

JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF TO HIS BROTHERS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 44-45



PRESCHOOL

The STORY

Read "A Lost Brother No More" from The Kid's Bible Story Book (pages 44-46). Also read Genesis 45:1-3.

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? (Joseph sold his brothers grain but it soon ran out and they came back for more. Joseph played a trick on his brothers to see if they had become honest men.)
- What was the trick Joseph played? (He had his servant place his silver cup in Benjamin's bag to make it look like Benjamin stole it.)
- How did Joseph's brothers react when he told them who he was? (They were very afraid.)
- Why were they afraid? (They remembered what they had done to Joseph and thought that he might punish them.)

CRAFT QUESTIONS

Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Joseph revealing himself to his brothers and hugging Benjamin. Engage the children by asking:

- Which person in the picture is Joseph?
- Who can remember Joseph's youngest brother's name? (Benjamin)
- What do you think Joseph's brothers thought when they were caught with silver in their sacks? (They were afraid.)
- What do you think Joseph's brothers thought when Joseph revealed that he was their brother? (They thought he would be mad at them for throwing him into the pit and selling him into slavery.)

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SNACK QUESTIONS

Read Genesis 45:7-8. While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:

- Even though it was Joseph's brothers who sold him into slavery, who really was in control of sending Joseph to Egypt? (It was God working out His plan to provide for Israel that sent Joseph to Egypt.)
- Can you think of other terrible things God planned for great good? (The cross. Though the Romans and the religious leaders killed Jesus, the Bible tells us that it was God Himself who planned that His son should die for the sins of man.)
- What do Joseph's life and the cross help us to understand about God? (He works all things together for His good and He is in control of everything, even evil.)

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.

Though the story of Joseph's attack and later imprisonment is tragic, God is at work behind the scenes preparing to save his people again. Ultimately Joseph will be the one to lead Egypt to store grain for a coming famine. It is this grain that Joseph's brothers will come to Egypt to purchase to feed the sons of Israel. Story after story, points to God as a God who saves. God would ultimately save his people from a different kind of hunger – a spiritual hunger. Jesus offered himself as the "Bread of Life" to all who are hungry. Behind the scenes, God was working all things together for good.

Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.

(Acts 7:9-10)

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.