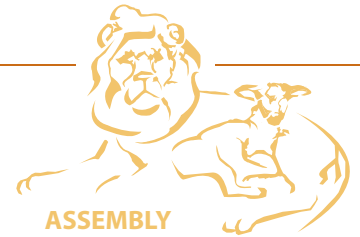


JOSEPH'S DREAM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 37:1-11



The story is shorter and can be read from start to finish. The following are some ideas for creative ways that you can present this material.

LESSON IDEAS

ACTING OUT THE DREAMS

Supplies:

- multicolored children's coat* decorated with colored ribbons, streamers, etc.
- an old sheet cut into squares
- yarn to tie the sheet squares as shepherd's hats for the brothers

Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching.

Read Genesis 37:5-7. Assign one child to be Joseph and give him a multicolored coat to wear. The other children should pretend to be his brothers. Other children could play the role of the wheat that bows down. Tell the story again and have the children act out the dream. Then follow the story line of the second dream in verses 9 and 10, assigning some children to be the stars, moon and sun.

* Some Bibles describe Joseph's coat as a multi-colored coat, others describe it to be richly ornamented. The actual Hebrew only tells us that it had long sleeves. James Boice, in his commentary on Genesis, suggests the coat represented authority and long sleeves would have been worn by a manager not a laborer. At the beginning of the chapter, Joseph is in the field with his brothers and after receiving the coat, Joseph remains behind only going to check on them for his father. In any case, the coat was a special gift to Joseph alone that made his brothers jealous.

JOSEPH'S DREAM

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A SPECIAL COAT

Supplies:

enough 3" colorful fabric squares for each child to keep one.

Note: Quantity of consumable supplies should be adjusted for the number of sessions you will be teaching.

Read Genesis 37:3-4. Tell the story of Joseph's many-colored special coat and show the children the colorful material. Ask them, "Do you think this might be like the material used to make Joseph's coat?" Then ask the class, "Who would like a scrap of material?" Give only two children a square of the material then ask the following questions.

- How did it make you feel to get a piece of the material? (I felt special.)
- Do you think Joseph felt special when his father gave him the many-colored coat? (Yes.)
- How did his brothers feel when they didn't get a colorful coat? (Sad)
- The Bible says his brothers hated him because of the coat. What does hate mean? (It means you really don't like something or someone.)
- How did you feel when you did not get a square of material? (Sad)
Tie together the way Joseph's brothers felt and how the children who did not get a square felt.

Give each of the children a square of the material to remember the sin of Joseph's brothers.



JOSEPH'S DREAM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 37:1-11

Where is Jesus?

Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.

God used Joseph's dream to save the infant nation of Israel from famine. Joseph's dream would eventually lead him to Egypt which set the scene for all of Jacob's children and grandchildren to move to Egypt during the famine. After many years of blessing, Israel became slaves in Egypt, and finally they came out of Egypt under Moses.

This was not the only time God used a dream to protect His great plan of salvation. God spoke to another Joseph, Mary's betrothed, in two dreams. First, God instructed Joseph to take Mary as his wife and in a second dream God instructed Joseph to flee to Egypt. When the threat was over God called Joseph back out of Egypt. What happened to Israel in the days of Jacob and Joseph and Moses was a prophetic foreshadowing of what would happen to Jesus in the days of Herod.

