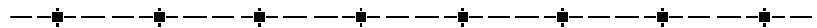


Old Testament

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 Man of God
Encounters Trouble**
Joseph and Potiphar

Genesis 39

Joseph and Potiphar
Genesis 39

Memory Verse:
Do not let your hearts
be troubled and
do not be afraid.
(John 14:27 NirV)

Lesson Goals:

1. Understand that Joseph's circumstances were difficult.
2. Learn that Joseph trusted God.
3. Recognize that God was with Joseph.
4. Understand God is with us.

Last week we learned that Jacob favored Joseph. This made his brothers hate Joseph. They planned to kill him, but they sold Joseph into slavery. Then they lied to their father and told him that Joseph was dead.

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 39:1-6 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

Begin with Prayer

This week we will learn what happened to Joseph after he was sold into slavery. Joseph was taken to Egypt where he served as a slave to an Egyptian captain of the palace guard. The guard's name was Potiphar. (Genesis 39:1-2 NirV)

This must have been hard for Joseph. He had been the favorite and now he was probably having to learn a new language and a new culture. He was a slave. He was away from his family. He probably wondered why his father was not looking for him.

Have you ever been lost? It is not fun. Have you ever heard someone speak a language you did not understand? What did you think?

God wants us to trust Him no matter what is happening to us. "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27 NirV)

The Bible says that God was with Joseph. (Genesis 39:2) Joseph probably learned to have great faith like his great-grandfather, Abraham, from his father, Jacob. It may be hard to imagine that God was with Joseph since he was a slave, in a foreign country, and he was away from his family. But the Bible says that God was not only with Joseph, God "gave him great success." (Genesis 39:2) Joseph's success was such that Potiphar saw what God was doing. Potiphar made Joseph his assistant. He asked Joseph to take very good care of everything. Joseph was in charge of everything Potiphar had. Can you guess what happened? God blessed Potiphar because of Joseph. God blessed Potiphar's family. He blessed Potiphar's servants. He even blessed Potiphar's field. With Joseph in charge, Potiphar only worried about the food he ate. Joseph must have been very honest. Potiphar could trust him. Joseph was also strong and handsome. (Genesis 39:2-6)

Things seemed to be going great for Joseph, but then trouble came. Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph. Potiphar believed his wife. The Bible doesn't say that Joseph tried to defend himself. He probably could not defend himself since he was a slave. Even though he did not do any-

Joseph and Potiphar—Bible Facts

1. Joseph was in Egypt.
2. Joseph was a slave.
3. God was with Joseph.
4. God gave Joseph great success.
5. God blessed Potiphar because of Joseph.

thing wrong, Joseph was thrown in jail. (Genesis 39: 19-20) Has anyone ever lied about you? What did you do? What happened? You may remember that we learned that God was with Joseph. Well, God had not left Joseph, even though he was put into the prison where the king's prisoners were kept. The Bible says that, "God was with him." It may be hard to imagine. Here Joseph was in a prison for something he did not do. The Bible doesn't say that Joseph became angry. It says that in the prison, God was kind to him. The man who ran the prison liked Joseph and was happy with his work. Joseph was probably a very hard worker. The Bible says that God made him wise. (Acts 7:9-10) Can you guess what happened next? The man who was in charge of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. Once again, Joseph became the man in charge. The man who ran the prison didn't worry about anything that Joseph took care of. The Bible says, "The Lord was with Joseph. He gave Joseph success in everything he did." (Genesis 39:23 NIV)

We can see from our story that God was with Joseph, even though it didn't really look like it. God had a plan. Joseph understood that God was with him. Joseph worked hard wherever he was. Joseph trusted God, even though he probably did not understand what God was doing. God sent Jesus so that we can know Him and trust Him.

Review questions.

1. **Where was Joseph?** (Joseph was in Egypt)
2. **What was Joseph doing?** (Joseph was a slave)
3. **Where was God?** (God was with Joseph)
4. **What did God do for Joseph?** (God gave Joseph great success)
5. **What did God do for Potiphar?** (God blessed Potiphar because of Joseph)

Do you know Jesus?

God sent Jesus because He wants us to know Him. God wants us to trust Him, like Joseph did. Joseph seemed to be in difficult situations. Jesus often faced difficult situations, too. Jesus was willing to die, so that we can know God. The Bible says that if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us. (1 John 1:9) When we invite God to be a part of our lives, He sends His Holy Spirit to help us know that He is with us, like He was with Joseph. (Ephesians 1:13)

Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus so that everyone may know Him.
3. Ask God to help you to trust Him no matter what your circumstances are.
4. Pray for friends and family members who may be going through difficult circumstances.

Application

Joseph's circumstances were difficult. He was in a strange land, a slave, and away from family. He must have been homesick, but Joseph trusted God. God was with Joseph. Joseph worked hard and trusted God. God helped Joseph. God wants us to trust Him no matter what our circumstances are. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (NIV) John 14:27

Planning for the next week:

Joseph Reunited (A Brother is Reunited) — Genesis 42-46

Preschool Lesson

Read the Bible

READ: Genesis 39:1-6 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)

[Teacher, you may want to remind your preschoolers that Joseph was single and had no children when he went to prison. Some preschoolers may have a parent in prison or jail. Be sensitive.]

