



Life of Christ

Joseph goes to jail

Genesis 39-40:23

Younger Verse

Ask and it will be given to you. Matthew 7:7

Older Verse

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

Have you ever been accused of doing something that you DID NOT DO? Lots of times it happens. Today's story is about Joseph. He was accused of doing something wrong. After the story I want you to tell me how he acted and how we should act when people do the same thing to us.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

What a powerful lesson on following God and not following our emotions and desires. Older kids need to see that Joseph ran from the evil that Potiphar's wife wanted. He chose the right thing. He did not want to sin against God. What a lesson!

Remember last week we learned how Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. Joseph was taken to Egypt. A man named Potiphar bought Joseph. Joseph became Potiphar's slave. Joseph trusted God during this hard time. God blessed Joseph, and Potiphar was kind to him. He let Joseph be in charge of the house and everything Joseph did was a success.

Joseph was a very handsome man. After a while, Potiphar's wife noticed him. She liked him and asked him to do a bad thing. Joseph refused and told her how wrong it would be.

Day after day, the woman tried to get Joseph to do something wrong. Each day Joseph would tell her that he loved God and wanted to do right.

One day, Joseph was alone in the house with Potiphar's wife. She grabbed him by his coat and asked him to do wrong. Joseph explained that it would hurt Potiphar and God if he did wrong. This made her very angry. Joseph ran out of the house, but left his coat behind in her hands.

Suddenly, she had a sneaky, mean idea. She screamed and called her servants. She told the helpers that Joseph had tried to hurt her and left when she screamed. She showed

Lesson Goals: Describe Joseph's attitude while in jail
Tell how we can treat others
Run from evil and always try to do right

them the coat as “proof.” When her husband came home, she told him the lie. Potiphar arrested Joseph when he heard the news. He put him in the king’s prison.

During this time God was with Joseph and showed him kindness. The warden liked Joseph and chose him to take care of all the prisoners.

One day two of the king’s servants were put in prison. One served the king his drink and the other baked the bread.

During the night both servants had dreams. They woke up the next morning unsure of what the dreams meant. Joseph came by and saw their puzzled looks. He told the servants that God could help them understand their dreams.

The drink server told Joseph that he dreamed about 3 branches with grapes on them. He saw himself squeezing the grapes and giving the juice to the king. Joseph told him that in 3 days he would be set free and serve the king again.

The baker told Joseph his dream too. There were 3 baskets of bread on his head. There were some birds eating the bread out of the top basket. Joseph told the baker that in 3 days he would die.

Sure enough, 3 days later the drink server was free and the baker was killed. The drink server promised to tell the king about Joseph.

This story sounds so sad. Joseph gets put in jail for choosing to do right. It doesn’t seem fair. It doesn’t seem fair that Jesus had to die either. He did not do anything wrong.

In Joseph’s story, God does some good things and we can learn some good lessons. In Jesus’ story, God did the best miracle of all. He made a way for us to go to Heaven. Jesus had to go through hard times, but He did it for us. What a friend!

Learning Activities

Choose the activities that will help the kids understand. Help the older kids understand the importance of fleeing evil and doing right.

Memory Verse Activities

Ask—Seek—Knock The first letter of each of these words spells ASK. Use this to help your kids remember the whole verse!

Prayer Time

Pray for specific needs and share answers to prayers. Be a model of prayer for the kids to see.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Enjoy snacks together. Get to know the kids personally. Ask them questions about themselves that you don’t already know. Be interested in them.

Preschool Lesson
For
Joseph goes to Jail

(There are several props you may want to bring for the lesson today.)

Remember last week we learned how Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery. Joseph was taken to Egypt. A man named Potiphar bought Joseph. Joseph became Potiphar's slave. Joseph trusted God during this hard time. God blessed Joseph, and Potiphar was kind to him. He let Joseph be in charge of the house and everything Joseph did was a success. Joseph worked hard and did lots of work. God took care of him and Potiphar liked Joseph.

Joseph was a very handsome man. After a while, Potiphar's wife noticed him. She liked him and asked him to do a bad thing. Joseph told her how wrong it would be. He said, "NO!"

Day after day, the woman tried to get Joseph to do something wrong. Each day Joseph would tell her that he loved God and wanted to do right. He would tell her, "NO!"

One day, Joseph was alone in the house with Potiphar's wife. She grabbed him by his coat and asked him to do wrong. Joseph explained that it would hurt Potiphar and God if he did wrong. This made her very angry. Joseph ran out of the house, but left his coat behind in her hands. (Have a coat to show the kids)

She screamed and called her servants. She lied and told the helpers that Joseph had tried to hurt her and left when she screamed. She showed them his coat. When her husband came home, she told him the lie. Potiphar arrested Joseph when he heard the news. He put him in the king's prison.

During this time God was with Joseph and showed him kindness. The warden liked Joseph and chose him to take care of all the prisoners. Joseph still loved God and knew that God would take care of him.

One day two of the king's servants were put in prison. One served the king his drink and the other baked the bread. (Show the kids a cup and loaf of bread)

During the night both servants had dreams. They woke up the next morning unsure of what the dreams meant. Joseph came by and saw their puzzled looks. He told the servants that God could help them understand their dreams.

The drink server told Joseph that he dreamed about 3 branches with grapes on them. (Bring grapes) He saw himself squeezing the grapes and giving the juice to the king. Joseph told him that in 3 days he would be set free and serve the king again.

The baker told Joseph his dream too. There were 3 baskets of bread on his head. (Bring bread) There were some birds eating the bread out of the top basket. Joseph told the baker that in 3 days he would die.

Sure enough, 3 days later the drink server was free and the baker was killed. The drink server promised to tell the king about Joseph.

God took care of Joseph when he was in jail. He loved Joseph and Joseph loved Him. God will take care of us too. Let's pray and thank God for loving us!

Hands-On Activities
For
Joseph goes to Jail

Teachers: The details were left out of the “wrong” that Potiphar’s wife wanted Joseph to do. Prayerfully see if your kids are ready and old enough to explain what that wrong was. There will be a separate sheet attached with ideas to help the kids see the **IMPORTANCE** of staying pure and waiting until marriage to have sex.

Make a Joseph puppet. Color his clothing brown or gray to remember that he was in jail.

Play a concentration game. There are pictures in the packet of a child and an adult doing a job. Set the pictures on the table with the drawing facing down. The kids will take turns choosing two pictures, turning them over to see if they match.

Bring brooms and dust clothes. Share how Joseph worked hard. Give each person an assignment to help clean up the church—sweep, dust, clean up, organize etc.

In Joseph’s time, people wrote in pictures called hieroglyphics. Make clay and let the kids write in their own “hieroglyphics.”

Bring scratchy material (like burlap) to try on Joseph’s jail clothes. Talk about how Joseph still loved God and did right even when bad things had happened to him.
