



Date: _____

Series: Even in Tough Times
Fall Year 2, Lesson 25

Joseph is Sold by His Brothers

Bible Event: Genesis 37:12-36

Take Home Point: *EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – *God keeps me safe.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus died and rose again so he will be with us always.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that we all go through tough times. Tough times include when we are afraid, when we get hurt, or when we have our feelings hurt. No matter what tough times we go through, though, God is always keeping us safe. When we have Jesus in our heart, God is always with us. He will help us through tough times, just like he helps Joseph through tough times over the next several weeks. Kids will take home the point: ***EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – *God keeps me safe.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: *The Beginners Bible – The Story of Joseph and His Brothers.*
Sony Music Entertainment, 1996

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from a Dramatized Character

A costumed adult presents the Bible event, telling it from first person point of view. This person should be introduced by asking the children to put on their imagination hats and imagine that this really is the person in the Bible story.

Joseph comes onto the stage in a brightly colored robe to tell his story.

Hi. My name is Joseph. I am Jacob's son and I am here to tell you about my life. I had many brothers growing up, but my dad thought that I was very special. He made this special brightly colored robe for me! I loved my father very much and because we got along so well, my brothers were jealous. They didn't like me very much. In fact, they did some things to me that weren't very nice. You could say that they put me through some tough times. You won't believe what they did to me when I was just a boy – seventeen years old. Here's the true story of what they did to me.

One day, my dad sent my brothers out to take care of the animals. They were quite a ways away looking for water and good grass for the animals, so after a few days, my dad sent me out to see where they were and to ask how they were doing. I wore my special robe and set out on my journey to find them.

It took me a while to get there, but I finally found my brothers. They must have seen me coming in my brightly colored robe, though, because when I got there, they had a terrible surprise planned for me. When I got close, I heard them say, “Here comes Joseph! Come now, let’s kill him and throw him in this pit. We can tell father that ferocious animals ate him!” One of my brothers, Reuben, didn’t want to kill me though. He told the other brothers to throw me in the pit, but not to kill me. He was going to rescue me when the other brothers weren’t watching.

When I finally got right up to them, they grabbed me and took my special robe and threw me in the pit! It hurt and I was very sad. You could say that I was going through tough times.

Things were going to get worse, though. That night, Reuben went out to take care of the animals while my other brothers were eating dinner. As they were eating, some people called Ishmaelites passed by. They were on their way to a place called Egypt. When they got close, my brothers came up with a new plan. They decided to sell me to the Ishmaelites! They pulled me out of the pit and sold me to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. The Ishmaelites took me away to be a slave and I thought I would never see my family again. I was very scared! Those were definitely tough times. I could not believe that my brothers did that to me, no matter how much they didn’t like me. It made me very sad.

When my brother Reuben came back and found out what my brothers had done, he was very upset, too. They had to make up a story to tell my father since he would wonder where I was. They took my beautiful robe and ripped it up. Then they dipped it in some animal blood and took it back to my dad. When he saw it, he knew it was mine and was sure that some wild animal had eaten me! He was very, very sad and cried. Nobody could make my dad feel better. Only my brothers knew the truth about what happened to me.

It was very hard for me to go through such tough times. But I was never really alone. God was always with me, keeping me safe. Thank goodness he was! It could have been so much worse! The only thing that made me feel better was knowing that God was with me. You should remember that, too. **EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – God keeps me safe.*

I’ll be back next week to tell you what happened to me next!



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide each child with a square section of graham cracker. Spread some frosting on each graham cracker and give each child several Skittles or other brightly colored candies. Have the children place the candy (in stripes or however they choose) on the frosting to create Jacob's brightly colored robe.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Use a variety of fruits and vegetables that will represent the different colors of Joseph's robe. Talk of the gift God has covered US with in his rainbow of food! Strawberries, purple grapes, carrots, celery, apples, etc.

Drama Zone: Have children build a well out of cardboard bricks or blocks. Provide dress-up clothes and have children re-create the scene.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to talk about tough times they have been through and to teach each other the take-home point.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Joseph being sold from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #20 "The Story of Joseph" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Create "Sit-upons." Give each child a large freezer-size Ziploc bag. Provide bins of fabric scraps – all colors and textures in strips and small scraps. Each child will need enough scraps to stuff the bag (reasonably full) to make a 'cushion' to sit on. These cushions will be stored at church and used each week to "sit upon" during the Bible event. In a smaller setting, use a permanent marker to label each cushion so kids can sit on their own "sit upon" each week. In a larger setting, explain that each week, each child will grab one to sit on. The one they grab each week will not be the one they made, but every week they will get to see new bright colors and try a new cushion.

Play Zone: Make a rough masking tape outline of a coat or robe on the floor. Separate children into teams and take turns tossing multi-colored bean bags (or colored

construction paper wadded into balls) onto the coat outline. See which team can get more bags to land within the outline.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Joseph being sold.

Coloring Zone: “Joseph being sold” coloring page

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes out looking sad. The presenter asks him what is wrong. Bubba launches into a story about things that have happened to him this week including being afraid of a mean dog trying to chase him down the street, being afraid to walk past a bully's house on his way home from school and being very scared when a friend popped a balloon. He didn't know what the noise was! After each segment of the story, the presenter cuts in and says, "That sounds like tough times."

When Bubba is finished, he asks the large group presenter what he means by "tough times." The presenter explains that tough times are whenever you feel afraid, or get hurt, or feel bad about something. We all go through tough times sometimes. Bubba wants to know what you can do when you're going through tough times. He doesn't want to be afraid of that big dog forever. The presenter explains that when you're going through tough times, you need to trust God to keep you safe. Sometimes God keeps you from getting hurt and sometimes he helps you get through the hurt when it does happen. The important thing to remember is that God is always with you. Because we have Jesus in our heart, we are never alone. That means that God will always keep us safe and be with us, no matter how bad our tough times are.

A special way we can get help during our tough times is to pray. God always hears our prayers and that's another way that he keeps us safe. God really does care about us no matter what! Remember: ***EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – God keeps us safe.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons
- video: *The Beginner's Bible – The Story of Joseph and His Brothers*

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- Joseph's brightly colored robe

Action Zones:

Snack:

- Graham cracker squares
- frosting (any flavor)
- Skittles or other brightly colored candy
- healthy snack option: various colored vegetables and fruit

Drama:

- cardboard bricks or blocks
- costumes

Craft:

- large freezer-size Ziploc bag for each child
- many strips and scraps of brightly colored fabric
- option: permanent marker

Play:

- multi-colored bean bags (or construction paper balls)
- masking tape

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to retell the story

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books