

# 5



## JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

God's People Grow

### 1 | Teacher's Notes

**Scripture** Genesis 37, 39, 41 -43, and 45-46

**Objectives** To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- God's promise to Abraham is passed on to Isaac and Jacob, and God's people grow.
- God sent Joseph ahead of his family to Egypt so that his family would not die in the famine, but would continue to grow in number. They were rescued from famine through Joseph's obedience to God.
- God's people grow into a great nation, but they are now without their own land.
- God can work all things together for good for those that love him and obey him.

**Memory Verse** "You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good." (Genesis 50:20a - NIRV)

**ACNA Catechism Connection** Today's story of Joseph and his Brothers is connected to the following Catechism questions:

Q 216 How does God redeem evil? ...even though there is harm and suffering, God can use them to bring about his good purposes in the world and in my life.

Q 28 What is in the OT? The Old Testament contains the record of ...God's wisdom and saving deeds...

**Suggested  
Materials,  
Props, and  
Costumes****Big story props:**

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

**Lesson props:**

- Handcuffs or rope for binding hands (to represent Joseph in slavery)
- Sign and/or pyramid representing Egypt
- Bag of grain (of any type)

**Costumes:**

- Housecoat – to represent Joseph's coat of many colours
- Egyptian royal outfit (to represent Joseph in authority in Egypt)

**Memory Verse:** (Found on the last page of this lesson plan) Print out and place in large Bible.



## 2 | Lesson Outline

<b>Welcome</b>	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
<b>Greeting &amp; Collect for Purity</b>	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity ( <i>see Resource Section</i> )
<b>Prayer of Confession</b>	Say the Prayer of Confession ( <i>see Resource Section</i> ) Extinguish the candles
<b>Music</b>	Books of the Bible - Old Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
<b>Review of foundations</b>	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment. <b><i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i></b>
<b>Reading</b>	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
<b>Poster Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss the key concepts highlighted in this week's poster.</li> <li>• Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i></b></p>
<b>Props/Costumes</b>	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) <b>Big story props:</b> Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
<b>Bible Story</b>	<b><i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i></b>
<b>Related activities</b>	<b><i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i></b>
<b>Preparation for Communion &amp; leaving class</b>	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <b><i>See Resource Section.</i></b>

### 3 | Poster Discussion

#### Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

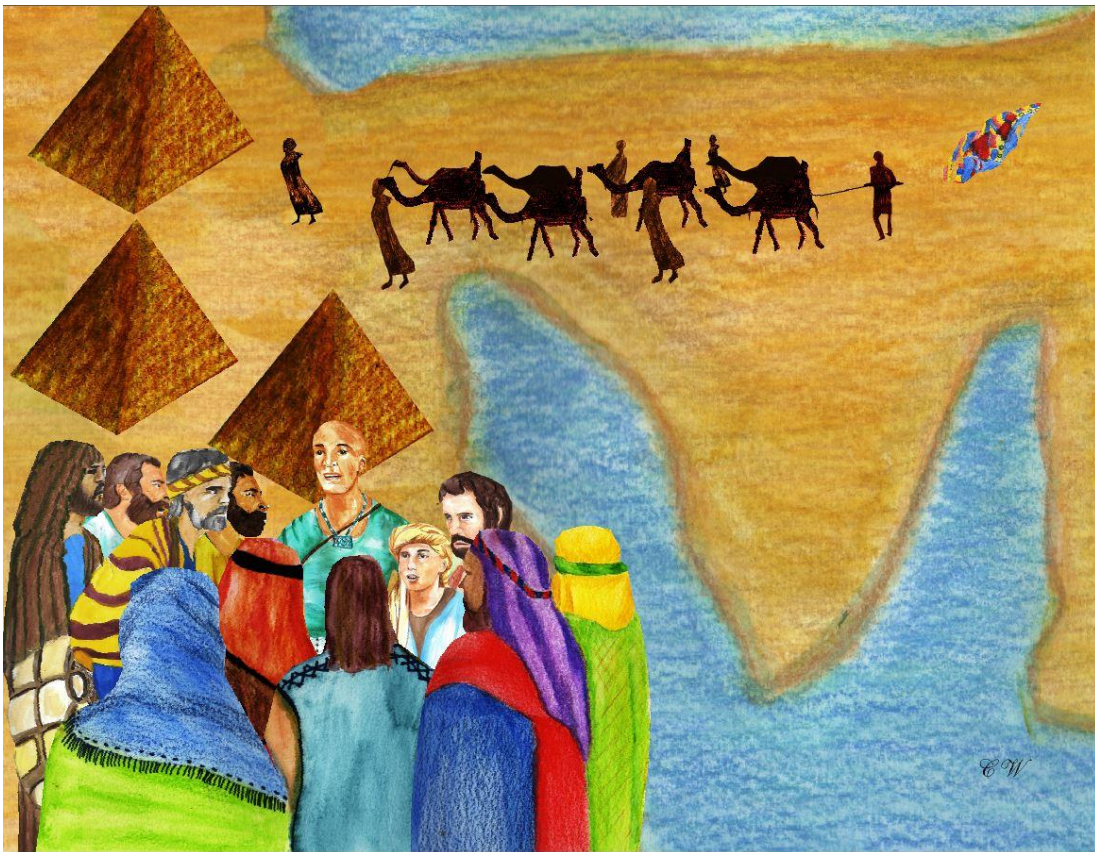
This picture shows a map of desert sands and some water. What else do you see in this picture? What do you wonder about?

