



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Pass the Promise  
Fall Year 1, Lesson 21

# Joseph and His Brothers

**Take Home Point:** \*Jealousy “jails us,” but God can free us.

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Genesis 37

**Key Verse:** John 8:36, “So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free.”

**We will help kids know:**

- Joseph and his brothers had many problems in their family due to jealousy.
- God can change our hearts to help us overcome jealousy.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Sadness over the areas in their lives where they are jealous of others.
- Comfort in knowing that Jesus has freed us from the areas where jealousy used to control us.

**We will help kids do:**

- Identify a person they are jealous of and see the “jail” it puts them in.
- Turn the person over to Jesus in prayer.
- Thank God that he is the one who overcomes our jealousy.
- Identify times in their families when jealousy damages relationships and pray for those times.

## THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3	Children will experience jealousy when someone in their group gets something better. Have they ever felt jealous of a brother, sister, or friend? Today kids will learn about 12 brothers who had a jealousy problem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two small Tootsie Rolls for each child</li> <li>• one large Tootsie Roll for each group</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  7  8-16  17	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Joseph and His Brothers"  <b>Radio Drama:</b> "Joseph and His Brothers"  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> "Joseph and His Brothers" Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy</li> <li>• costumes for Joseph and Jacob</li> <li>• sound effects (see comprehensive supply list or lesson)</li> <li>• signs: <i>APPLAUSE, WOW, OOH, DUM DA DUM DUM, ON THE AIR</i></li> <li>• football with a cross on it</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-6	When we get jealous, we become so busy trying to hurt the other person that we forget we are the ones who become very unhappy. We become "jailed." Jesus frees us from sin and jail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 toothpicks for each child</li> <li>• 3x3-inch piece of cardboard or foam core</li> <li>• glue</li> <li>• markers or crayons</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

This beginning activity will set the stage for the rest of the lesson. Each group will have one large Tootsie Roll and a bag full of little Tootsie Rolls.

**I am so glad you are here today. I brought each one of you a special treat.**

Give each child a small Tootsie Roll, saving the large Tootsie Roll for the last child. Say to this child as you give him the large Tootsie Roll,

**I am so glad you are here. I saved this special piece of candy for you because you are so special to me.**

Amidst the groans and complaints of the other children, you may tell the children they can eat their candy. Then ask them some questions to explore their feelings.

**How are you feeling right now? How did it make you feel when I gave one of you an extra special Tootsie Roll? What do we call the feeling you felt when I gave you a small candy and (insert name of student) a large candy? (*Jealousy*)**

**Jealousy is when someone gets something better than you and it makes you mad.**

After allowing time for children to respond, assure them of your love for them and give a second Tootsie Roll to each of the kids who got a small one.

**Have you ever felt like a brother, sister, or friend got better treatment than you? Would you share about a time? How did it make you feel? What did it make you want to do?**

**Today's Bible event is about 12 brothers who had a major jealousy problem. The brothers were always worried that their brother Joseph was getting more than they were. They got so upset with him that they tried to get rid of him. Today we will learn that *\*jealousy "jails us," but God can free us* by changing our hearts. What do you think that means?**

**Let's find out in our story today how jealousy jailed a bunch of brothers.**

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

**Overview:**

### **Puppet Presentation: “Joseph and His Brothers”**

The Bible event in Genesis 37 is presented as a radio drama about Joseph and his brothers. The brothers are jealous of Joseph’s special treatment from their father. They become enraged with Joseph’s dreams that imply they would bow to him. The brothers want to kill Joseph but are instead satisfied to imprison him and later sell him into slavery.

### **Radio Drama: “Joseph and His Brothers”**

Gordy learns that becoming jealous actually will “jail us” on the inside.

### **Puppet Presentation: “Joseph and His Brothers” Conclusion**

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

### **Observation Questions: What happened?**

Have kids refer to Genesis 37 in their Bibles for the following.

**Why did Joseph’s brothers dislike him so much?** *(Genesis 37:3-11. Joseph’s father loved Joseph more and he gave him a beautiful coat of many colors. Joseph had dreams that made the brothers mad.)*

**What did the brothers decide to do with Joseph? Why?** *(Genesis 37:18-19. Joseph’s brothers were very jealous of him and threw him in a well.)*

**What happened to Joseph after they threw him in the well?** *(Genesis 37:25-28. His brothers sold him as a slave to some traveling merchants on their way to Egypt.)*

## **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

If you had been one of Joseph's brothers, would you have been jealous of him? Why or why not?

