

*Preschool Summer*  
*Lesson 12:*  
*Genesis – Joseph’s Dream*

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) Continue to study Genesis Chapter 37: Joseph has dreams
- 2) Do activities to remind them that Joseph had two special dreams

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students? See Lesson 1 for ideas

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**Supplies:** Check with coordinator to ensure supplies are ready.

**Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)**

- Pens/Pencils
- Bible (please bring your own)
- Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Attendance Sheet
- Stickers – enough for each child to have one every lesson for 13 lessons
- Activity Game Template – print one per class onto cardstock paper and cut shapes before class
- Tape to hold down pictures or if doing activity outside you can use sidewalk chalk
- Joseph’s Dream Color Page – one per child
- White Sheet of Paper – one per child

**Optional Activities**

- Storybook of the Bible story with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board with pictures or Visual Aids. (if available)
- Pictures of or gather some real grain/wheat on stalks to show students
- Pictures of stars, moon, and sun to show students
- Paper plate or black foam sheet or construction paper – one for class to share
- Non-toxic washable black paint– enough for you to paint \*if using paper plate
- Something to cut holes and shapes – hole punch or star shaped punch outs or exacto knife
- Flashlight
- Paintbrush \*if using paper plate and needing to paint it black
- Star stickers to share
- Pieces of grain or grain leaves or seeds to share
- Glue to glue grain pieces to color page
- Dolls and Animals – enough to share OR
- Play dough – enough to share
- Large Flat Plastic Bin with sand poured inside
- Plastic Dolls or Dolls made out of pipe cleaners – enough for children to share (if made Joseph pipe cleaner last week you can use him as well)
- Little Tents made out of pipe cleaners and paper or cloth – enough to share
- Plastic small animals – sheep, cows, camels, etc. – enough to share
- Snack – Star shaped Cheese, Apples, or Bread – enough for each child
- Napkins
- Cups with water or milk
- Puppet to tell students the real events from the Bible

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**Lesson:**

**1) Introduction to lesson:**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Write each child's name on the sheet provided. Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Have them sit around the table.

Say to students, **"We learned last time that Joseph got a special coat from his dad Jacob. And that none of his other brothers got a special coat so that made them jealous and angry. This week we will see that Joseph had two special dreams. These dreams upset his brothers even more because they showed that Joseph was going to be in a higher position of authority than his brothers.**

**Since we are talking about families and sharing let's sing a song about families and how nice it is when our families have Jesus in them!**

**Sing:**

**With Jesus in the Family**

With Daddy in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home. Happy, happy home.  
With Daddy in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home!

With Mommy in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home. Happy, happy home.  
With Mommy in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home!

With Brother in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home. Happy, happy home.  
With Brother in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home!

With Sister in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home. Happy, happy home.  
With Sister in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home!

With Baby in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home. Happy, happy home.  
With Baby in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home!

With Jesus in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home. Happy, happy home.  
With Jesus in the family, happy, happy home.  
Happy, happy home!

**2) Drawing Pictures of Our Families**

**10 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 Joseph's family that had twelve boys and one girl. The twelve boys did not get along very well because their father picked favorites. It is important that we remember not to pick favorites as that can cause problems. As we continue to study about Joseph's family we will see today that Joseph had two special dreams.**

### **3) Joseph's Dreams**

**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, or if you have flannel characters, etc. you can use those as visuals while reading from the Bible.

**\*Optional:** If you have a puppet you can use the puppet to tell the event in the Bible.

**\*Optional:** Gather some wheat or grain on stocks and/or show pictures of wheat/grain in bundles. Show pictures of stars, moon, and sun as well to help children understand what is being shared in the story.

Turn to **Genesis 37:5-11** and read the account of Joseph's dreams.

<sup>5</sup> Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: <sup>7</sup> We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." (Show picture or actual grain if available)

<sup>8</sup> His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

<sup>9</sup> Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." (Show picture or cut out shapes of sun, moon and stars)

<sup>10</sup> When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" <sup>11</sup> His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Say, "**Joseph had two dreams in the first he said that some grain bowed down to his sheaf of grain. Sheaves of grain are large bundles of wheat or other grain that has been gathered in a bunch ready to be harvested.** (Show picture or grain if available and pretend the grain(s) are bowing down.)

**Next he had a dream about the sun, moon and stars bowing down to him - that represented his mother, father, and other brothers bowing down towards Joseph showing that he would be greater than them in some way.** (Show pictures of sun, moon and stars and then pretend they are bowing down)

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.

**In the Old Testament where we are reading, some people could have special dreams that meant something real was going to happen. Today that doesn't happen anymore, we don't get special dreams like Joseph or his father Jacob did. We know all we need to by having the Bible! We do not need to have special dreams. But Joseph had two special dreams a long time ago. Let's do a fun activity to help us remember that Joseph had two special dreams but first let's sing about Joseph.**

**Let's sing:**

### **Joseph's Song**

To the tune of "London Bridge"

Joseph's father had twelve sons,  
Had twelve sons, had twelve sons.  
Joseph's father had twelve sons,  
Oh, what a family.

Joseph's father loved him best,  
Loved him best, loved him best.  
Joseph's father loved him best,  
Oh, what a family.

