



Date: _____
Series: Pass the Promise
Year 1, Lesson 18

Joseph, a Ruler in Egypt

Take Home Point: *God is more powerful than the bad things that happen to us.

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Genesis 41

Key Verse: Psalm 50:15, "Call to me in times of trouble. I will save you, and you will honor me."

We will help kids know:

- The story of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh's dreams.
- When they trust and obey God in all situations, God will take care of them.
- God is always present and active in their lives. He is more powerful than any bad thing that can happen to them.




We will help kids feel:

- Confident of the daily blessings and care God does give them.
- Secure in the knowledge that God is with them even when a situation looks really bad.

We will help kids do:

- Praise God for being powerful in their lives.
- Pray about situations in their lives that look bad and turn them over to their loving Father.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3-4	Give the children the impossible task of making a popsicle stick stand on its side. God is powerful enough to do the impossible—he did for Joseph!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice-cream stick for each child
Large Group 	4 8-9 10-16	Overview Puppet Presentation: “Dao Dao Sings the Blues” Radio Drama: “Joseph, a Ruler in Egypt”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dao Dao • “er hu” for Dao Dao made out of ice-cream sticks • song leader to sing the classic Chinese “er hu” style • various signs and sound effects • table • microphone • Old Testament costumes, as needed • football with cross on it
Small Group Application 	5-7	Review the lesson with a creative game called “Secret Numbers.” This game will help explain that we cannot always understand God’s purpose. Memory Verse Learning: “Stick Challenge” Psalm 50:15 is recommended for lessons 24-25 to feel secure in the knowledge that God is with them even when a situation looks really bad.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • extra ice-cream sticks for each group • 8 ice-cream sticks with Bible verse written on them

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.*

Supplies needed: Ice-cream stick for each child

Give each child a ice-cream stick when he arrives. Use the ice-cream stick as a discussion starter.

Today we are talking about impossible circumstances or situations that may seem impossible. Circumstances are things that happen around you. Have you ever been in a circumstance that seemed impossible? Maybe you had an assignment at school that you couldn't figure out and it seemed impossible. Or maybe there is someone in your family who is sick and it seems impossible that he could get better.

Discuss circumstances in which the kids need God's help. These are circumstances in which they don't have enough power on their own to overcome. For some kids, it might be doing good on their math at school. For others, it might be serious subjects such as marital discord between their parents. Other areas that we, as people, are not more powerful than God would include death, sickness, depression, overwhelming guilt, fear, and anxiety.

I am going to give you an impossible task or maybe it will just seem that way to you. I want you to drop your ice-cream stick on the ground so it lands on its side.

As the kids try this, continue to talk about impossible circumstances in their lives.

During the last few weeks in Sunday school, we have been studying about Joseph. He had impossible circumstances and really bad things happen to him. Joseph was thrown in jail for two years because Potiphar's wife lied and said he did something bad. Joseph was innocent, and he was faithful. It must have seemed to him like an impossible situation. Do you think Joseph was ready to give up? Do you think Joseph thought God had forgotten about him?

Read Genesis 39:20-23.

God's Word says that, even though Joseph had what seemed to be an impossible situation, he still trusted in God and obeyed even in the small ways. **God is more powerful than the bad things that happen to us.* And God was getting ready to make the impossible happen.

Okay, are you ready to see how the impossible ice-cream stick trick is possible?

So the kids don't see, use one hand to bend the ice-cream stick in half to look like a right angle. When you throw the stick down it will land on its side.

Have the kids take their own ice-cream sticks, bend them in half, and practice the trick themselves. Then collect the ice-cream sticks. You will need them for the application time later.

