



JOSEPH WAS ATTACKED BY HIS BROTHERS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 37

ASSEMBLY

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

LESSON IDEAS

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD

Supplies:

- flannel board
- several upper case letter "P's"

Using the flannel board, retell the story of Joseph being attacked by his brothers.

Explain to the children that nothing happens by accident. God is secretly working behind all that happens. God is working everything according to His plan. Nothing happens by accident. Tell them that we call God's secret work His providence. Tell the class that you are going to place a letter "P" for providence over items in the story that speak of God's secret work behind the scenes.

Here are some places to place a letter "P" while telling the story.

- God allowed Joseph's brothers to see him from far off, which gave them time to plan their attack. It also gave Reuben time to convince his brother's not to kill Joseph.
- God provided the dried up well as an alternative to killing Joseph.
- God provided the slave traders to take Joseph away from his angry brothers to Egypt, where God would use him to become a wise ruler.

When you are done, help the children to see God is secretly at work behind the scenes of even the most evil times. See if they can remember what word the letter "P" stands for.

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PUPPET SHOW

Supplies:

bag of candy

Jealousy – This skit is designed to show how sinful jealousy can spread and lead to other sins as well.

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

Teacher: Hi Puppet. How are you today?
 Puppet: I'm fine. What do you have in the bag?
 Teacher: Oh this. . . (hesitating a bit) This is a surprise.
 Puppet: What is the surprise for?
 Teacher: Well, I got a bag full of candy as a present for a very special friend.
 Puppet: (turning and speaking to the audience in a whisper) I'll bet that candy is for me. I'm a special friend!
 Teacher: Yes, this candy is for someone really special. (Puppet turns to audience and nods as though this confirms he is getting it.)
 Puppet: I'll bet the person you got it for just lo-ov-es candy. (Turns and nods to the children.)
 Teacher: Why, yes he does. (Puppet nods again)
 Puppet: When are you going to give it to him?
 Teacher: I'll give it to him in a little while. He will be here any minute. Listen, Puppet, can you hold this? I don't want him to see it in my hands when he gets here. I'll tell him you are holding a surprise for him.
 Puppet: Sure, great! (Puppet answers less than enthusiastically as the teacher leaves.)
 Puppet: (All alone Puppet speaks sarcastically.) Great, all I get to do is hold it. (Asking class) Why can't this candy be for me? It should be you know. I am her friend too! (He drops candy accidentally on the table as he is talking.)
 Puppet: Oh no, I dropped it. I hope none of it got banged up . . . Like this! (Puppet smashes down on the candy obviously angry) And this! (Puppet smashes the candy repeatedly.)
 Teacher: (Walking back into the room.) Puppet! What are you doing to that candy? Why, you are angry!
 Puppet: I guess I got a little jealous when I found out the candy was not for me.



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Teacher: Now look at the candy it is all banged up. Jealousy is a terrible sin that will lead you to do all kinds of mean things.

Puppet: I'm sorry for ruining the candy. Please forgive me. I'll go right to the store and buy you a new bag.

Teacher: I forgive you. I think I will need a new bag. I can't give this one away all smashed up.

Puppet: You were right teacher. Jealousy is a very serious sin.

Ask the class the following questions:

- What happened in the puppet show? (The puppet wanted the candy. When he did not get it, he got angry.)
- Did Joseph's brothers get angry with Joseph? (Yes)
- What did they do to Joseph? (Threw him in a pit.)



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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.

In the life of Joseph, who was betrayed, bound and sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, we see a picture of Jesus who was betrayed, bound, and crucified by His own people who were also jealous of Him.

Talk about it: Why did the chief priests and the elders persuade the crowd to ask for the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus? (Matthew tells us it is because they were envious (envy is very similar to jealousy)).