A fancy coat was his gift,  
Was his gift, was his gift.  
A fancy coat was his gift,  
Oh, what a family.

All his brothers were so jealous,  
Were so jealous, were so jealous.  
All his brothers were so jealous,  
Oh, what a family.

His brothers threw him in a pit,  
In a pit, in a pit.  
His brothers threw him in a pit,  
Oh, what a family.

Egypt bought him as a slave,  
As a slave, as a slave.  
Egypt bought him as a slave,  
Oh, what a family.

God caused a famine in the land,  
In the land, in the land.  
God caused a famine in the land,  
Oh, what a family.

By then Joseph was a mighty man,  
Mighty man, mighty man.  
By then Joseph was a might man,  
Oh, what a family.

His brothers came to him for food,  
Him for food, him for food.  
His brothers came to him for food,  
Oh, what a family.

Joseph forgave and fed them all,  
Fed them all, fed them all.  
Joseph forgave and fed them all,  
Oh, what a family.

#### **4) Optional -Sun, Moon, Stars Observation**

**5 minutes**

\*Before class at least one day before so paint can dry (if using paper plate) or if using black foam or construction paper you can do any time before class. Take a plate or paper/sheet and cut out stars, moon, and sun design on it. Paint it black and let dry if using plate.

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 or sheet 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 created from the flashlight.

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.





Remind students that one of Joseph's dreams was about the sun, moon, and stars bowing down to him!

### 5) Activity Race Game with Pictures

5-10 minutes

Cut out the Joseph's face, star and grain sheaf templates from the template provided and with tape, tape them down on a large, cleared area of the floor in different areas.

If you are doing this activity outside on a sidewalk you can use sidewalk chalk and draw these pictures on the sidewalk instead in different areas.

Gather children around and tell them that one at a time they are going to take turns. When you call the child by name – you will then say either “Joseph” “Star” or “Grain” That child will then run to the picture of the word you said. If they run to the right spot praise them, if not, show them the right place to go. Have them return to the end of the line so the next child can go. Let each child take a turn and then if time and if they are having fun – play the game again.

\*Remember to tape the pictures down well so children do not trip, or have children run to the right wall with the picture to avoid tripping on the printed pictures.

Another option is to allow **all** the children to run to the right picture at the same time when you call out the pictures name if they are careful not to push or run into each other. Then you can just have them run from one picture to the next as you call them out.

### 6) Joseph's Dream Color Page

10-15 minutes

Hand out one page to each child with crayons. Let children color the page while you read the Bible story again of Joseph's dreams.

\*Optional: take glue and grain or seed pieces and let children glue the grain or seeds onto the field in the picture.

Use stickers of stars and let the children stick them on the page for decoration to show and emphasize Joseph's two dreams.



### 7) Optional: Joseph's Family Play Dolls/Play dough

5-10 minutes

Pass around dolls, play dough, animals or books about Joseph and his family and other things that will help children remember that they learned about the fact that Joseph got a special coat and had two special dreams. Say, **“The Bible tells us that Jacob was blessed with a family and he had 12 sons! One of his son's name was Joseph and he had two dreams about his family. Let's play with our dolls as we think about Joseph and his family.**

Let students play with the dolls and books and then clean up.

### 8) Optional: Sand Box Play Time with Joseph

5-10 minutes

Before class make pipe cleaner tents and dolls and/or purchase plastic dolls with plastic animals. Fill a large flat plastic bin  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the way with sand for the children to play in. If needed make two bins if there are more than 4 children so they all have a side to play in.

\*If available use the Joseph pipe cleaner dolls the children made last week to play with.

Explain that **Jacob left home, travelled and got married. He had 12 sons and one daughter. While he was travelling he lived in tents and would have to move his animals along with him as well. Let the children move the dolls from place to place along with animals and tents. Pretend the people are Jacob and his family (including Joseph) taking care of the animals. Talk about Jacob, his family and how he lived in a tent in the desert and how his children were upset because he loved Joseph over his other sons. Remind students that it is better to share and be nice to everyone not just certain people.**

## 9) Sing

Choose songs from the Songs section of the binder especially songs about Joseph

### **The Bible is God's Book (To the tune of Farmer in the Dell)**

The Bible is God's Book,  
His words are written there.  
I like to open it and read,  
That I am in His care.

He cares for you and me.  
He cares for you and me.  
Just like he cared for Joseph  
Yes, He cares for you and me.

## 10) Optional - Snack : Star shaped Fruit, Cheese or Bread 5 minutes

Hand out star shaped food - enough for each child. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **"When Jacob got married, he eventually had 12 sons and one daughter. One of the sons was named Joseph. Joseph had a dream about the sun, moon and stars. Let's remember that dream and the one about the grain bowing down as we eat our star-shaped snacks today!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

## 11) Close in prayer

Ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray, then say: Thank You God for the world You made and for showing us people in the Bible who followed You. Thank you God for our families too. Thank you that we have the Bible to read and to use to know how to please you and to do good things – like sharing and being fair to everyone. Thank you God for your Son Jesus who loves us too and thank you God for everyone here today and those who could not be here because they were sick or away. We pray you will bring us all back to Sunday school next week safely. In Jesus name, Amen.