Do you think it was easy being Joseph's brothers? Why or why not?

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

Have you ever been jealous of someone? Explain.

**How are we able to change those horrible jealousy feelings that make us feel so bad?** *(First, we need to pray and ask God to step into our lives through the Holy Spirit and change our heart. Then we need to change how we treat the other person of whom we are jealous.)*

### Application Activity:

*Supplies needed: 12 toothpicks and a 3x3-inch piece of cardboard or foam core per child, glue, markers or crayons*

Pass out the cardboard and toothpicks.

**I would like you to take your piece of cardboard and write your name in the center of it. Now I want you to think of a person of whom you are jealous. When you are jealous of the person, do you want to invite him to your roller skating birthday party? No, I didn't think so.**



**Take one of the toothpicks and poke it in the cardboard by your name. As you put it in, think about the person you didn't want to invite.**

**Would you want to send him a Christmas card? Now poke in another toothpick on the other side of your name.**

**Would you want him on your baseball team? Poke another toothpick on another side of your name.**

Lead the kids to think of other ways they might get even with someone they are jealous of and stick more toothpicks until their names are encircled with toothpicks. These can be hypothetical, but leads kids to consider the following consequence.

**Look, it appears you have made a jail. Who is inside the jail? (Me.) That's the way jealousy is in our lives. We get so busy trying to hurt the other person that we forget we are the ones who become very unhappy. It's like we put ourselves in jail.**



**Who has freed us from all sin that jails us? (*Jesus.*) Our Bible verse for today says, “*So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free.*”**

**If you truly believe Jesus has freed us, I want you to take out those toothpicks and make a cross with them on your cardboard. Glue them on your cardboard.**

**Let’s review our Bible verse again. John 8:36, “*So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free.*” \**Jealousy “jails us,” but God can free us. Because of Jesus’ death for the forgiveness of our sins, we can forgive others. Just ask God for forgiveness and let his Holy Spirit work a miracle in your heart. Let’s do that right now.***

**Dear Jesus, I am so sorry for all the times I have been jealous of someone else. Please make those changes in my heart so I will not be in jail anymore. Thank you, my most precious Jesus, Amen.**

**Closing Prayer:**

Take time for prayer journals and any concerns the children may have. This is a wonderful time for you to grow in your relationship with the kids.

**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.

## Large Group Presentation

### Joseph and His Brothers

#### Puppet Presentation

Gordy: Mr. King, it isn't fair! I got ripped off. I got a small Tootsie Roll.

**Mr. King: That's because we were learning about jealousy.**

Gordy: I don't care about jealousy. I care about Tootsie Rolls. Why does everyone get a big one and I get a small one?

**Mr. King: Are you feeling jealous?**

Gordy: No, I'm feeling hungry. I think I'll just borrow a big Tootsie Roll from my sister Gerdy. Her teacher gave her the special one. That's just like her. She's always the teacher's favorite. She's Mom and Dad's favorite, too!

**Mr. King: It still sounds to me like you *are* jealous. You're just like** *(says names in a sing-song way)* **Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Isaachar, and Zebulun.**

Gordy: Say what?

**Mr. King: Those were Joseph's brothers. They were so jealous of Joseph they wanted to hurt him.**

Gordy: I bet that's because he got the big Tootsie Roll.

**Mr. King: Not a Tootsie Roll. But he did get something else that was special because he was his dad's favorite.**

Gordy: What was that?

**Mr. King: Well, Gordy, why don't you stay and listen to today's radio drama and find out what it was. And maybe you'll find out about jealousy and what it does to us.**

Gordy: Okay. Do you have a Tootsie Roll I can munch on while I listen?

# Joseph and His Brothers

## Radio Drama

### Characters:

- Host
- Sound technician (Shows cues and makes sounds. Might also serve as "Voice 1.")
- Voice 1 (Does several voices.)
- Voice 2 (Does several voices.)
- Joseph
- Jacob

The stage is set with a table for the host, Jacob, and Joseph as the main radio voices. Jacob and Joseph are in costume to help the kids better picture the main characters. Voice 1, Voice 2, and sound effects would best be done behind a screen. Adults who can change voice inflection are recommended. (Option: the puppeteer could do the voices.)

