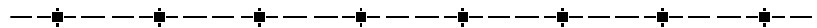


Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners
Adaptable for all ages including adults

Old Testament

A Son is Favored

Joseph

Genesis 37-39

A Son is Favored
Genesis 37:1-35

Memory Verse:

Jacob's sons were jealous of their brother Joseph. So they sold him as a slave. He was taken to Egypt. But God was with him. **(Acts 7:9 NIRV)**

Lesson Goals:

1. Learn God does not show favoritism.
2. Understand Joseph was favored by Jacob.
3. Recognize that God was with Joseph.
4. Understand that favoritism can have serious consequences.

Last week, we learned about Jacob and Laban. God protected Jacob from Laban. God told Jacob that He saw everything that was happening. Jacob moved his family to Canaan.

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 37:21-28 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

Jacob fell in love with Rachel not too long after he met her. He worked for her father Laban so that he could marry her. She was unable to have children. The Bible says that after many years, "God listened to Rachel. He showed concern for her. He made it possible for her to have children." (Genesis 30:22 NIRV)

Jacob had other sons. [Teacher, you may want to explain that God's plan is for one man to marry one woman. But man chooses things against God's will.] The Bible says that Israel, the name God had given Jacob, (Genesis 35:10) loved Joseph more than his other sons. (Genesis 37:3) This is not what God wants. "For God does not show favoritism."

(Romans 2:11. NIRV) Favoritism is to treat someone as if they were better or more special. God loves us all. He cares about each one of us. He wants us to know His love. (John 3:16)

Sometimes in families, parents and grandparents make the mistake of showing favoritism. The Bible tells us that we are not to show favoritism. (James 2:1) Have any of you ever seen someone show favoritism? How did it make you feel? What did you do?

The Bible says that when Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more, they hated him. (Genesis 37:4) Hate is a very strong emotion. God does not even want us to be angry. (Ephesians 4:26) God wants us to love each other. (I John 4:7-8)

But Joseph's brothers were full of hate. One day they were tending sheep, and Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers. They saw him coming and they planned to kill him. But Ruben planned to save him. The brothers threw Joseph into a pit. Then they sat down to eat. (Genesis 37:17-25) That was very mean. Has anyone ever been mean to you? What did you do? God wants us to forgive and to be kind. (Ephesians 4:32)

Judah suggested that they sell Joseph to some traders that were passing by instead of killing him. He saves Joseph's life. (Genesis 37:25-28)

Joseph Bible Facts

1. Jacob favored Joseph.
2. Joseph was Rachel's son.
3. His brothers hated Joseph.
4. Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery.
5. God was with Joseph.

The Bible says, "Jacob's sons were jealous of their brother Joseph. So they sold him as a slave. He was taken to Egypt. But God was with him." (Acts 7:9 NIV) Things looked bad for Joseph. He was about to lose his life, but God was with him. Instead of dying, he was sold into slavery. That doesn't sound like something great. But Joseph's lived.

Ruben was the oldest. He came back to try to rescue Joseph but he was gone. (Genesis 37:22) Now the brothers had to make up a lie. So they took Joseph's coat and dipped it in goat's blood. Then they had to continue the lie that began because of their hate. They lied to their father and told him that Joseph had been killed. (Genesis 37:31-32) So Jacob's favoritism had serious consequences. He lost the son he loved the most. His other sons tried to comfort him but he refused to be comforted. (Genesis 37:35) Later on, we will see that Joseph's story has a happy ending.

The Bible tells us we are not to show favoritism. (James 2:1) God loves us all. He "accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right." (Acts 10:34-35) God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross so that all men would have an opportunity to know Him. (John 3:16)

Review questions.

1. Who was Jacob's favorite son? (Joseph was Jacob's favorite son)
2. Who was Joseph's mother? (Rachel was Joseph's mother)
3. How did Joseph's brothers feel about him? (Joseph's brothers hated him)
4. What did Joseph's brothers do to him? (Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery)
5. Where was God? (God was with Joseph)

Do you know Jesus?

God sent Jesus because He loves us. He wants everyone to know His love. When Jesus came, the Jews believed they were the only group that God cared about. They were God's chosen people. Jesus let them know that was wrong. The apostles continued teaching that God loves all men. "Then Peter began to speak: 'I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear Him and do what is right.'" (Acts 10:34-35 NIV) If we ask God to forgive us and come to be a part of our lives, He will forgive us, and He will come to be a part of our lives forever.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that all men may know Him.
3. Ask God to help you to be kind and to help you to forgive others.
4. Pray for friends and family members who may show favoritism.

Application

Joseph was favored by Jacob. This caused his brothers to hate him so much, that they could not say a kind word to him. They planned to kill Joseph; they sold him into slavery; they covered up their lie by dipping his coat in goat's blood; and they lied to their father, telling him Joseph was dead. Favoritism can have serious consequences. The Bible says, "My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism." (James 2:1 NIV)

Planning for the next week:

Joseph and Potiphar (A Man of God Encounters Trouble) — Genesis 39

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 37:21-28 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

(Place newsprint on the walls of your area. Allow the children to color the walls with pictures of themselves. Ask the children to tell you why they are special. Some children may need help. Be sure to think ahead of something kind to say about each child. Write your thought on an index card. Tape it to the newsprint next to each child's drawing. Allow the children to take the index card home.)

Jacob had a big family. He had twelve sons. He loved all his sons. But the Bible says, that Jacob made a bad mistake.

