

Lesson 11: The Life of Joseph – Joseph is Sold

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 37-38: Joseph and his family when he was young and Judah and his children
- 2) Learn that it is not good to pick favorites and the consequences it has on the family
- 3) Learn that Judah – Israel's son - leads to Jesus!

Supplies:

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Blank piece of paper – one per student
- Ways to Avoid Jealousy – one per student

Optional:

- Storybook of this chapter in Genesis with pictures or visuals to show kids (if available)

Snack:

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| - Licorice | 2 sticks/strings 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.

What did we study last week about Jacob (now named Israel) and his family? Israel had a son named Joseph and Joseph had a dream that showed he was going to be ruler of his family. Also, we learned that Joseph's father made him a special coat which made his brothers jealous.

This week we will see the consequences of Joseph's dad picking favorites and the pain it causes him and Joseph.

2) Our Families Drawing Task

10-15 minutes

Hand out one blank piece of paper to each child with crayons. Ask each student to draw a picture of their family. Let each one stand up and explain their picture. Let everyone count to see how many children are in each family.

Ask questions like:

Who has the most/least sisters, brothers?

Do your brothers and/or sisters ever argue?

Say: **In today's story we are going to learn more about Israel's family. Remember he had twelve boys and one girl! The twelve boys did not get along very well because their father picked favorites.**

3) Joseph's Brothers Sell Him

15 minutes

Optional: if you have a book with pictures or visuals you can show the pictures as you read from the Bible.

Have students turn to **Genesis 37:12-36**. Read it aloud so the children can follow along.
Ask the following afterwards:

Do you think it was a good idea for Israel to send off Joseph by himself- at that time he was 17 years old? Allow students to answer.

Do you think Israel was aware of his other sons' anger towards Joseph? Allow students to answer.

Why do you think the brothers wanted to kill Joseph? They were jealous of him

Did they have a right to feel this way? No, God says we are not to be jealous, it only causes trouble.

Have students turn to **Galatians 5:19-21** and read it for the class. Emphasize the bolded words
Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰idolatry and witchcraft; **hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage**, selfish ambition, **dissensions**, factions ²¹and **envy**; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this **will not inherit the kingdom of God**.

*In case students ask definitions for the following words in Galatians are listed below:

Impurity: the quality or condition of being impure.

Debauchery: excessive indulgence in sensual pleasures

Discord: disagreement between people

Dissension: disagreement that leads to discord especially partisan and contentious quarreling.

Factions: a small, organized, dissenting group within a larger one

Orgies: wild partying

What “acts of the flesh” were the brothers committing according to these verses? Hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, and envy are all examples of bad feelings and actions the brothers demonstrated towards Joseph.

Who tried to save Joseph? Reuben the oldest.

What did they do to Joseph? Sold him as a slave after putting him in a cistern (well).

Who did they sell him too? Ishmaelites – descendants of Ishmael who was the brother of Isaac. Isaac was Joseph’s grandfather - from the region of Midian.

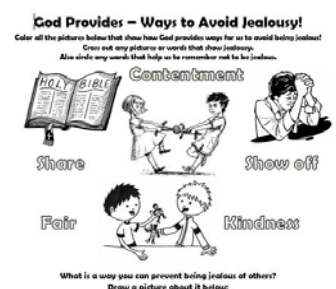
Where did Joseph go? To Egypt at the house of Potiphar the captain of the guard. Potiphar was one of Pharaoh’s officials. (Remember Pharaoh is the name given to the king of Egypt at that time).

It is very sad to see that Joseph’s brothers actually sold him to be a slave. Next time we will study about Joseph and how God keeps him safe. But for now let’s learn about Judah – one of Joseph’s brothers.

4) Ways to Avoid Jealousy Activity Sheet

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student. Read the directions aloud and have them cross out any pictures/words that show jealousy, then help them circle the words that help us avoid jealousy and color the remaining pictures. Make sure you read each word aloud and discuss what each word means so students understand whether it is avoiding or showing jealousy. Then have them draw a picture of them preventing jealousy in their own lives.



While they are working. Turn to **Hebrews 13:5** and read it aloud to them to show that God does not accept jealousy and instead calls us to be content with what we have.

Hebrews 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

What does the Bible say we should do? Be content with what we have.

Content means: happy and satisfied. The Bible is saying, that to avoid jealousy we need to be happy and content with what we have and God will provide our needs and be with us always! Even if others seem to have more or better than what we have, that is ok, we should be content and not worry or be jealous about what other’s have but focus on being happy and remembering all that we do have!

Answers:

Circle: Contentment, Share, Fair, Kindness

Cross out: Picture of kids fighting over rabbit and the word “Show off”,

Color: the rest of the pictures

5) Judah and His Relationship to Jesus	10 minutes
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Have students listen as you read the following from Genesis 38. Do not read the entire chapter, but read the following so the students see the relationship between Judah and his descendants and how they point to Christ.

Read the following account of the story of Genesis 38, it is extremely condensed to save time and to leave out some “bigger adult” topics.

Follow along as I explain:

After Joseph was sold, Judah left his brothers and went down to stay with a man of Adullam named Hirah. While there he met Tamar and they had two twin boys. As she was giving birth, one of them put out his hand; so the midwife took a scarlet thread and tied it on his wrist and said, “This one came out first.” But when he drew back his hand, his brother came out, and she said, “So this is how you have broken out!” And he was named Perez. Then his brother, who had the scarlet thread on his wrist, came out and he was given the name Zerah.

Perez means breaking out and Zerah means scarlet or brightness. Now let’s turn to Luke 3:23, 33-34. Have students turn in their Bibles to Luke and read.

Then say, “**Jesus was related to Isaac, who had Jacob, who had Judah – one of his twelve sons, who had Perez! These are the stories of Jesus’ ancestors. And we will continue looking at Jesus’ ancestors next week when we check on Joseph and see how his life turns out after being sold!**” Remember the Old Testament points to Christ and shows his family line. So while we are studying Isaac, Jacob, and their families, we are studying about Jesus’ family too!

6) Optional – Snack: Licorice Chains**5 minutes**

Hand out two pieces of licorice string to each child. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“when Jacob was taken out of the cistern or well, he was sold as a slave. He might even have had chains or wrist handcuffs put on him to lead him away. Let’s make chains out of our licorice by tying them into a circle and then tying the next licorice through the circle and then make another circle to complete a chain. This will remind us of how Joseph was led off as a slave!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

7) 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.

8) 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.

Remember to also ask God for help while studying the Old Testament to realize and learn how important it is in showing us and everyone that God had a plan, along with Jesus, from the very beginning of Creation. And, that the Old Testament points to Christ all the way through. Pray that we will be kind to our brothers and sisters and not hurt them or be mean to them. Pray that we will remember those who are suffering or sick and help those we can. Pray that we will want to continue to study the Old Testament so we can learn from the people that lived during that time and learn what we should and should not do in order to please God.