A table behind the screen is also needed for the sound effects props. The sound effects, when hidden, better capture the imagination of the audience. (Option: Download sound effects from the internet.)



There is another option for doing the voices. If desired, all the brothers could be assigned parts instead of simply Voice 1 and Voice 2. This format could lend itself to a large number of kids participating but requires the parts to be spoken quickly and clearly.

Towards the middle of the presentation, you may want to insert a short commercial. This commercial could be quickly acted out by the sound tech and the host or by children who were previously instructed. The commercial could pertain to your church's current mission project.

The sound technician holds up the cue signs APPLAUSE, WOW, OOH and DUM DA DUM DUM (Dragnet theme) above the visual screen so the kids can read them. The host can remind the audience that they play a part in the drama by making the appropriate sounds when he holds up the cue signs. Have kids practice once before beginning the drama.

***IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT NOT TO LET THIS DRAMA DRAG.  
KEEP A QUICK PACE BETWEEN PARTS.***



Sound: 5-4-3-2-1...

Sign: ON THE AIR

**Host:** Welcome to Kingdom Quest's radio station KLIF, 21.28 on your FM dial. The station that reports on how God passes the promise to his people. (Hold up football with cross on it.)

Sign: APPLAUSE

**Host:** Hi, I'm \_\_\_\_\_, and we are broadcasting live from \_\_\_\_\_. We are going to begin a four-part radio drama on the life of Joseph, the son of Jacob.

Sign: APPLAUSE

**Host:** Put on your imagination caps as we travel back to long ago in Genesis Chapter 37 and today's episode, "Joseph and His Brothers."

Sign: APPLAUSE

**Host:** Long, long ago in the land of Canaan lived a man by the name of Jacob. God had blessed Jacob with many sons—12 to be exact.

Sign: WOW

**Host:** Reuben was the oldest.

Voice 1: Hello.

**Host:** And then there was Simeon.

Voice 2: Hi!

**Host:** Levi.

Voice 1: Howdy.

**Host:** Judah.

Voice 2: Hi there.

**Host:** Dan.

Voice 1: Hi!

**Host:** Naphtali.

**USE VERY QUICK  
PACING THROUGH  
THIS SECTION.**

Voice 2: Yo!

**Host: Gad.**

Voice 1: Hi.

**Host: Asher.**

Voice 2: Yep!

**Host: Zebulun.**

Voice 1: Hi.

**Host: Joseph.**

Joseph: Hello.

**Host: And the baby.**

Voice 2: Goo.

**Host: No, no. He wasn't a baby! He was the baby of the family. You know, Benjamin was the youngest.**

Voice 2: Oh, hi!

**Host: Now even though Jacob had 12 sons...**

Sign: WOW!

**Host: Joseph was the one Jacob loved the best. One day Jacob surprised Joseph with a gift.**

Jacob: Joseph! Joseph!

Sound: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING

Joseph: Yes, Father, I'm here!

**Jacob: You are such a wonderful son. I have a surprise for you. It's the finest of all coats, a coat of many colors!**

Joseph: Oh thank you, Father. It's beautiful! I have never seen a coat so beautiful.

Sign: OOH

**Jacob: It looks fine on you! I'm so lucky to have a son like you.**

Sound:      *BIG KISS*

**Host:**      **Now Joseph might have been Jacob's favorite, but he was definitely not a favorite with his older brothers. You see, Joseph sometimes brought back a bad report about his brothers.**

Voice 1:      What does that mean?

Voice 2:      He told on them when they were doing something wrong.

Voice 1:      *(As Reuben.)* Tattletale!

**Host:**      **But when Jacob gave Joseph the beautiful coat *that* was the straw that broke the camel's back.**

Sound:      *STICK BREAKING (use a large stick or yard stick)*

Joseph:      Look, Brothers! Father gave me a coat with the colors of the rainbow!

Voice 2:      *(As Zebulun, mockingly.)* "Look, brothers! A coat with the colors of the rainbow." I'd like to punch him right up to the rainbow!