I wonder what that colourful thing is behind the camels.

I wonder where the camels and the people are going.

I wonder who the men are in front of the pyramids.

Let's hear more in our story....



## 4 | Story and Life Application

**CROWN:** *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

**BIBLE:** *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the book of Genesis, in the Old Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and all the words in the Bible are true.'*

**LESSON SUMMARY:** *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster.*

### **STORY:**

**TEACHER:** Last week, we read about God's promise to Abraham. What was His promise? *(That God would give Abraham MANY descendants and all people on earth would be blessed through him.)*

What are descendants? *(Answer: children, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great, great grandchildren, etc.)*

Well, the Bible tells us that Abraham had a son named Isaac. Isaac grew up and had a son named Jacob. When Jacob grew up, he had twelve sons! And so Abraham was beginning to have many descendants, just as God had promised.

Today, our story is focused on *Jacob's* family, his twelve sons, and especially on one of Jacob's sons who was named Joseph.

Let's listen and hear some of the bad things that happened to Joseph, but how God used it for good.

One day Jacob gave Joseph a special coat. It was a beautiful coat with many colours. All of Joseph's brothers were very jealous because Joseph got a special gift from their father.

(Ask the students): Who would like to wear this coat of many colours?

***ACTION:*** *Select a student. Let the student wear the coat throughout the session.*

**TEACHER: (Ask the children):** How would you feel if your Dad gave a beautiful coat to your brother or sister and did not give you anything? *(Answers: hurt, jealous, resentful, mad, etc.)*

Yes – and Joseph's brothers felt the same way too. They were angry and jealous. One day, Joseph's brothers were in the field looking after their father's sheep. Jacob said to Joseph, go to your brothers and see if they are doing well. Joseph got ready, wearing the special coat, and set out to find his brothers.

**ACTION:** *Joseph walks toward his brothers.*

**TEACHER:** When Joseph was still a distance away from his brothers, they noticed him coming. The brothers pushed Joseph into a pit and then decided to sell him as a slave in a faraway place called Egypt.

**ACTION:** *Have some of the children gently push Joseph down and take his coat off.*

**TEACHER:** The brothers took off Joseph's coat, put the blood of an animal on it, and took it back to their father, Jacob.

When Jacob looked at the coat, he cried, "It is my son Joseph's coat. An animal has killed him." Jacob was very upset. He had loved Joseph so much, and now he thought that Joseph was dead.

In the meantime, Joseph was taken to Egypt as a slave.