When things in Joseph's life were going badly, God was powerful enough to do the impossible and help him. That's what we are going to find out about today. **God is more powerful than the bad things that happen to us!*

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.*

Supplies needed: *Dao Dao; "er hu" for Dao Dao made out of ice-cream sticks ; song leader to sing the classic Chinese "er hu" style; various signs and sound effects; table; microphone; Old Testament costumes, as needed; football with cross on it*

Overview:

Puppet Presentaion: "Dao Dao Sings the Blues"

Dao Dao is feeling powerless against the neighborhood bullies who pick on him.

Radio Drama: "Joseph, a Ruler in Egypt"

God can take the impossible and make it possible. Because of Joseph's faithfulness, God took him out of prison and raised him up to be Pharoah's right hand man.

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.

Supplies needed: extra ice-cream sticks for each group

Review the lesson with a creative game called “Secret Numbers.” Lay five ice-cream sticks on the floor in any kind of pattern. Then say,

This is a secret number. Can you tell what it is?

As you say this, casually place your hands (palms facing each other) on either side of the popsicle sticks. On one hand you will have two fingers out and on the other hand you will have three fingers out. Let the kids guess what number is the secret number. If they miss, tell them the number (in this case, five). Then move some of the ice-cream sticks and make a new number. The new number should be seven to correspond with the answers to the observation questions below.

The trick is that the kids think the secret number is in the arrangement of the ice-cream sticks. They are trying to figure out how the pattern corresponds to the secret number. But the secret number is always how many fingers you are showing with your hands.

If anyone figures out the secret, he is to keep it to himself until more people guess. As you play the game, review the story using the “Secret Numbers” game.

Observation Questions: What happened?

The Bible event takes place in Genesis 41.

How many good cows came up from the river in Pharaoh’s dream?
(Seven.)

How many skinny cows came up out of the Nile? (Seven.)

What happened to the cows?

In Pharaoh’s second dream, how many healthy heads of grain grew on a stalk? (Seven.)

How many heads of grain were thin and scorched? (Seven.)

What did the thin heads of grain do to the healthy heads?

What did the cows and the grain mean in Pharaoh’s dream?

Where was Joseph all this time?

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

How do you think Joseph felt day after day still stuck in prison?

What do you think it was like for Joseph in prison?

Do you think Joseph wondered why God kept him in prison so long?

What must it have been like for Joseph to be able to have the power to interpret dreams? *(Joseph said that power “came only from God.” Joseph was faithful and used that power for God.)*

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Make the shape of a question mark using the bent ice-cream sticks from the warm-up activity.

This question mark reminds us of the many things that happen in life that we don’t understand. Does it ever seem a mystery as to why certain things are happening in your life?

It might be hard for us to understand when bad things happen to us or other people. Have you ever had anything happen to you that you couldn’t understand?

Has anything bad happened to you or someone else you know that seemed like God wasn’t there?

Allow time for the children to respond.

We cannot always understand God or His purposes because He is a big God. We know that He loves us enough to have sent Jesus to die for us so we can trust He will be there for us. We can trust in God’s promises.

Psalm 50:15 says, “*Call on me in times of trouble. I will rescue you, and you will honor me.*”

Practice saying this together a few times. Then ask:

How do we “honor” God? If you are rescued from something bad, what would you do? How would you thank the person who rescued you?

It must have been hard for Joseph to understand why he was in prison. But Joseph kept being faithful and **God was more powerful than the bad things that happened.*

Sometimes we don’t see right away how God can be more powerful than bad things that happen to us. But, if we are faithful and trust him, we will always discover that God will work it out. **God is more powerful than the bad things that happen to us.*

Memory Verse Learning: 5 minutes

Purpose: Help kids to memorize and keep scriptures at heart. Using creative ways to help kids enjoy learning the key verse and in small group setting.

Supplies needed: 8 ice-cream sticks with Bible verse written on them

Memory Verse: Psalm 50:15 ~ “Call to me in times of trouble. I will save you, and you will honor me.”

MV Presentation: “Stick Challenge”

Display the ice-cream sticks in squence for memory verse learning. Drill the children for a few rounds. Then have them be in pairs so that you can time them as partners to see how much time they require to arrange today’s verse

Psalm 50:15	I will
Call to me	save you
in times	and you will
of trouble.	honor me.

