

Bible background

Genesis 41

Aim of lesson

To show that God can help in bad situations.

Preparation required

You could use silver or gold paper, foil or milk bottle tops to make the chain/necklace for the cut-out Joseph, or you could colour the paper one in the activity sheet. You could cut new cloth coats as in Lesson 10 if you wish. You will also need scissors and glue. A picture, photograph or real 'ear of corn' would be helpful.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Use verses 1 to 4 of the song 'Here Is Joseph' to review the story so far, if you wish.
2. Tell how God gave Pharaoh a dream so that the butler would remember Joseph and he would be sent for. Have the class pretend to wash Joseph's face and hands, comb his hair and get him ready to visit the palace.
3. Tell simply of Pharaoh's dream and its meaning. You could use the song 'Seven Fat Cows' here. Make sure you explain what an 'ear' of corn is like.
4. Have the class dress Joseph in his robe and chain when Pharaoh makes him like a prince - next in importance to Pharaoh and in charge of collecting the food to be ready for the famine.
5. You may like to act out Genesis 41:43 with the class.
6. Teach verse 5 of the song 'Here Is Joseph'.
7. Ask the children to make the barn in the activity book and colour and put the grain in it.

Alternative activities

1. Make fat and thin cows and fat and thin ears of wheat out of modelling clay or play dough.
2. Role play: Make a throne by covering a chair with a throw or an old curtain. Provide some dressing up clothes such as robes (cloaks made from old curtains or throws) and jewellery (a chain of office can be made from card and foil – see below) Supervise the children carefully if they are putting things around their necks.
3. Make jewellery from card, foil, and sweet wrappers or dried pasta threaded on string or elastic.
4. Make Pharaoh's palace out of Lego, blocks or cardboard boxes.

Relevance to the children's lives

God knows our future and can rescue us from everything bad, even death. You may like to mention God's care for the people who were going to be hungry in the famine. Can we help people who are hungry today? If you use this question you may need to point out that just as God provided enough food for the famine in Joseph's day, he has provided enough food for everyone in the world today, It is when people are selfish and do not want to share that some people go hungry.

Prayer

Ask the children what Joseph might have prayed when out of prison. What would he thank God for?

Verse

'The Lord sets prisoners free.' Psalm 146:7.

Songs

Here is Joseph (continued)
v.5 Here is Joseph (repeat each line)
Pharaoh's prince
Living in the palace
Rules the land.

Seven Fat Cows (Tune: Three Blind Mice)

The musical notation is written in 3/8 time. The first staff contains the first six measures, with chords C, G, C, C, G, C, C, G7, and C. The second staff contains the next six measures, with chords C, G7, C, C, G, C, C, G, and C. The third staff contains the final three measures, with chords C, G, C, F, G7, and C.

- v.1 Seven fat cows and seven thin cows
Came to the stream, came to the stream.
The thin ones gobbled the fat ones up (three times)
But still stayed thin.
- v.2 Seven fat ears and seven thin ears
Of new grown corn, new grown corn.
The thin ones gobbled the fat ones up (three times)
But still stayed thin.
- v.3 Joseph said, Joseph said
Pharaoh's dream, Pharaoh's dream
Meant seven years with plenty to eat,
Then seven years with nothing to eat,
They wouldn't be able to make ends meet
For seven long years.

Music: Traditional..