: Ask students if they know the game, if not explain to them the following:

1. Start the game by choosing a word from the list below –because the students are young and don't know how to spell well yet, write down each word below on a piece of paper or on the easel so they can see what are the choices and be able to recognize a word easier once you start to play the game. Don't let the children know what word you have chosen but let them see the different options they have.

- Place one dash on the bottom of a piece of paper for each letter of the word or words chosen. Leave a space between words. Example: Jacob – you would write ___ _ _ _ _ at the bottom of the page.
- Draw a "gallows" at the top of the paper - draw a horizontal line at the bottom, a vertical line coming up out of its center, and then a short line off to the right at the top (so that you now have an upside-down "L" on the horizontal line). Draw a short vertical line off the end of the top line - this is your "noose." Example:



- Have the children guess one letter at a time - or he or she can use a turn to guess the entire word. If they get the letter write – fill it in where it belongs – example: J ___ _ _ . If they said “Jacob” they would win that round.
- If they get the letter wrong – write the letter on the top of the page – so other students know it was already chosen and then fill in a part of the body on the hangman’s noose. Begin by drawing a head attached to the short vertical line (the "noose"). Add body, right leg, left leg, right arm, then left arm.
- Know that if the drawing of the person is completed before the word or words are guessed, the class loses. If the class figures out the word or words first, they win.
- When a student guesses the word ask them to explain something that they know about the word.

List of Words to Use

(and possible suggestions for things they might know about that word):

Joseph –the son of Israel’s who became the second-in-command to Pharaoh and brought his family down to Egypt to keep them safe from the famine. Joseph was forgiving and forgave his brothers for selling him as a slave many years earlier.

Twelve – Total number of Jacob’s sons.

Israel- the name Jacob received from God, had 12 sons and died in Egypt after being reunited with Joseph.

Manasseh – the oldest son of Joseph –to receive a portion of land along with Israel’s sons and his brother Ephraim.

Ephraim – received the greater blessing from Israel even though he was the youngest. Was to receive a portion of land along with Israel’s sons and his brother Manasseh.

Egypt – the land Joseph and his family stayed in during the famine.

Pharaoh – ruler of Egypt who allowed Joseph’s family to stay in Goshen.

Goshen – the area of Egypt that Joseph’s family settled. It was good for livestock and shepherding.

Forgive – what Joseph did with his brothers and what we should do today when someone wrongs us.

5) Optional – Snack: Triangle Shaped Snack (Ex: Cheese)

5 minutes

Hand out triangular snacks enough for each child to have 1-2. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, “**Jacob and his family moved to Egypt. What is something that is famous in Egypt that is in the shape of triangles? Pyramids! Let’s all eat our triangle shaped snack and remember that Jacob, Joseph and their family lived in Egypt – the land of the pyramids!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking and ask students what they thought of Jacob giving Ephraim the greater blessing – how does that relate to when Jacob tricked his dad Isaac into giving him Esau’s blessing?

6) 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) **Songs of Joseph** (See Printed Song Sheet) Keep copies and sing each week.

7) 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.

Thank God for showing us how the lives of the people in Genesis help us realize how we should live our lives today. Thank God that we can see the benefit of trusting in God as Jacob and Joseph did and how You, God, are willing to be with us, just like You were with Jacob and Joseph! Thank you God, for Jesus and for all that You provide us. We pray that when things happen in our life and we think it should or could go another way, that we don't lie, cheat or steal to get what we think is right, but trust in You Lord. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!