

Bible background

Genesis 37:12-35

Aim of lesson

To learn to confess sin and ask for forgiveness.

Preparation required

You will need the figures of Joseph made last week, a pot of red paint and a bucket or cardboard box (for pit)

Suggested outline of lesson

1. With the figures, remind the class of Joseph, his coat and his brothers. You could sing last week's song if you wish.
2. Remind the class of the brothers' hatred. Describe them minding the sheep and seeing Joseph coming. Talk about their plotting before Joseph arrived. Talk about them taking his coat - get the children to take the coat off their figure and use the bucket or box to throw him in. Explain how Joseph cried and pleaded with them. Ask how he must have felt. Tell how he was sold.
3. As you tell them how the brothers tore the coat and put blood on it, let the children put some red paint on their coat - do not rip the coats as they are useful for the song in future lessons. Discuss how very sad Jacob was when he thought Joseph was dead, and how the brothers might have started feeling guilty.
4. Sing last week's song and add this week's verse.

Alternative activities

1. Do some coin rubbing using wax crayons to show how many pieces of silver Joseph was sold for.
2. Make coins out of modelling clay and cover them with silver foil. Get the children to help you count them. Alternatively, press coins into flattened modelling clay to make prints.
3. Cut out strings of paper camels and let the children colour them and decorate the saddlebags with sticky shapes or fabric to represent the goods they are carrying.
4. Role play: Bring along an assortment of spices, fabrics, 'jewellery', carved wooden objects etc. and some coins (you could use some you have made - see above). Let the children investigate the different items - looking carefully, touching, feeling, smelling. Encourage the children to imagine they are traders on their way to Egypt. What will they buy? How many coins will they need? Could they swap something they already have? Don't forget to stop to give the camels a drink along the way! When they arrive in 'Egypt' they can set up a market stall to sell their wares.

Relevance to the children's lives

The brothers felt guilty because they didn't tell their father what they had done - we should say we are sorry when we have done something wrong and ask for forgiveness.

Prayer

Ask what the brothers should have prayed - ask the class if they have done something wrong or cruel and want to ask God for forgiveness.

Verse

'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins.' 1 John 1:9.

Song

Here is Joseph (continued from Lesson No. 10)

v.2 Here is Joseph (repeat each line)
In the pit
All his brothers hate him
Rip his coat.