

Bible background

Genesis 39:1-6, 17-23; Genesis 40

Aim of lesson

- (a) To show Joseph's trust in God.
- (b) To show that God never leaves us even when it seems that everyone else has.

Preparation required

You will need the figures of Joseph from the activity sheet for Lesson 10, also crayons and felt pens.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Sing verses 1 and 2 of 'Here Is Joseph' as a review.
2. Tell the children about Joseph's journey, how he was taken as a slave to work in Potiphar's house. Ask the children to think of all the jobs he would have to do.
3. Learn verse 3 of 'Here Is Joseph'.
4. Explain how Potiphar's wife told lies about Joseph, and so Potiphar had him put in prison. You may want to tell the children that Potiphar's wife wanted to go out with Joseph, and got angry when he would not co-operate, so she made up lies to get her own back on him. You could discuss with the children what they feel about this.
5. Go on to tell what happened in prison. For younger children it is sufficient to say that the dreams of the butler and baker were:
 - (a) That he served wine to Pharaoh.
 - (b) That the birds ate the bread he baked.Tell what happened to them.
6. Ask how Joseph must have felt when the butler forgot him. Who had not forgotten him?
7. Sing the song 'Here Is Joseph' adding verse 4.

Alternative activities

1. Role play: Provide some domestic objects such as brooms, scrubbing brushes, dusters and cutlery etc for polishing (plastic will do!) Act out some of the tasks Joseph might have done in Potiphar's house. Alternatively, mime the tasks. You can make it into a guessing game if you wish by asking the children to guess what action you are miming. Older children could then have a go at choosing and performing a mime for the others to guess.
2. Play 'Joseph says...'. The children are the other slaves in Potiphar's house. Joseph is in charge so they must do what he says. If you say 'Joseph says sweep the floor', the children must mime that action but if you just say 'sweep the floor' and they mime the action, they are out.
3. Build Potiphar's house and a prison out of Lego or building blocks. Retell the story using play figures.
4. Make a collage picture to illustrate the 2 dreams. Pre-cut shapes for younger children.
5. Make models of the baskets of cakes and birds and the grapes and wine goblet out of modelling clay or play dough.

Relevance to the children's lives

Teach that when everyone else forgets you, God does not, even when you are sad and on your own.

Prayer

Begin a prayer 'Thank you God that you are with me when....' The children could use the ideas from their activity sheets.

Verse

'The Lord is near to all who call on him.' Psalm 145:18.

Song

Here is Joseph (continued from Lesson 11)

v.3 Here is Joseph (repeat each line)

He's a slave
Working for his master
Life is hard.

v.4 Here is Joseph
In the jail
Helping all the prisoners
Tells their dreams.