Voice 1:      *(As Issachar.)* Me, too!

**Host:**      **When the brothers saw that Jacob loved Joseph more than them, the Bible says they hated him and they could not speak a kind word to him.**

Voice 1:      *(As Levi.)* Daddy's boy!

**Host:**      **Then, believe it or not, it got worse. One night when Joseph went to sleep...**

Sound:      *SNORING*

**Host:**      **Joseph had the strangest dream.**

Sound:      *ZITHER*

**Host:**      **The next morning...**

Sound: ROOSTER CROWS

**Host:** Joseph told his brothers of his amazing dream.

Joseph: I had the strangest dream last night, Brothers.

Voice 2: *(As Zebulun.)* You are strange, Joseph, so it's only right that you should have strange dreams!

Brothers: Ha! Ha! Ha!

Joseph: We were all out in the field, tying sheaves of grain together. Suddenly, my sheave stood straight up and then your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it!

Voice 1: *(As Reuben.)* Do you think we will ever bow down to you? Ha!

**Host:** After Joseph shared his dream with his brothers, they hated him even more! Guess what happened. Joseph went to sleep...

Sound: SNORING

**Host:** And had another dream even stranger than the first!

Sound: ZITHER

**Host:** The next morning...

Sound: ROOSTER CROWS

**Host:** He told his dream to his father as well as his brothers.

Joseph: I had another dream last night. This one was even stranger than the first. In this dream, the sun, the moon, and 11 stars were bowing down to me.

**Jacob:** *(Becoming angry.)* **What do you mean? Do you think your mother and I and your brothers will actually bow down to the ground before you?**

Voice 1: *(As Levi whispering to other brothers.)* Ooh! Looks like Daddy's boy just got yelled at!

**Host:** And, now, we interrupt this program for a brief message from our sponsors.

(COMMERCIAL INSERTED HERE. Act out a commercial about your current mission project.)

**Host:** Now, back to our story. Joseph has now been sent by his father to check on his brothers tending the sheep, that is, all the brothers except the youngest brother Benjamin. Dad wanted Benjamin, his other favorite son, to stay close to home with him. So off went Joseph...

Sound: FOOTSTEPS RUNNING and HARD BREATHING

**Host:** At last Joseph saw his brothers. But when his brothers saw him coming, they plotted to kill him.

Sign: DUM DA DUM DUM (Dragnet theme)

Voice 1: (As Levi.) Here comes the dreamer!

Voice 2: (As Asher.) He's probably here to spy on us and then run home to tell Daddy!

Voice 1: (As Dan.) Let's kill him and throw him into one of these wells.

Voice 2: (As Gad.) Yeah! We can say a wild animal devoured him!

Voice 1: (As Simeon.) Then we'll see what becomes of his "dreams."

**Host:** When the oldest brother, Reuben, heard this, he tried to save Joseph from the brothers.

Voice 2: (As Reuben.) Whoa, guys! Let's not kill him. Just throw him into this well.

**Host:** Reuben planned to later rescue him and return him to his father. But for now, this is what happened...

Joseph: Hi, brothers! How is it going?

**Host:** The brothers grabbed Joseph...

Sound: SOUNDS OF FIGHTING OR SCUFFLE

**Host:** ...tore off the robe his father had given him...

Sound:        *RIPPING OF CLOTH*

**Host:**        ...and threw him into the well.

Sound:        *JOSEPH SCREAMS "HELP" THROUGH CUPPED HANDS and SLOWLY FADES. A BOOK WRAPPED IN CLOTH DROPS ON THE TABLE.*

**Host:**        **Luckily, the well wasn't filled with water. Then the brothers sat down to eat their lunch.**

Sound:        *MUNCHING*

Voice 1:        (As Levi.) Pass the figs, please.

Joseph:        (Through cupped hands.) Hey, guys! I get the joke. Now GET ME OUT OF HERE!

Voice 2:        (As Judah.) Any more bread?

Joseph:        (Through cupped hands.) Wait until I tell Father. You guys are going to be in such trouble!

**Host:**        **Just then, the brothers spotted a caravan of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt.**

Sign:        *DUM DA DUM DUM*

**Host:**        **Suddenly, Judah had an idea.**

Sound:        *BOING SOUND*

Voice 2:        (As Judah.) Hey! What will we gain if we kill our brother and then try to cover it up? Let's sell him to the Ishmaelites instead of killing him. After all, he is our brother.

