

Lesson 6: Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 42: Joseph meets his 10 brothers again
- 2) See the consequences of our actions by looking at Jacob, Joseph and the brother's reactions to what was done to Joseph so many years before.
- 3) Optional: Make a patriarch family doll for each of the 4 main patriarchs starting with Abraham

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Joseph and His Brothers Color Sheet – one per student
- Scissors to share

Optional:

- Abraham Bodies Template– one per student (two Abrahams per page)
- Abraham Clothes and Hair Template– one set per student
- Clothing and Accessories Abraham – one set per student
- Empty and Clean Paper Towel Rolls – Cut into two-inch pieces - one per student
- Glue or Glue sticks to share
- Scissors to share
- Tape to share
- 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:

- Pretzel Sticks 8 - 10 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 was second in command and had been provided for by God because Joseph trusted and feared God. We need to remember that we too need to trust and fear God knowing that by doing so God will provide for us like He did Joseph!
This week we will see that Joseph meets his brothers again after so many years and how that affects their lives.

2) Joseph Meets His Brothers

10-15 minutes

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

Ask students to turn to Genesis 42:1-24. Then ask them to follow along as you read.

Read Genesis 42:1-24. You can stop and ask questions as you go or wait until you read everything and then ask the questions.

Discussion Questions:

Who told Joseph's brothers to go to Egypt? Jacob their father.

How many went? 10. Benjamin was to stay behind with his dad.

Did Joseph recognize his brothers? Yes

Did they recognize him? No

Why? They weren't expecting him to be ruler or possibly to even still be alive. As well, he spoke Egyptian not Hebrew to them. For he used an interpreter.

What was his previous dream about in Genesis 37:5-11 – let's go there and read that. 11 stars or grains and his father would bow down to Joseph – not just 10.

Why do you think Joseph was behaving this way towards his brothers? Maybe he didn't believe that his younger brother was alive so he wanted to see him first before revealing himself to his brothers, maybe he wasn't sure he could trust them yet, so he wanted to make sure.

He wanted to see his young brother and father so he tested the brothers to make sure they had changed and also would show him Benjamin. Maybe he wanted to be sure they hadn't harmed Benjamin.

What was their response to the way they were being treated – even though they didn't know it was Joseph in verse 21? They thought they were being punished because of what they did to Joseph many years ago.

What did Joseph say about God in verse 18? I fear God. He gave a hint that he too was a believer.

Note: They spoke Hebrew and so thought that the Egyptian Joseph would need an interpretor to understand them. He used one, but remember he too could understand Hebrew so he knew what they were saying to each other while they were talking quietly among themselves.

3) Joseph and His Brothers Color Sheet

15-20 minutes

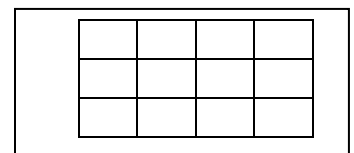
Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencil crayons. Have the children color the page of Joseph and his brothers.

*You can read the story above and have them answer the questions while they color if you choose.



Then when they are done. Have the students fold the page twice vertically to make four columns and twice horizontally to make three rows. To make 12 squares.

See picture here. Then have them cut out the 12 squares. One square represents one brother. Once they have cut up their picture into 12 squares, have them mix up their squares and then try and put them back together. They will notice that it is hard to put something back



together once it has been cut apart. Say to students: **Just like Joseph's family – it would take time to heal from the damage the 10 brothers inflicted on their family. It also caused problems within themselves and made them feel guilty and cursed for having hurt their brother Joseph. We need to remember that if we choose to do something bad – we will have to deal with the consequences sometimes for many years afterward like Joseph and his brothers. Let's try to avoid that by always doing what is best for our family – following God.**

4) Joseph Send His Brother's Home

15 minutes

Have students turn to **Genesis 42:25-38** and read the rest of the chapter.

Discuss the following questions:

When they saw the silver in the sack what did they suppose in verse 28? That God had done this to them.

What does Jacob say Joseph's brothers did to him in verse 36? Deprive him of Joseph and now Simeon who is in jail and soon Benjamin if he has to go to Egypt as well.

Why is Israel/Jacob reluctant to send Benjamin? He was the only son he thought was alive that came from Rachel his wife that had died.

Does he let them go once Reuben promises him he will care for Benjamin? No.

Why? Jacob did not trust his 10 sons especially Reuben because Reuben had done something bad to Jacob earlier on which we did not study (Genesis 35:22) and because he obviously suspected them of having something to do with Joseph's disappearance since he said in verse 36 – they deprived him of Joseph.

How did Joseph feel? Sad; he wept in verse 24.

What were the consequences to the 10 brothers for what they did to Joseph? Guilt, fear of being caught, sadness, and regret. Thinking God was punishing them. Not recognizing their own brother. Causing their dad great sadness and distrust. Creating a poor relationship between themselves and their father to name a few of the consequences.

5) Optional – Paper Roll Patriarchs Abraham Doll Craft

15 minutes

*This activity will be done next week so if you run out of time or need to finish it up that is fine. Gather the pieces and bring them out next week for students to finish.

Hand out the body templates of Abraham along with clothes and hair and let children cut out and color 1 set of clothing and hair each for Abraham. Glue the pieces of clothes and hair on Abraham's body.

Cut out 2-inch circles from the paper towel rolls. Lay them so the circle is on the table and attach the doll with tape to the roll so he will stand up.

Remember that Abraham was the first patriarch in the Old Testament. We are going to make the four patriarchs before the end of the quarter. We will make Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the Joseph! What can you remember about Abraham, raise your hand if you know?



Have students clean up before moving on to the next activity.

6) Optional – Snack: Pretzel Sticks**5 minutes**

Check for allergies and then hand out pieces of pretzels enough for each child to have 6-8. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“When the famine happened, many people were without grain. We are eating pretzels today to remind us of the famine and why Joseph’s family had to come to Egypt – they were out of grain!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking. Go around the room asking students one thing they remember about today’s Bible account of Joseph and his family.

7) Optional – Songs**5 minutes**

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

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.

Thank God for the Bible and how the lives of the people in Genesis help us realize how we should live our lives today. We should not hurt our families, we should trust in God, and we should be honest. Thank you, God, for your Son Jesus and for all that You provide us. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!