

Joseph Dreams of Greatness

Bible Verse

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD. (Jeremiah 29:11)

Bible Story

Genesis 37:1-11

FaithPoint

God has a plan for each of us.

What You Need to Know

Jacob and his family returned to Canaan, reuniting with Esau and his family. Life was good for both families. Surely Jacob saw firsthand how preferential treatment in a family can lead to trouble. But obviously he didn't take the lesson to heart. Rachel was Jacob's favorite wife and consequently Jacob showered more of his affection on her and on her sons, Joseph and Benjamin. This favoritism stirred up jealousy among the other brothers. Jacob's gift of a beautiful robe with long flowing sleeves was a particularly hard slap in the face. Long flowing sleeves were an indication that Joseph would *not* be working with them in the fields, watching the sheep. The coat became a constant reminder of Joseph's elite status in the family.

Joseph was not faultless in all of this. He seemed to take delight in sharing with his brothers his visions of grandeur. Not only did God talk to Joseph through these dreams, but God made it clear that one day Joseph would rule over all of them—brothers, father and mother. This created a great deal of jealousy in the family structure.

Children enjoy the story of Joseph because they can relate to the sibling rivalry gone amok. The twelve brothers struggled with their brother in the family for status. And their final solution was totally unforgivable in today's world. We certainly hope none of the children imitate this behavior. There are better ways to work out differences. What we do want them to know is that God loves each of them—equally. No one person is more important than any other person to God and each of us is a part of God's plan.

 Activities marked with © are parts of the QUICKTEACH® Bible session and will require minimum preparation.

 To encourage responsible earth stewardship, activities marked with ♻️ contain options to use recycled or repurposed materials.

Prepare

Stuff You Will Need:

NRSV Bibles
 Bible Story Pak 1
 Bible Story Pak—Stickers
 Leader's Guide—pp. 88, 90
 Resource Pak—pp. 2, 7, 11A, 13A, 15A/B, 17A/B, 19, 21, 23B, 32
 Fun Pak 1
 Fun Pak—Stickers
 Resource Pak—Songbook
 Bible Story Pak—Sing-Along Songs
 Elementary Annual CD
 CD player
 offering basket
 scissors, crayons or markers
 Fun Pak supplies (See Fun Pak 1)
 white fabric, felt-tip markers, pencils, newspaper, cross, fall decorations
 permanent felt-tip marker
 spoon puppet supplies (See Resource Pak—p. 31)
 scissors
 brown paper grocery bags OR cardboard (such as from cereal boxes)
 crayons/markers OR scraps of colorful wrapping paper and white glue OR scraps of fabric and white glue
 old file folders
 clean plastic yogurt containers
 white glue
 construction paper or copy paper
 tape
 Optional: scraps of wrapping paper or fabric

Arrival Fun

To provide options, this session contains more than a group can do. Choose the activities that best suit your situation.

Welcome

Bible Story Pak—Stickers

Resource Pak—p. 2

CD

CD player

offering basket

Fun Beginnings

Story Pak Fun

Bible Story Pak 1—p. 1

Leader's Guide—p. 88

scissors, crayons or markers

Fun Pak Fun

Fun Pak 1

Fun Pak—Stickers

Fun Pak supplies (See Fun Pak 1)

Assemble a Puzzle

Resource Pak—p. 13A

Create a Worship Center

NRSV Bible

white fabric, felt-tip markers, pencils,
newspaper, cross, fall decorations

Together Time

Resource Pak—p. 32

Resource Pak—Songbook

Bible Story Pak—Sing-Along

Songs

CD

CD player, permanent felt-tip marker

Pray Together

none

☉ Welcome

- Play “Kid Under Construction” and “We Must Trust” (CD) as the children arrive.
- Give each child a sticker for the attendance chart (Resource Pak—p. 2, Story Pak—Stickers).
- Collect the offering.

Fun Beginnings

Choose one or more of these independent activities to begin today's session and prepare as indicated:

- ☉ **Story Pak Fun:** Children will draw their dreams (Story Pak—p. 1). Give each child the Egyptian Mummy Decoder (Leader—p. 88) to assemble and use this quarter.

Fun Pak Fun: The children will prepare a dream mobile of things that they will one day be able to do or be (Fun Pak 1, Fun Pak—Stickers).

- ☉ **Assemble a Puzzle:** Set out Joseph's Beautiful Coat Puzzle (Resource Pak—p. 13A). Let several children assemble it.

Create a Worship Center

Decorate a worship center that becomes a sacred space in your room. Spread white fabric over newspaper. Have the children trace their hand prints onto the fabric with pencil. Then decorate the hand prints. The hand prints will remind the children that God often works through each of them to accomplish great things. In this quarter we will see how God worked through Joseph, Moses, and Joshua to create a nation. When the cloth is finished, place it over a table in the worship area. Complete the space with a Bible, a cross, and fall decorations.