Brothers:        Yeah! Yeah! Good idea, Judah!

**Host:**        **So, when the merchants came by...**

Sign:        *DUM DA DUM DUM*

**Host:**        **...the brothers pulled Joseph out of the cistern (or well).**

Joseph: Thanks for getting me out of there. I was kinda worried there for a minute.

**Host: They then sold him for 20 shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites...**

Sound: COINS JINGLING

Joseph: I'm worried again.

**Host: ...who then made their way to Egypt.**

Sign: DUM DA DUM DUM

**Host: Later, Reuben returned to the cistern. He felt terrible when he found out what the other brothers had done. As the oldest brother, he felt responsible.**

Voice 1: *(As Reuben.)* What will we tell Dad now? You know how much he loved Joseph!

Voice 2: *(As Asher.)* We could...maybe...uh...maybe we could...make it look like an accident! Yeah, let's kill one of these goats, put blood all over Joseph's coat, and tell father that a wild animal got him.

**Host: Well, it seemed like a good idea to everyone—except the goat.**

Sound: GOAT BLEATS

**Host: They arrived at home with the bloodstained robe and quite a story.**

Voice 1: *(As Reuben.)* Father, we found this robe. Look at it closely. Could it be Joseph's?

**Jacob: *It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Oh, no...(Sobbing) Joseph has surely been torn to pieces!***

**Host: Jacob put on sackcloth and ashes and mourned for his son many days.**

Sound: CRYING and SNIFFING

**Host: All his sons and daughters came to comfort him. But Jacob refused to be comforted.**

Sound: CRYING AND SNIFFING

**Host:** So, there you have it. Jacob wept and wept.

Sound: BLOWS NOSE

**Host:** And the brothers had really blown it. They had let their jealousy grow and grow until they did a terrible thing. What did they learn? Jealousy jails us! When we are jealous of someone else, that jealousy can jail us. These brothers were so jealous they sold their brother as a prisoner to the traveling caravan. But, while Joseph was a prisoner on the outside, all of the brothers were prisoners on the inside. You see, each brother had to live day after day with his father who mourned Joseph's loss. Day after day they had to live with the guilt of what they had done to their brother *plus* the guilt of lying to their father.

You know, kids, jealousy is something we deal with everyday. You might be jealous of a friend's new bike or maybe think your parents love your brother or sister better than you when they do something special. And you might think "I'm gonna show them. I'm just not going to play with so-and-so," or "I just won't talk to my mom and dad—that'll teach 'em." But when you let your jealousy and hatred grow, it only leads to more trouble and makes you a prisoner or jails you because you feel terrible on the inside.

How do we get rid of it? There is an answer—Jesus. When we feel jealousy or hatred toward someone, we need to turn to him. Jesus has the power to change our hearts. All we need to do is ask. *\*Jealousy “jails us,” but God can free us.* Today's verse from John 8:36 says, *“So if the Son sets you free, you will be absolutely free.”*

Will Jacob ever stop crying? Will the brothers finally confess? What will happen to Joseph at the hands of the Ishmaelites? For the answers to these and other questions, tune in next week as we hear "Joseph, A Prisoner In Egypt." This is Radio KLIF reporting how God passed the promise to his people.

Sign: ON THE AIR comes down



# Joseph and His Brothers

## Puppet Presentation Conclusion

**Mr. King:** Do you see how jealousy can jail us?

Gordy: I think so. It makes us a prisoner.

**Mr. King:** Yes. Jealousy jails us. It makes us a prisoner in our hearts. Instead of being thankful and happy, we are miserable because all we can think about is how we want what someone else has.

Gordy: Kind of like Joseph's brothers!

**Mr. King:** Exactly. *\*Jealousy "jails us," but God can free us by changing our hearts. Gordy, will you close us with a prayer to help us not be jailed by jealousy.*

Gordy: Sure! Dear God, please help us not be jailed by jealousy. We don't want to be a prisoner in our hearts and wish bad things to others like Joseph's brothers did. If we have those feelings, please forgive us and fill us with Jesus' love. Amen.