Prayer Time:

Pray about the bad things that happen in our lives. Claim God’s promise as the source of all power to work things out.

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Dao Dao Sings the Blues

Puppet Presentation

Dao Dao enters holding an “er hu”. These can be glued together from ice-cream sticks. When Dao Dao sings this form of Chinese music, Dao Dao simply needs to be wailing out the words to whatever melody comes to mind.

A song leader is needed to sing this classical Chinese style song. Give someone in your church the chance to use their musical or dramatic talent to serve in children’s ministry. What they may be lacking in musical talent can be made up in costuming “er hu” style.

Dao Dao: *(Singing.)* I am pathatic.... So very pathatic.

Teacher: Dao Dao, what are you singing about today?

Dao Dao: *(Singing.)* I am pathatic.... So very pathatic.

Teacher: Why are you singing this type of Chinese classic? Why are you playing the “er hu”?

Dao Dao: Well, it wasn’t supposed to be a hat. I was making a boat but the big bullies in the neighborhood came by and made fun of me and then they broke it. I don’t know when I’ll ever grow up to be bigger than them so they won’t pick on me.

Teacher: That sounds terrible.

Dao Dao: It was. That why I’m singing with the “er hu”.

Teacher: Dao Dao, you need to listen about how God is more powerful than the bad things that happen to us. We’re talking about Joseph. Joseph also sang such pathetic song.

Dao Dao: Oh yeah? Did someone break up his ice-cream sticks?

Teacher: Worse than that. Joseph was thrown in jail even though he didn’t do anything wrong. But Joseph still trusted God and found out that **God is more powerful than the bad things that happen to us.*

Dao Dao: Did Joseph sing with the “er hu”?

Teacher: I suppose he did, but it got better.

Dao Dao: If Joseph sang the blues, how does it go? Can you sing to me, Teacher?

Teacher: **Can I sing? I don't think so, but (song leader) might help me out.**
 Here's a song about Hard Times Joe.

Song Leader: Hard Times Joe./That's J...O...E...
 Hard Times Joe./That's J...O...E...
 His brothers were jealous/they threw him in a pit.
 They sold him into slavery/and pretended to forget.
 Hard Times Joe./That's J...O...E..
 Hard Times Joe./That's J...O...E..
 Potiphar's wife she lied/so Joe went to jail.
 He was down there hoping that his God would not fail.
 Oh, Hard Times Joe./That's J...O...E...
 Hard Times Joe./That's J...O...E..
 So if you're singing the blues/be faithful and true
 'Cause God rescued Joseph/and he'll rescue you, too.

Dao Dao: That's for me! I want to meet this "Hard Times Joe."

Teacher: **Let's tune into radio KLIF—the station that reports how God passes**
 the promise to His people.

Joseph, a Ruler in Egypt

Radio Drama

Cast and Voices:

- Host
- Joseph
- Sound Tech
- Cupbearer
- Pharaoh
- Guards
- Jacob
- Wise Guy 1
- Wise Guy 2
- Official 1
- Official 2
- Clerk 1
- Clerk

The stage is set with a table and freestanding microphones for the host and actors. Any of the main characters can be costumed and sitting at the table according to the number of volunteers available. Hidden off stage or behind a screen are a table with props and microphones for other voices. Use the KLIF station signage from previous weeks. The host will remind the "studio audience" of their participation in making sound effects when cue signs are shown. The sound tech and the audience will then begin the countdown.

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

Sign: ON THE AIR

Host: Welcome to *(the name of your Sunday school)* radio station KLIF, 21.28 on your FM dial. The station that reports how God passes the promise to His people. *(Holds up football with cross on it.)*

Sign: APPLAUSE

Host: Hi, I'm _____, and we are broadcasting live from _____. Today we continue our four part series on Joseph. Last week's episode was "Joseph, a Prisoner in Egypt." While in prison...