- ☉ **Together Time:** Bring the children together. Introduce the song “Rock Solid” (CD, Songbook, Sing-a-long Songs). Go over the words and then sing it together. Identify visitors or those children who may be absent/sick. Acknowledge any birthdays that have occurred or will occur during the coming week. Let those children add their names to the birthday chart (Resource Pak—p. 32).

- ☉ **Pray Together:** Dear God, we are so excited to begin a new year together. Thank you for all the boys and girls who are here. Help them to come back every week as we hear stories from the Bible that will help us to live God's way and love like Jesus. Amen.

Bible Time

Get Ready

- Punch out the four designs and the colored shapes (**Resource Pak—p. 11A**). The shapes can be put together to create the designs.
- Place the shapes on one table and the designs on another.
- Invite two children to come forward. One will become the builder and use the shapes; the other will be the planner and use the finished designs.
- The two will stand with their backs to one another.
- The planner will choose a design card without telling which.
- The planner will tell the builder how to arrange the shapes to make the design, but cannot say the name of the object being created.
- The builder will try to recreate the design.
- When the builder is finished, compare the two designs.

ASK: Did the designs look the same? Why or why not? Was this activity easy or hard? (*hard*) As the builder what did you have to do? (*listen carefully*)

SAY: In today's Bible story we meet a boy named Joseph. God has plans for him, and it will take Joseph some time before he discovers what they are.

🌀 The Bible Story

AHEAD OF TIME → Display **Resource Pak—p. 7**.

SAY: This poster shows some of the stories of Joseph. These stories are found in the Book of Genesis. (Have the children find the Book of Genesis.)

ASK: Is Genesis in the Old Testament or the New Testament? (*Old*) What other stories do you know that come from this book? (*Creation, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Esau*)

SAY: Joseph made a big difference in the world. We will see how God loved him and helped him save the people of Egypt. (Read Genesis 37:1-11.)

ASK: Who was Joseph's father? (*Jacob*) Where have you heard of him before? (*one of the twins, cheated his brother, ran away from home*) In today's story, what present did Jacob give to Joseph? (*a robe with flowing sleeves*) Why was this a problem? (*It showed that Joseph would not be expected to work as his brothers did.*) What else caused a problem between Joseph and his brothers? (*Joseph dreamed that they would all bow down to him someday.*) Why was this a problem? (*The brothers resented him.*) What do you think

Get Ready

Resource Pak—p. 11A

The Bible Story

NRSV Bibles

Resource Pak—p. 7

Acting Out!

Bible Story Pak 1—pp. 2–3
Resource Pak—pp. 15A/B, 17A/B
spoon puppet supplies (See
Resource Pak—p. 31)

Bible Skill Builders

NRSV Bibles
Bible Story Pak 1—p. 3
Leader's Guide—p. 88

Bible Verse Fun

none

Decorate Joseph's Coat

Leader's Guide—p. 90, top
scissors
pencils
brown paper grocery bags OR
cardboard (such as from cereal
boxes)
crayons/markers OR scraps of
colorful wrapping paper and white
glue OR scraps of fabric and white
glue

God was saying to Joseph and his family? Which of the pictures on the poster shows today's story?

Acting Out!

AHEAD OF TIME → Follow the directions on Resource Pak—p. 31 to prepare these puppets: Simeon, Reuben, Levi, Judah, Joseph (Boy), Gad, Dan, and Asher (Resource Pak—pp. 15A/B, 17A/B).

SAY: Our drama today is written from the point of view of Joseph's brothers. When we get to the end of the speech by each brother, whoever is playing that character will complete the sentence, "Joseph is such a" with a word that might describe an annoying sibling or friend.

Use the puppets to act out "What a Pest!" (Story Pak—pp. 2–3).

Bible Skill Builders

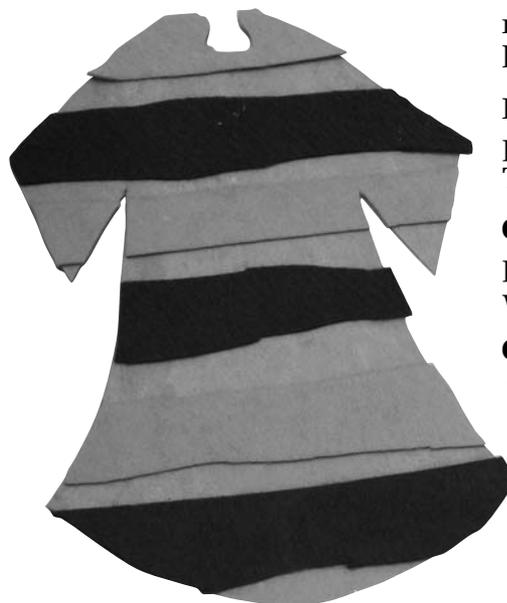
Have the children discover the names of Joseph's brothers using their decoder (Story Pak—p. 3, Leader—p. 88).

