

Date – September 19, 2021

Scripture/Bible Story/Theme

*******Note: - copies of Reader’s Theater already done and in the classroom.**

******New Bible section – building on the total Joseph story – although the Reader’s Theater is a review of the first section read last week.**

Joseph – Genesis 39-40

Joseph the Slave

God has a plan and is always with us

Children’s Illustrated Bible – p.p. 58-59 – This is the first week with this section of the story.

As a quick review the Joseph Story in a nutshell:

Genesis 37 begins Joseph’s story and ends in chapter 50.

He was Jacob’s (Israel’s) favorite son from a family of 12 sons and 1 daughter. Jacob gave Joseph a special robe as a sign of favoritism. Joseph’s brothers were envious of him and plotted a story to tell Jacob that Joseph had died. They returned the coat, bloodied to ‘prove it’. His brothers sold Joseph meanwhile, into slavery to Potiphar.

Despite all of these tragic events, God blessed Joseph. Joseph eventually found favor by Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh made Joseph a ruler.

After a terrible famine in Egypt, Joseph brothers came to Joseph for help. He forgave them and through God’s plan, Joseph’s family reconciled.

Workshop Name

Reader’s Theater – Joseph’s Cool Coat

Opening Prayer

Gracious Father,

Thank you for watching over us and taking everything that happens in our lives, both the good things and the bad things, and working them into something good. Help us to have faith in you as Joseph did, even in the hard times. Amen.

Memory Verse

We know that God is always at work for the good of everyone who loves him. Romans 8:28a

Objectives

1. The story of Joseph is found in the first book of the Old Testament, Genesis.
2. Retell the story in their own words – identifying story characters and their feelings.

3. Analyze how jealousy erupted in Joseph's family and led to the brother's selling Joseph into slavery.
4. Discover that when they face difficulties that God is with them in all situations.
5. Learn these key words: jealousy, envy, relationship, favoritism
6. Learn that showing favoritism can cause hurt relationships.
7. God loves everyone and is with us no matter what we do.
8. God's plans helped Joseph and his brothers to be family again later.
9. Recognize that in our lives God's activity may be hidden. We may not always see it, but he does have a plan for each of us.

Supplies

See the script below.

Activity

Script for Drama Workshop, Coat of Many Colours Rotation, adapted from the New Standard Revised Version © 2004, LD McKenzie – adapted for use at St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Joseph's Cool Coat

CAST:

Narrator

Joseph

Brothers

Jacob

Stranger

Reuben

Traders

Narrator: Once there was a man named Jacob. He had many sons. One of the youngest was Joseph. He was 17 and shepherded the flock with his brothers. But he was particularly special to his dad.

Jacob: Joseph. Come over here. I have something special for you.

Joseph: Who me?

Jacob: Yeah, you. Check this out. Ever seen anything like it?

Joseph.: Oh my gosh. Dad. That is incredible. You shouldn't have.

Jacob: It was nothing.

Joseph: No really. You shouldn't have. None of the other shepherds will be wearing one. It's so long, and those sleeves. It'll be really hard to keep up with the sheep in that thing. And those wild colors. It'll be the dickens to keep clean. I don't know. It's just not done.

Jacob: I insist. You're just special is all. One of the last of my babies. Really, you must.

Joseph: Oh, all right.

Narrator: So Joseph started parading around the house in his fancy-schmancy coat. It really was too much. His brothers thought he looked like a clown. To tell the truth, Joseph did too. Then to make matters worse, Joseph started having these dreams. And telling everybody all about them. The family was not impressed.

Joseph: Ahem. Attention. Attention. Gather round. I have a dream to tell everyone about.

Brothers: Oh, for Pete's sake. Do we really have to listen to this?

Joseph: Yes. Listen to this dream I dreamed. There we were, binding sheaves of wheat in the field. Suddenly my sheaf stood straight up. Then your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to it. Isn't that wild?

Brothers: We are really starting to hate this guy...

Joseph: Ahem. Attention. Attention. Gather round. I have another dream to relate.

Brothers: For crying out loud. Not again.

Joseph: Yes. I have had another dream. This time the sun, the moon and the eleven stars were bowing down to me.

Jacob: Uh, Joseph. Don't you think you're getting a little carried away?

Joseph: Da-ad. What can I do? That's really how the dream went.

Narrator: Some time after this, Jacob sent Joseph out to do some more shepherding with his brothers. Joseph likely had his head in the clouds, and he got lost. Luckily a stranger set him straight.

Stranger: Hulloo there. What are you looking for?

Joseph: My brothers. They're probably with a bunch of sheep.

Stranger: Now that you mention it, I did see that motley crew. They went that-a-way.

Joseph: Thanks!

Narrator: Since Joseph was wearing his gaudy coat which was definitely not suitable for shepherding, his brothers saw him coming a mile away.

Brothers: Let's throw him in this here pit.

Reuben: Good idea. Just don't hurt him.

Narrator: So when Joseph caught up to his brothers, they took his coat away and stuck him down in one of the nearby pits meant for collecting rainwater. And Joseph couldn't get out.

Brothers: Hey, look there is a group of traders on their way to Egypt. You thinking what I'm thinking? Right on. Let's sell him! Hey. Guys. Wanna buy a new slave? Cheap!

Traders: Sure. Where is he?

Brothers: Down in this pit.

Traders: Hey you! Up you go, buddy. You're coming with us. Here's the cash, fellas.

Brothers: Thanks. Bon voyage!

Narrator: In a rocket science revelation, Joseph's brothers were suddenly struck by the realization that perhaps their dad would be mad at them for selling their brother into slavery. So they devised this clever plan.

Reuben: Listen up guys. I have a plan. We've got Joseph's annoying coat here. Let's rub some of this here goat's blood on it. Then we'll tell dad that a wild animal got Joseph, yeah, that's it, yeah.

Brothers: All right.. that's a good plan.. go for it.. we hear ya...

Reuben: Dad! Oh boo hoo. Dad! You won't believe what has happened...

Jacob: Oh my poor son. This is so terrible...

Narrator: Meanwhile when they got to Egypt, the traders sold Joseph to one of Pharaoh's high officers — the captain of the guard...what happened next is a whole other story!

Reflection/Evaluation

After reading the Readers' Theater use the following for a discussion.

Why were the brothers angry with Joseph?

Have you ever felt angry at someone because they seemed to be the favorite of either a parent or teacher?

How did the brothers feel when Joseph told them about his dream?

Do you think Joseph cared about his brothers' feelings?

Do you think he knew how they felt?

Have you ever felt that someone else was your mom or dad's favorite?

How did that make you feel?

What are some things we should never do, no matter how angry we are? [Talk about aggression as an inappropriate way to express anger or jealousy.]

What are some appropriate ways to deal with anger?

The students are to copy the memory verse into their journals.

The students are to write an answer to the following question. If they are unable to write an answer they may illustrate one.

Have you ever faced a rough situation in your life and wondered, where was God? How can God help you with a difficult situation?

Lord's Prayer