The Bible says that Israel, the name God had given Jacob (Genesis 35:10) loved Joseph more than his other sons. (Genesis 37:3) This is not what God wants. "For God does not show favoritism." (Romans 2:11. NIV) Favoritism is to treat someone as if they were better or more special. God loves us all. He cares about each one of us. He wants us to know His love. (John 3:16) Each one of us is special to God. (Have the children read the name tags you have created for them. "God loves....")

Jacob treated Joseph special, so Joseph's brothers didn't like him. (Genesis 37:4) They treated him badly. (Genesis 37:17-25) God wants us to love each other. (I John 4:7-8) God wants us to be kind. (Ephesians 4:32)

Even though Joseph's brothers' didn't like him, the Bible says that God was with him. (Acts 7:9 NIV) Later we will see that Joseph's story has a happy ending.

God sent Jesus because He loves us. He wants everyone to know His love.

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that we can know His love .
3. Pray for your family.

Did you know? Preschoolers recognize favoritism.

Consider this: Play a game where you create paper dolls for each child or bring stuffed animals that each child can hold. Ask the children which doll God loves. Tell them God loves them all. Assure them that God loves us all equally. God loves us all the same. Create a name tag with the child's name that says, "God loves" Ask each one to "read" their name tag. Assure them that you care about each one of them equally.

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity**— Bring an egg carton. Place a piece of paper with a portion of the verse on each piece. Don't forget the reference. Remind the children that Jacob had twelve sons.
- **Test your memory**— Use pictures that represent Jacob, Joseph, his brothers and Rachel. Remind the children that Jacob was older when Joseph was born. Allow them to use the pictures to retell the story.
- **Taste activity**— Make blue Jell-O in the shape of cylinders. Serve in gray colored cups. Place gummy bears on top to represent Joseph in the well.
- **Think about it** — Bring a big box that the children can get into. Have the kids color the box so that it looks like a well. You may use water color or you may want to color newsprint. You could also just glue pieces of construction paper onto the box to make it look like a well. Have the kids take turns getting into the box. Talk to them about how Joseph must have felt. Pray about situations where children may not feel that they are appreciated.
- Tell the children about the frog in the kettle. If a frog is placed in water over heat, and the temperature is raised slowly, the frog does not jump out. The frog eventually dies because it is not aware of the gradual change in temperature. Talk about the fact that Jacob's favoritism led his sons to dislike Joseph. Then they did not say a kind word to him. Next they planned to kill him. Then they threw him in a well. Finally they sold him. To cover up their sin, they dipped his coat in goat's blood. Then they had to lie to their father. Their father wept. They did not have compassion for the old man. They continued to lie for years. Tell the children that sin leads to more sin. Talk about the importance of asking God for forgiveness. Talk about forgiving others.
- **Touch activity**— Make colorful coats out of construction paper. Talk to the children about Jacob's favoritism. Tell them God loves us all the same.
- Create a name tag with the child's name that says, "God loves" Ask each one to "read" their name tag. Assure them that you care about each one of them equally.
- Create cards that say, "I am special," on the outside, and "Jesus loves me," on the inside. Allow the children to decorate the card. Ask them to tell you something special about themselves. It may be something simple for preschoolers. (I am kind. I am a good helper. I am loving.)
- **Run and play**— Have the children play Simon Says. Remind the children that all the brothers had to agree to throw Joseph into the well. Talk about the memory verse. Tell the children God was with Joseph.
- **Listen**— Remind the children that God created each one of them. As they take time for silence, remind them that each one of them is very special to God.
- **Sing**— Sing "Jesus Loves Me," "I Am So Glad That Jesus Loves Me," or a song related to the story.

I am special.

Jesus loves me.

Memory Verse

Jacob's sons were
jealous of their
brother Joseph.

So they sold him
as a slave.

He was taken
to Egypt.

But God
was with him.

Acts 7:9 NIV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

God

was with

Joseph.

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

J O S E P H G E D F I J
Q N A H E T I V E H O I
D B O D S O L D J S H S
W M L L U R E S E P F A
Y O R O A J U D A H I D
S M D D O J H C N A P E
S L A V E D N I H H V S
S R M C N G E R C E G E
S V O E G S B J A C O B

JOSEPH

JACOB

JUDAH

SOLD

SLAVE

Word Puzzle For Younger Children

J O S E P H G E D F I J
Q N A H E T I V E H O I
D B O D S O L D J S H S
W M L L U R E S E P F A
Y O R O A J U D A H I D
S M D D O J H C N A P E
S L A V E D N I H H V S
S R M C N G E R C E G E
S V O E G S B J A C O B

JOSEPH

JACOB

JUDAH

SOLD

SLAVE

Word Puzzle

E H W N O S G E D F I J
Q N A H E T I V E H O I
D B O D B V T N J S H S
W M L L U R E S E P F A
Y O R O A J A P L M I D
S M D D O J H C N A P E
B C E E A D N I H H V S
S R M C N G E R C E G E
S V O E G S B L L K L I
F B Z A I E U S A G E V
E L P D E W E L L O F D
O A N X Q T R D N L Y R

JOSEPH

REUBEN

JUDAH

SOLD

SLAVE

TRADERS

BLOOD

RACHEL

JACOB

Word Puzzle



JOSEPH

REUBEN

JUDAH

SOLD

SLAVE

TRADERS

BLOOD

RACHEL

JACOB

Anagram

1. mfsvtrioai-

2. sbteorrh-

3. dhtea-

4. dpnlnea-

5. lkli-

6. vseal-

7. tcao-

8. lodob-

Anagram

1. mfsvtrioai- FAVORITISM

2. sbteorrh- BROTHERS

3. dhtea- HATED

4. dpnlnea- PLANNED

5. lkli- KILL

6. vseal- SLAVE

7. tcao- COAT

8. lodob- BLOOD