Bible Verse Fun

- Have the children arrange their chairs in a circle.
- Begin with each child repeating one word of the Bible verse in order around the circle.
- When the last word of the verse is spoken, everyone gets up from the chair and bows down to the person who said it as though that person were Joseph.

Decorate Joseph's Coat

AHEAD OF TIME → Photocopy the top of Leader—p. 90 for each child. The bottom of the page will be used on Leader—p. 14.



This is a simple craft that will reinforce the story of Joseph and his family.

Put the pattern on the fold of a piece of paper. Cut out and unfold. Then do one of the following:

OPTION 1: Trace the coat onto paper bags. Cut out and decorate with crayons or markers.

OPTION 2: Trace the coat onto cardboard. Cut out. Paint scraps of colorful wrapping paper on with white glue.

OPTION 3: Trace the coat onto cardboard. Cut out. Paint scraps of fabric on with white glue.

Live God's Word

🌀 Faith Builders

SAY: Joseph's dreams hinted that God had something in mind for him. But Joseph didn't know what or when.

ASK: Have you ever heard someone say that they felt that God was calling them to do something?

SAY: God calls each of us to do special things. Let's hear about some people who listened for God's special call in their lives.

Read each of the stories in "Faith Builders" (Story Pak—p. 4).

ASK: Do you ever feel that God is calling you to do something special? (*Invite the children to share.*)

😊 God's Plan for Me Pencil Holder

AHEAD OF TIME → Photocopy Leader—p. 90, bottom for each child. You will need a clean, empty plastic yogurt container for each pencil holder.

1. Place the sleeve and headdress patterns on the fold of a piece of construction or printer paper. Cut out.
2. Paint the outside of the container with white glue.
3. Cover the yogurt container with construction or printer paper. Trim.
4. Attach the arms/sleeves to the back of the container.
5. Cut out, decorate, and attach the Bible verse heart to the right and left hands in the front of the container.
6. Add a face and color the headdress. Glue it in place as shown here.
7. Have the children put their pencil holder on their desk at home to remind them that God had a plan for Joseph; God has a plan for them, too.



COOL OPTION 1: Create the coat (the covering for the container) and sleeves from scraps of wrapping paper.

COOL OPTION 2: Use scraps of fabric instead of paper to cover the container. Trace the headdress and sleeves onto an old file folder. Cut out and cover one side with colorful fabric. Draw the face on the other side.

Faith Builders

Bible Story Pak 1—p. 4
pencils

God's Plan for Me Pencil Holder

Leader's Guide—p. 90, bottom
old file folders
clean plastic yogurt containers
white glue
crayons or markers
scissors
construction paper or printer paper
Optional: scraps of wrapping paper
or fabric

TIP: We used a yogurt container that is narrower at the top than at the bottom. Any small can or container can be used instead. Adjust the patterns if necessary for the different container size and shape.

Worship

Gather and Praise

Resource Pak—pp. 19, 21, 23B

Resource Pak—Songbook

Bible Story Pak—Sing-Along

Songs

CD

CD player

tape

🌀 Gather and Praise

AHEAD OF TIME → Assemble the Bible Verse Mural for the fall quarter (**Resource Pak—pp. 19, 21, 23B**). Remove today's figure.

- Play “Kid Under Construction” (**CD**) as a signal for the children to finish their projects and come to the worship area.
- Read through the words (**Songbook, Sing-Along Songs**) and sing.
- Invite one child to read the Bible verse on today's figure (**Resource Pak—p. 23B**) and attach it to the poster.
- Say the Bible verse together.

SAY: When we read stories about people in the Bible, we learn who they were and what they did.

ASK: What are some things you discovered today about Joseph? (Invite the children to share.) Would you believe from today's story that Joseph is going to be called to do something important? How do we know when God is calling us to do something? (*We have to listen very carefully.*) How do we listen to God? (*We pray.*)

SAY: We never know when God is going to speak to us and to point us in a direction that will change our lives. When we talk to God, we also have to learn to listen.

- Introduce “We Must Trust” (**CD, Songbook, Sing-Along Songs**) and sing together.

PRAY: Dear God, sometimes when we talk to you, we do all the talking. Help us to learn to listen so that we can know who you want us to be and what you want us to do. (Pause for one minute.) Amen.

Plan for Next Week

Acting Out! (p. 18): Follow the directions on **Resource Pak—p. 31** to prepare these spoon puppets: Simeon, Reuben, Levi, Judah, Joseph (Boy), and Gad (**Resource Pak—pp. 15A, 17A**).

Bible Verse Fun (p. 19): Cut the Joseph figures and word cards away from the gameboard (**Resource Pak—p. 29**). Put the cards in a paper bag or basket.

Make a Leaf Print Bible Verse (p. 19): Cut white paper into 8-inch squares. Cut colored paper into 8- by 2 ½-inch strips. Each frame requires four. Dilute white glue with water. Collect a variety of soft leaves for prints.

Gather and Praise (p. 21): Remove the mural figure for Session 2 (**Resource Pak—p. 23B**).