**ACTION:** *Ask two children to bind Joseph's hands and lead him to Egypt. Have a sign with the word Egypt, or a pyramid. Once Joseph arrives at the sign/pyramid, he can sit and wait. The two other students can return to their seats.*

**TEACHER:** This is very sad, but God was still with Joseph even though he was a slave in Egypt. Joseph was not alone. God was with him.

One day, the King in Egypt had a strange dream and it disturbed him. The king wanted someone to explain it.

The King had heard that Joseph could interpret dreams. When Joseph came before the king he said, "God can interpret your dream." Joseph then told the King that God was telling him there would be seven years of good crops in Egypt. After those seven years, there would come seven years of hunger... famine.

The King thought that was very wise, so he put Joseph in charge of saving the people from starvation and death. It was a position of great authority. Joseph had an important job to do.

**ACTION:** *Have another student take the handcuffs off of Joseph and have him put on an Egyptian outfit of authority.*

**TEACHER:** Joseph started to work immediately, building barns and gathering all the food.

**ACTION:** *Show the children the bag of grain.*

**TEACHER:** After the seven good years, the seven years of famine began, just like in the King's dream. The people in all the surrounding lands had nothing to eat, but in Egypt there was plenty of food. Soon, all the people around Egypt came to buy grain.

Now, Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy grain too. Joseph immediately recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him.

Joseph told them he was their brother whom they had sold into slavery. He knew that they would be afraid for their lives, but Joseph loved and forgave his brothers. He told them not to be worried. Joseph explained that God had a purpose in sending him to Egypt in order to keep everyone alive during the famine. Joseph's family and the people of Egypt had plenty of food to eat because God had placed Joseph there to help. Then Joseph had his family move to Egypt to be with him.

**ACTION:** *Have Joseph bring the lesson poster to the teacher.*

**TEACHER:** (Pointing to the poster)

God's promise was fulfilled again. Rather than Abraham's descendants dying of hunger, God used Joseph to bring his family to Egypt and get food so they would not starve to death.

Jacob, and his sons and their families moved to Egypt and lived there with Joseph. They had many children. After many years, (400 years) Jacob's family had become a great nation, just as God had promised. They were called the Israelites. However, the Israelites were living in Egypt and did not have their own land. They waited and prayed for God to lead them out of Egypt and back to Canaan, their Promised Land.

### **SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:**

- **What does this story tell us about God?** (God wants to save people, he cares when people are starving, he sends people to help, is with us in times of trouble, can work all things together for good, keeps his promises)
- Tell in your own words what happened at the beginning of our story about

Joseph. What were some of the middle parts of the story? What happened at the end of the story?

- Why did Joseph's brothers throw Joseph into a pit and sell him as a slave? (they were jealous and angry)
- What did God have Joseph do to help the King of Egypt and all the people? (built storehouses and collect grain for the years ahead)
- Why did Joseph's family go to Egypt? (food shortage, famine)
- How did Joseph treat his brothers even though they had harmed him years ago? (forgave them)
- Challenge Questions: How does our memory verse show God's faithfulness to his people? (He can turn bad situations around for good for those who love and obey him.)
- The brothers' plan was to harm Joseph. What was God's plan? (to save the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob from starvation and to save people in Egypt from suffering a famine.)

**Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):**

You and I might go through some tough times, but we must continue to follow and trust God. What are some tough times that people have?

The Bible tells us that God can work all things together for good to those that love him and obey him. But Joseph had to wait many years before his situation changed for good, because it was all a part of God' big plan to rescue his people. And we might have to wait a little while too for God's goodness to show through in our difficult times. But we stay trusting God, reading our Bible and praying because God is ALWAYS faithful and will always be with us.



## 5 | Response Activities

### Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

### Optional Activities

- Different learning stations, such as: a book table, modelling clay, colouring papers.
- Make stripes of many colours from play dough or plasticine.



Joseph before Pharaoh

"You planned to  
harm me. But God  
planned it for good."

(Genesis 50:20 a)