

Dreams Come True

Joseph's rise to power
Genesis 39-45

Character Trait: Integrity

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will recall how God brought about good from the bad situation Joseph's brothers caused.
- Children will discuss specific ways that they can live with integrity.
- Children will express on the importance of living life with integrity.

Supplies:

- *Dreams Come True* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A book
- Clean, empty plastic bottles with caps *(one for each child)*
- Clean water *(enough to fill one bottle for each child)*
- Liquid soap
- Food coloring
- Glitter *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children. Hold up a book for the group to see. Point out how it has been carefully designed from the cover to the interior pages.

SAY: This book was no accident. It was carefully designed and made for a purpose—just like each of us. And the God who created us still sees us and is always in control. God is the ultimate designer, and His ways are much greater and complex than we could ever understand (Isaiah 55:8-9). God is able to bring about good, even when we are unable to see it—just like He did in today's story.

Review:

(5 minutes)

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

- **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 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 did God bless Joseph while he was in Egypt?** *(God made Joseph successful.)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Dreams Come True* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Joseph served Potiphar well.
- Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to sin against God.
- But Joseph refused, so she lied about him.
- Potiphar believed her, and Joseph was thrown into prison.
- In prison, Joseph met two of Pharaoh's servants.
- They each had dreams, and God showed Joseph their meaning.
- Joseph's explanations came true.
- The cupbearer was released, and the baker was hanged.
- Two years later, Pharaoh had two troubling dreams.
- The cupbearer remembered what Joseph had done for him and told Pharaoh.
- So, Pharaoh sent for Joseph and told him his dreams.
- God showed Joseph the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams.
- "For seven years, a lot of food will grow," said Joseph. "So store up food because seven years of famine will follow."
- Pharaoh was impressed by Joseph's wisdom. So he put Joseph in charge of storing up all the food!
- Apart from Pharaoh, no one in Egypt was more powerful than Joseph.
- Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food. They bowed before Joseph but did not recognize him.
- When he saw that they had changed, he told them who he was.
- The brothers were terrified.
- "You meant to harm me," Joseph said, "but God used that for good. Bring all of our family to Egypt. We will have plenty to eat!"

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

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

What did Potiphar's wife do when Joseph would not sin against God? *(She lied about Joseph.)*

Potiphar believed his wife. What happened to Joseph as a result? *(He was thrown into prison.)*

God was always with Joseph, even while he was in prison. What did God enable Joseph to do while in prison? *(God showed Joseph the meaning of dreams.)*

Why did Joseph's brothers go to Egypt? *(Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food.)*

How did they feel when they realized it was Joseph in front of them? *(They were terrified.)*

How did Joseph respond to his brothers? *(Joseph was kind and forgiving. He chose to help them.)*

How did God bring about good from all the bad that Joseph's brothers had caused? *(God gave Joseph the wisdom to know about the upcoming famine, what to do about it, and placed him in a position of power to store up food to help everyone.)*

How can we follow Joseph's example in our own lives? *(Answers will vary but may include showing forgiveness to others, choosing to be kind, and knowing that God will work all things for good.)*

SAY: Think about how Joseph probably felt seeing his brothers for the first time since they had sold him into slavery. *(Call on a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

SAY: It would have been easy for Joseph to be angry and bitter towards his brothers, but that is not how Joseph chose to respond. Instead, his response was based on God's truth: God had worked all things for good. God had given Joseph special abilities and placed him in a position of power, and Joseph used these to help others, including his brothers.



God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God is always in control. No matter our challenges, hardships or circumstances, we can know that God is still at work, sees our suffering, and will create good even when we cannot see it.



Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

You *(point away from yourself)*
intended to harm me *(point to yourself)*,
but God *(point both hands up)* **intended it all for good** *(thumbs up)*.
He *(point both hands up)* **brought me** *(point to yourself)*
to this position *(stomp your foot once)*
so I could save the lives of many people *(thumbs up)*.

Genesis 50:20 (NLT)



Activity:

(15 minutes)

Secretly select a child from the group. The other children may then ask questions that can only be answered with "yes" or "no" in order to identify the secret person. Children may guess the secret person's name, but if they are wrong, then they are "out" for the remainder of the game. The game continues until the secret person is discovered. Play as time permits.

SAY: Just as in the game, Joseph's brothers did not know who he was at first. But when they realized who they were bowing in front of, they became terrified because they knew Joseph had good reason to be angry with them.



Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a clean, empty plastic bottle. Provide access to clean water and instruct the children to carefully fill the bottles three-quarters full. Next, add 3-4 drops of liquid soap and 3-4 drops of food coloring. *(Glitter may also be added, if available.)* Instruct the children to replace the caps on the bottles and close them as tightly as possible. Invite the children to swirl their bottles around, watching the small storm that results inside.

SAY: It is completely normal to feel emotions like this inside ourselves, too. But it is important to remember that how we respond should be guided by God and His ways, not by how we may be feeling at any given moment.

For younger children...
Begin by allowing the children to place a few drops of food coloring and liquid soap into the empty bottles. *(If glitter is available, use a funnel to allow the children to place a small amount of glitter inside as well.)* Then, have an adult fill the bottles with clean water and replace the caps before returning the bottles to the children.

For older children...
Extend the activity for older children by having them think silently about a time they personally struggled with anger or hurt while watching the swirling storm inside their bottles. Ask them to think about how they responded. Did their response demonstrate trust in God and His ways? Ask them to think silently about why or why not.



Character Trait: Integrity

(10 minutes)

SAY: Integrity means choosing to follow God all of the time, not just when it is easy. Joseph showed integrity when he chose kindness and generosity over bitterness and anger towards his brothers.

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

- **What are some ways that you can live with integrity?** *(Answers will vary but may include being honest, trustworthy, and always choosing to do what is right, even when it is not easy.)*
- **Why can living with integrity sometimes be difficult?** *(Answers will vary but may include that it can be challenging when our feelings do not match up with what is right.)*
- **How can we learn about and be encouraged to live with integrity?** *(Answers will vary but may include learning from role models whom we respect, learning from God through the Bible, and looking to Jesus as the perfect example of integrity.)*
- **Why is it important to live with integrity?** *(Answers will vary, but should include because it is how God wants us to live and provides a good example for those around us.)*



Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Each one of you are role models, too. Your brothers and sisters, friends and other people in your lives—even adults—see your actions and can learn from them.

SAY: Do your choices and actions point towards hurt, anger, and greed or do they point others to God? *(Allow a few volunteers to share aloud. Answers will vary.)*

Challenge the children to think about the importance of living with integrity the next time they are faced with a decision.

Closing:
(2 minutes)

SAY: It would have been very easy for Joseph to respond out of anger and turn his brothers away. It would have been easy for him to respond out of greed. Joseph could have chosen not to provide food for his family. But instead, Joseph chose to act with integrity. Joseph's response showed that he trusted God's plan more than his own feelings. And we can do this, too.

Prayer:
(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
How grateful we are to know that You work all things for good, even when it may seem impossible to us. Allow this truth to encourage us and guide us to live lives of integrity that point others back to You.
Amen.

Notes