

The Dreamer

Joseph is sold into slavery
Genesis 37; 39:1-6

Character Trait: Honesty

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall specific ways that God was with Joseph and cared for him.
- Children will explain specific ways that God is with them and cares for them.
- Children will discuss the importance of being honest even when it is difficult.

Supplies:

- *The Dreamer* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- Pencils, pens and/or crayons
- White paper
- Various different colors of tissue paper, construction paper and/or yarn
- Scissors
- Glue

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you have ever received a gift. *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

SAY: Today, we will be learning about a man named Joseph who also received a gift. It was a brightly colored coat from his father. But that's just the beginning of Joseph's story.

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following questions:

- **Was God faithful to keep His promise to Abraham?** *(Yes, God was faithful. He kept His promise by giving Abraham and Sarah a son.)*
- **What did God ask Abraham to sacrifice?** *(His son, Isaac)*
- **What did God provide for Abraham to sacrifice instead?** *(A ram)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *The Dreamer* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jacob had twelve sons, but he loved his son Joseph the most.
- He gave Joseph a special, brightly colored coat.
- Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. They hated him.
- Joseph also had special dreams.
- "In my dream, we were tying up bundles of wheat," he said, "and your bundles bowed down to mine!"
- Joseph's brothers hated him even more.
- Joseph had another dream.

- "The sun, the moon, and eleven stars bowed down before me."
- His father and brothers grumbled. "Are you saying you will rule over us?"
- One day, Joseph's brothers were in the fields watching their sheep.
- They saw him coming to see them.
- They planned to kill him and put an end to all his dreams.
- "It would be wrong to kill our brother," said Reuben. "Let's throw him in this empty well."
- So they tore off Joseph's special coat and threw him into the well.
- Ishmaelite traders came by on their way to Egypt.
- "Let's sell Joseph as a slave to the Ishmaelites!" suggested Judah.
- So the brothers sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver.
- The brothers dipped Joseph's coat in goat's blood and showed it to Jacob.
- "My son is dead!" he wept.
- Meanwhile, Joseph was taken to Egypt.
- But God was with Joseph.
- In Egypt, the Ishmaelites sold Joseph to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's captains.
- God blessed Joseph and made him successful.
- Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole household.

Discussion:
(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

- **Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?** *(Joseph was their father's favorite son.)*
- **What was the gift that Jacob, their father, gave to Joseph?** *(A special, brightly colored coat)*
- **Why did Joseph's brothers and father grumble at Joseph when he explained his dream?** *(They thought Joseph was telling them that he would rule over them.)*
- **Why did the brothers dip Joseph's coat in goat's blood before showing it to their father?** *(They were lying. They wanted Jacob to think that Joseph was dead.)*
- **How was God with Joseph? How did God care for him?** *(God made Joseph successful.)*

SAY: It would have been very easy for Joseph to feel abandoned and alone. His brothers sold him into slavery, and he was taken from his home and family. But Joseph was never alone. No matter what happened, God was always with Joseph. We can know that God is always with us, too (Psalm 145:18, Zephaniah 3:17).

God's Bigger Story:
(5 minutes)

SAY: We all face hardship, struggles, and sadness. But just as He was with Joseph during his hard times, in the same way we can trust that God will be with us.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

The Lord *(point up)*
was with Joseph *(wrap arms around chest)*,
so he succeeded *(throw arms out wide with a smile)*
in everything he did... *(pound fists together)*

Genesis 39:2a (NLT)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to be "it." Children who are tagged by the selected child cannot move and must stand with one arm out. Children are only "unstuck" when another child passes under their arm. The game continues until all the players are stuck. The last person to be stuck is "it" for the next game. Play as time permits.

SAY: It would have been easy for Joseph to feel very stuck in his situation, and it can be easy for us to feel this way, too, sometimes. But we can know that the same God who is always in control (Proverbs 16:33, 19:21) is also with us. We are never truly stuck, no matter how we may feel.

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of white paper and instruct them to draw the outline of a big coat on the paper. *(Remind the children that there is no right or wrong way to draw the coat. Point out that no one knows what the coat really looked like. Encourage them to use their imagination.)* Then, make a variety of different colors of tissue paper, construction paper, and/or yarn available for use. Invite them to cut and glue down the various supplies to make a beautiful, colorful coat to remind them of Joseph's story.

SAY: A coat is often worn to protect us from the elements. But we all have something much stronger and much more powerful always with us: God. What are some specific ways that you can know that God is with you and cares for you? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary but should include loving adults in their lives whom God has provided for them and the guidance God has provided through His Word, the Bible.)*

For younger children...
The outline of a coat can be pre-drawn on the paper for the children to use or a template of a coat can be cut out of a scrap piece of cardboard for the children to trace onto their papers.

For older children...
Challenge older children to draw Joseph wearing the beautiful coat they created on their paper.

Character Trait: Honesty

(10 minutes)

SAY: Honesty means speaking and acting truthfully. Joseph was showing honesty when he shared his dream with his family, even though they did not like it. But Joseph's brothers were not honest when they dipped Joseph's coat in the goat's blood. They misled their father into thinking that Joseph was dead.

Encourage the children to think more about honesty by asking the following:

- **What is the opposite of honesty?** *(Lying or acting untruthfully)*
- **Why is honesty important?** *(It shows that someone can be trusted.)*
- **Is it always easy to be honest? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How can being honest even when it is difficult bring honor to God?** *(Answers will vary.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: One way we can be honest with others is by asking for help when we need it. Think about a skill you would like to learn or a task you need to complete that you cannot do alone.

Challenge the children to find someone who may be able to help them by being honest about their need for help.



Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Joseph was never alone. God was always with him. Joseph was not successful on his own, either. It was God who blessed him with success in Egypt. The same is true for all of us as well. We are never alone, no matter how we feel, and God is the source of all our blessings, too.



Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
What a wonderful feeling to know that You are always with us. Help us to remember this promise and Your faithfulness, even when our feelings may tempt us to think otherwise.
Amen.

Notes