

JOSEPH WAS ATTACKED BY HIS BROTHERS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 37



The STORY

Read "Dreams!" and "Into the Pit!" from The Children's Bible in 365 Stories (pages 44 - 45).

Please note: The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What happened in this story?

Help the children by giving them clues to retell the story in their own words.

- Why did Joseph's brothers attack him? (They were jealous of his coat and the special attention their father gave Joseph. They also did not like his dreams.)
- Why didn't they kill Joseph? (Reuben, Jacob's eldest son stopped them.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Joseph's brothers painting his torn colorful coat with blood. Engage the children by asking:

- How do Joseph's brothers explain to their father what happened to Joseph? (The brothers told Jacob that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.)
- Did Joseph's brothers tell their father the truth? (No. They lied to him.)
- Why did they lie? (They were afraid to tell their father the truth because they would be punished and they might have to go to Egypt to find him.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

Read "On the Road to Egypt" from *The Children's Bible in 365 Stories* (page 46). While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- What is a slave? (A slave is someone who is forced to work against their will for another person without getting paid for their work.)
- What did Joseph's brothers do with Joseph when the slave traders came along? (They sold their brother to them for twenty pieces of silver.)
- Where did the slave traders take Joseph? (They took him to Egypt.)

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).

SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.

