



3rd -5th

July 20-21, 2013

DATE

Joseph

LESSON TITLE

Genesis 37-48

WHERE TO FIND IT

God is trustworthy (even on bad days)

MAIN POINT

schedule

Hang out with kids (10 minutes): Ask kids about their week. Get kids into groups and play games together.

Large Group (30 minutes): Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

Small Group (20-30 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. *If you **all** have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.*

tips

Have kids gather back in front of the teaching area and watch the video from the lesson and do the songs together at the end of small group.

When parents come to pick kids up, they will get a quick review of the lesson along with the kids.

check-in/out

As kids leave, ask them to tell their parents what they had to present for small group.

large group heads up

Today, we're learning the story of Joseph. It's quite a rollercoaster! But God used everything in Joseph's life for good. Joseph's story shows us how trustworthy God is, that he has a bigger plan in mind, and that he loves to rescue us.



instructions

Goal: to help kids understand what this story shows us about God and how believing that could change the way we act

Why? It's important that kids understand God's character by identifying God's traits on their own—and it's equally as important to think about how beliefs about God can translate into action.

Tip: The application activity may be tough for some kids—and if you need to help kids one pair at a time, that's okay. Power through any confusion they have. Being able to understand how beliefs become actions is tough but important!

small group

CONNECT

1. Share your name and one word to describe the best part of your week (if you've already connected before large group, move directly to question #2).
2. Share your favorite part of today's story—or one part that surprised you.
3. Does anybody have any questions about the story?

REVIEW / DIG DEEPER

As you go through the questions, keep this in mind: Joseph didn't know God would turn his situations into good. And we really *do* go through tough situations. It's okay to have bad days—it just helps bring us hope when we remember and believe God has a bigger plan!

4. Why did God let good and *bad* things happen to Joseph?
5. On his bad days, do you think Joseph knew God had a bigger plan?
6. **What does this story show us about God?** (let kids talk about it, but make sure they say he is trustworthy and he loves to rescue us)
7. If you were Joseph, would you have kept following God during the bad times? Why or why not?
8. Has anybody ever seen God take something that seems bad and use it for good? (feel free to share your own example if you have one)

APPLICATION ACTIVITY

Think about today's verse: **Genesis 50:20: You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good. He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives.** We're going to think about HOW our bad days change if we *really* believe this is true.*

- Put kids in teams of 2-4. Let them choose to **draw, sculpt or act**
- Each team is responsible to draw/sculpt/or act out:

(Continued on the next page)

- 1. An example of a bad day (e.g. *you get grounded and have to miss your best friend's birthday party*)
 - 2. How they would normally act (e.g. *cry, slam the door, refuse to talk to their parents, etc.*)
 - 3. How they would act if they trust God can turn bad into good (e.g. *act kind to their parents instead of angry, maybe even be glad they are learning not to disobey their parents*)
- Each team presents their example
 - Let kids ask questions to make sure they understand

If kids need help, give them bad day scenarios like somebody teases them on the bus, an older sibling excludes them, they fail a test, etc. Then ask them how they would normally react. Ask them how they might react if they believed God could make the situation good. Try to ask leading questions to let them come up with how believing this truth would change that situation. That way, we're not accidentally trivializing something that's a big deal to them.

***Pray together and thank God that he is trustworthy and loves to rescue us! If prayer requests emerge while kids talk about good and bad days, be sure to include them!**

Extra time? Talk some more about how Joseph and Jesus are similar. Go around the circle and one sentence (and kid) at a time, make up a funny story about a bad day that gets worse and worse...then turns and gets better! Or play Pictionary or hangman.

LARGE group

special notes

Think of a bad day you've had that you can share. Make sure it is kid-friendly, but *do* think of a real-life example. Kids love it when adults are authentic with them.

presenter tips

Joseph's life had a lot of ups and downs. Reflect that in your presentation! Decide ahead of time which parts you want to say loudly and excitedly...and which ones you want to say quietly and in a tone of disappointment.

script

Hi everybody! Welcome to Kids' Club. It's great to see you here today. We're going to hear an amazing story about how God used a guy named Joseph to save his special family. Joseph was a guy like us who had a lot of good days...and a lot of bad days.