Sound: Groan stick

Host: ...Joseph had used his special gift from God to interpret dreams for Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. Both of them had also been thrown in jail.

Sound: Groan stick

Host: Things did not end so well for the baker, but it was a whole different story for the cupbearer. In Genesis 40:23, Pharaoh's cupbearer had been released from prison...

Sound: Groan stick

Host: ... just as God had told Joseph. However, instead of telling Pharaoh about Joseph as the cupbearer had promised, he forgot all about him.

Sign: BOO

Cupbearer: This is driving me nuts. I know I'm supposed to do something.

Sound: HMM

Host: Two full years past. One night, Pharaoh went to sleep...

Sound: SNORING

Host: ...and had a dream.

Sound: ZITHER

Host: In his dream he was standing by the side of the Nile River.

Sound: WATER POURING

Host: Soon seven fat cows came up onto the bank...

Sound: MOOING and COW BELLS

Host: ...and began to eat the reeds that grew along the bank.

Sound: MUNCHING and MOOING

Host: After that, seven skinny cows also came up onto the bank.

Sound: WEAK MOOING

Host: Instead of eating the reeds, the seven skinny cows ate the seven fat cows!

Sound: MOO! and GULPING SOUND

Host: The dream was so disturbing it woke Pharaoh up!

Sound: SNORT

Pharaoh: Oh! What a terrible dream!

Host: But, soon he fell asleep again...

Sound: SNORING

Host: ...and had another dream.

Sound: ZITHER

Host: In this dream, seven healthy heads of grain were growing on a stalk.

Sound: BRANCH RUSTLING

Host: Another seven heads of grain started to sprout. But these seven heads were thin and scorched by the east wind.

Sound: DRIED BRANCH RUSTLING and BLOWING SOUND

Host: Then, just like the cows, the seven thin heads of grain swallowed up the seven healthy heads!

Sound: BRANCHES RUSTLING and GULP!

Host: Again, the dream was so disturbing that it woke Pharaoh up!

Sound: SNORT

Pharaoh: Not another one! What can these dreams mean?

Host: In the morning...

Sound: ROOSTER CROWS

Host: ...Pharaoh called for all the magicians and wise men in Egypt.

Pharaoh: Guards! Call my best magicians and wise men now!

Guards: Yes, mighty Pharaoh.

Sound: FOOTSTEPS

Host: Soon the palace was filled with all of Pharaoh's best wise men and magicians.

Wise 1: Mighty Pharaoh, how may we help?

Pharaoh: Last night I had not one, but two terrible dreams. Tell me what they mean!

Host: And Pharaoh proceeded to tell the magicians and wise men about the two terrible dreams he had the night before.

Pharaoh: I was standing by the Nile River and...

Sound: ZITHER

Host: After Pharaoh had finished, the magicians and wise men thought and thought.

Sound: HMM

Wise 1: You say it involved cows?

Pharaoh: Yes.

Wise 2: And grain?

Pharaoh: Yes! Yes!

Wise 3: Could it be that Pharaoh went to bed hungry last night and was craving a steak sandwich?

Pharaoh: NO!

Wise Guys: *(Disappointedly.)* Oh.

Host: And that was their *best* guess. They were clueless. This one had the wise men stumped. They thought and thought...

Sound: HMM

Host: ...until they could think no more.

Wise Guys: We give up!

Host: Just then...

Sound: FINGERS SNAP

Host: ...the cupbearer, who had been listening, remembered what he should have remembered two years ago!

Cupbearer: Oh mighty Pharaoh, please forgive me for interrupting, but your dreams remind me that I have done a terrible thing.

Pharaoh: What is it?

Cupbearer: When I was in prison...

Sound: GROAN STICK

Cupbearer: ...with the chief baker, we each had a dream.

