

## Bible background

Genesis 37:1-4 (v.5-11 optional).

## Aim of lesson

To learn from the bad example of Joseph's brothers.

## Preparation required

Make card figures of Joseph for each child. Use the figures in the activity books. It is worth backing them with card as they are more likely to last the five weeks of this series. Make cloth coats, using the pattern in the activity book, using scraps of bright material or get the children to colour and use the paper coats in the activity books.

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children how they feel when they get a special present. Ask them how they feel when their brother or sister gets one and they don't. Do they say 'Where is mine?', 'It's not fair', and sulk, or can they be happy and glad for the one who has got something nice.
2. Give out the figures and talk about Joseph - his coat from his father - his brothers' hatred. Let the class draw Joseph's face and colour and put the coat on. Six or seven year olds may be able to cut out their own coat for Joseph if you draw the outline on the cloth for them or if you use the paper coat.
3. Teach that God wants us to be glad that others are happy, or have something good, not cross as Joseph's brothers were.
4. Teach the song 'Here Is Joseph'. This song adds a verse each week. The children should hold up their Joseph as they sing. If you sing it through once to them, they will be able to repeat each line that you sing the second time.
5. If you have an older, attentive class you may like to include one or both of Joseph's dreams. It is harder for children to appreciate jealousy of a brother who has had a special dream than one who has a new coat, so if you include this section, include not only a clear description of the dreams but also a discussion on why the brothers were annoyed. Help them to see that they thought Joseph considered himself more important than them and that they would have to bow down to him, and they did not like that idea.

## Alternative activities

1. Play a circle game - 'Joseph's coat was...'. Each person takes a turn to add a colour e.g.  
'Joseph's coat was blue'  
'Joseph's coat was blue and red'  
'Joseph's coat was blue and red and green'
2. Cut out large coat shapes from strong paper or card and provide poster paint in a variety of colours. The paint can be thickened by adding white P.V.A. glue. The children can then paint, finger paint or print patterns on to the coats. Careful supervision is needed as this activity can be very messy and younger children tend to mix all the colours together.
3. If you have room, draw round one of the children on a roll of wallpaper or large sheet of card and then paint or glue on a brightly coloured coat.
4. If you are covering the dreams during the lesson, make a class mobile or frieze to illustrate them. Cut out sun, moon and stars and/or sheaves to colour, paint or decorate with sticky paper. This is best done as a class activity as it will take children too long to each complete twelve stars etc!

## Relevance to the children's lives

To teach unselfishness and a good attitude when someone else gets something good and you don't.

## Prayer

Ask the children what the brothers should have prayed - e.g. sorry for being jealous - help me to be glad Joseph has a nice coat. Ask for prayers beginning 'Dear Lord, help me to be glad when ...'

## Verse

'Rejoice with those who rejoice.' Romans 12:15.