(Bring toy items or pictures of a house, a boat, a prison, a train and a plane. Ask the children, "Is God with you when you are in a boat?" Ask the same about each item. Assure the children that God is always with us.)

You may remember Joseph was far away from his family. We learned that God was with Joseph. He was put into the prison where the king's prisoners were kept. Joseph was in a prison for something he did not do. Well, God had not left Joseph. The Bible says, that, "God was with him." It may be hard to imagine. The Bible doesn't say that Joseph became angry. It says that in the prison God was kind to Joseph. The man who ran the prison liked Joseph and was happy with his work. Joseph was probably a very hard worker. The Bible says that God made him wise. (Acts 7:9-10)

Can you guess what happened next? The man who was in charge of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. Once again, Joseph became the man in charge. The man who ran the prison didn't worry about anything that Joseph took care of. The Bible says, "The Lord was with Joseph. He gave Joseph success in everything he did." (Genesis 39:23 NIV)

We can see from our story that God was with Joseph, even though it didn't really look like it. God had a plan. Joseph understood that God was with him and worked hard wherever he was. Joseph trusted God, even though he probably did not understand what God was doing. God sent Jesus so that we can know Him and trust Him.

Prayer Time

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

Did you know? A preschooler who trusts is willing to take risks to learn new things. Consider this: Provide activities that allow preschoolers to be successful. Depending on the age of your preschoolers you may want to help them learn shapes or colors. Success allows them to have positive experiences which lead to happier children. Don't forget to praise their success.

Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity**— Cut out pictures of Egyptians. Allow the children to color the pictures. Put the memory a word from the verse on the back of the pictures. Have the children put the pictures in order.
- **Test your memory**— Cut out different shapes using construction paper. Put key words for the story on one side. Use the key words to tell the story. Have the children use the key words to retell the story.
- **Taste activity**— Bring wheat toast or another wheat product for a snack. Tell the children that wheat is produced in Egypt.
- **Think about it** — Bring toy items or pictures of a house, a boat, a prison, a train and a plane. Ask the children, “Is God with you when you are in a boat?” Ask the same about each item. Talk about how God is always with us.

Bring a box decorated with prison bars. Talk about how Joseph could have become angry. But he understood that God was with him. Joseph probably did not understand what God was doing. But Joseph trusted God. Talk about how God wants us to trust Him.

- **Touch activity**— Teach children to disagree **respectfully**. Bring books, toys, blocks. Have one group of children select the items they like for this activity. Have those same children ask another child, “Don’t you like this toy? Isn’t it nice?” (You may change the question to fit the item the child is holding.) Instruct the child who is to answer the question to disagree by saying, “No, actually I don’t like it, but it is nice.” (You may change the response to fit the item.)

Teach the children to disagree **intelligently**. Bring books, toys, blocks. Have one group of children select the items they like for this activity. Have those same children ask another child, “Don’t you like this book? Is it pretty?” (You may change the question to fit the item the child is holding.) Instruct the child who is to answer the question to disagree by saying, “No, I don’t like it because the book cover is not pretty. I like bright colors.” (You may change the response to fit the item.)

Teach the children to disagree **constructively**. Bring books, toys, blocks. Have one group of children select the items they like for this activity. Have those same children ask another child, “Don’t you like these blocks? Aren’t they cool?” (You may change the question to fit the item the child is holding.) Instruct the child who is to answer the question to disagree by saying, “No, I don’t like the blocks because they are made of plastic. I like wood. It feels heavy. But I think you are cool. Let play with the blocks.” (You may change the response to fit the item.)

- **Run and play**— Create a course where the children have to run on pillows, rugs, etc. Have the kids compete in a race to see who can run the fastest. Praise each child for finishing the race.
- **Listen**— As the children take time to listen to God, remind them that God is with us just as He was with Joseph.

Memory Verse

Do not let your
hearts
be troubled and
do not be
afraid.

John 14:27

NIRV

Word Art

Trace the letters.

God

made

Joseph

wise.

Word Puzzle

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

POTIPHAR

CHARGE

WORRY

BLESSED

HOUSE

FAMILY

FIELD

LIE

PRISON

Word Puzzle

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

POTIPHAR

CHARGE

WORRY

BLESSED

HOUSE

FAMILY

FIELD

LIE

PRISON

Anagram

1. RBTLEVO-
2. DFRAAI-
3. TSTUR-
4. UCSCSES-
5. GCRHEA-
6. YRWRO-
7. HJPSEO-
8. PPRHTOIA -

Anagram

1. RBTLEVO – TROUBLE
2. DFRAAI – AFRAID
3. TSTUR – TRUST
4. UCSCSES – SUCCESS
5. GCRHEA – CHARGE
6. YRWRO – WORRY
7. HJPSEO – JOSEPH
8. PPRHTOIA – POTIPHAR