Sound: GROAN STICK

Cupbearer: ... there was a young Hebrew man named Joseph. Joseph told us what each of our dreams meant and things turned out exactly as he said.

Host: So Pharaoh called for his guards to bring Joseph to him—immediately.

Pharaoh: Guards! Bring me this young Hebrew—at once!

Host: When Joseph arrived, Pharaoh said to him...

Pharaoh: I had two terrible dreams and no one—not even my best magicians or wise men—can tell me what they mean. Can you?

Joseph: I cannot interpret what the dreams mean, but God can. He will give you the answer you need.

Sign: APPLAUSE

Host: So Pharaoh told Joseph about the two dreams.

Pharaoh: I was standing by the Nile River and then...

Sound: ZITHER

Host: When Pharaoh had finished, Joseph said...

Joseph: God is revealing to you what he is about to do. The seven fat cows and seven plump heads of grain mean seven years of good harvest. The seven ugly cows and skinny heads of grain mean seven years of famine. The seven years of famine will be so bad that the people won't even remember the seven good years. Put a wise man in charge of Egypt to start saving grain now, so when the famine comes, no one will go hungry.

Host: The plan sounded good to Pharaoh and his officials.

Pharaoh: Yes, good idea.

Official 1: We should begin at once.

Official 2: But who should be put in charge?

Pharaoh: Can we find anyone like Joseph who has the spirit of God?

Sound: HMM

Host: Then Pharaoh said to Joseph...

Pharaoh: Since God has let you know the meaning of what is to happen, I will put you in charge of all Egypt. Only I will be greater than you.

Host: Then Pharaoh gave Joseph the ring from his finger...

Sign: OOH

Host: ...a fine linen robe...

Sign: AAH

Host: ...put a gold chain around his neck...

Sound: CHAIN RATTLES

Host: ...and Pharaoh even let Joseph ride through Egypt in a chariot.

Sound: "GEDDYUP!", WHIP, and NEIGHING SOUNDS

Host: Joseph was only 30 years old (just a baby in Bible years) when he was put in charge of Egypt. For the next seven years, Joseph traveled throughout Egypt...

Sound: "GEDDYUP!", WHIP, and NEIGHING SOUNDS

Host: ...collecting grain...

Sound: RAIN STICK

Host: ...and putting in it the storehouses. They collected so much they couldn't even count it all!

Clerk 1: 987,645,234 bushels of grain, 987,645,235 bushels of grain...

Clerk 2: Did you want six figs and two orders of frog legs for lunch or was it two figs and six orders of frog legs?

Clerk 1: Six figs and two orders of frog legs. Now where was I? Oops!

Host: The seven years of good harvest came to an end and then the seven years of famine began, just as God had told Joseph. Soon, all countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph for the famine was severe in all the world. It was even severe in Joseph's old homeland of Canaan.

Will Joseph's brothers go to Egypt to buy grain?

Sign: OOH

Host: Will Joseph even sell them grain?

Sign: AAH

Host: Can God continue to be more powerful than the bad things that happen to us?

Sign: APPLAUSE

Host: For the answers to these and other questions, tune in next week as we hear "Joseph's Brothers in Egypt."

Sign: APPLAUSE

Host: See you next week. This is Radio KLIF, the station that reports how God passes the promise to his people.

Sign: APPLAUSE and ON THE AIR comes down.

Supplies:

Quantity (✓)

Small Group Warm-Up:

- Ice-cream stick for each child

Large Group:

- Dao Dao
- “er hu” for Dao Dao made out of ice-cream sticks
- song leader to sing the classic Chinese “er hu” style
- various signs and sound effects
- table
- microphone
- Old Testament costumes, as needed
- football with cross on it

Small Group Application:

- extra ice-cream sticks for each group

Memory Verse Learning:

- 8 ice-cream sticks with Bible verse written on them

Psalm 50:15	I will
Call to me	save you
in times	and you will
of trouble.	honor me.