INTRO: BAD DAYS

(Show picture of a person having a bad day.) Okay, let's talk about bad days for a minute. Bad days are the worst, aren't they? Let me tell you about a bad day I had: *(Give a kid-friendly example of a bad day you've had.)*

How about you guys? Has anybody had a **bad** day...one that just made you miserable? (Let kids raise their hands) Yeah, we all have bad days sometimes. Maybe my bad day didn't sound that bad to you, but it was bad to me. We all know what makes a day hard. And unfortunately, hard days are a part of life. Sometimes we even have a whole lot of bad days in a row.

JOSEPH HAD BAD DAYS

If anybody understands having a bad day, it's Joseph. He was his dad's favorite son and liked to brag about it to his brothers. So they hated him. They actually sold him to some people who were traveling through their town. Later, somebody lied about him and he was sent to jail for something he didn't do. He stayed in jail for *years*. Joseph's life would seem great (use an upbeat tone)...then it would change (switch your tone).

GOD USED JOSEPH'S BAD DAYS FOR GOOD

Well, the crazy thing about Joseph is that after ALL of those bad days, he was actually able to say that God used them *for good*. Has anybody ever been able to call a bad day "good" before? (Let kids respond.) It's pretty hard, isn't it?



script continued

Now we're going to watch a video about Joseph. As you watch, see if you can figure out why he said God used his bad days for good:

Video: God's Story / Joseph

Wow, Joseph had a lot of good days and bad days didn't he?! How about the good times? What good things happened in Joseph's life? (Let kids say: *his dad was his favorite, Potiphar put Joseph in charge of his whole house, the guard put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners, God helped Joseph understand what dreams meant, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of Egypt, God used Joseph to save his special family!* **Or re-summarize the events for them in your own words.**)

What happened that might have been hard for Joseph? (Let kids say: *his brothers got mad at him, his brothers sold him, he was blamed for something he didn't do, he went to jail, Egypt was going to starve, etc.* **Or re-summarize the events for them in your own words.**)

GOD HAD A BIGGER PLAN

Why was Joseph able to say that God used all this for good? (Kids can speculate but make sure they say: God used Joseph to save his special family!) Genesis 50:20 tells us what Joseph told his brothers:

SLIDE: Genesis 50:20: You planned to harm me. But God planned it for good. He planned to do what is now being done. He wanted to save many lives.

Wow, that means God had a bigger plan. It seemed like everything was going wrong, but God's whole family was saved. Can you think of anything else in the Bible that seems sad...but God's whole family was rescued? (Let kids say: Jesus died on the cross.)

JOSEPH FORESHADOWS JESUS

(Show slide with Jesus and Joseph.) Yep, the story of Joseph actually gives us a picture of Jesus long before Jesus came to earth.

- Both had to leave their homes: Joseph was sold by his brothers. Jesus left Heaven to come to earth.
- Both were sold for pieces of silver. (Remind kids Judas was offered money to tell the officials where Jesus was.)
- Both were punished when they had done nothing wrong.
- And both forgave people who treated them badly.

And in both stories, God had a bigger plan: saving his family! Pretty cool, huh? Let's stand and worship God to thank him for rescuing us!

WORSHIP

Let's celebrate that God is always with us by worshiping him!

Song: Bravery

Song: I'm Not Alone



script continued

PRAY

Ask somebody to come thank God that he loves to rescue us—and that he can bring good...even from a bad day!



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PREP needs



small group supplies

Per small group:

1. Plain paper
2. Markers
3. Play-Dough

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. Image: bad day (jpeg in curriculum folder)
2. Video: God's Story: Joseph
3. SLIDE: Genesis 50:20:
You planned to harm me. But
God planned it for good.
He planned to do what is now being
done. He wanted to save many lives.
4. Image: 1 slide with 2 images: (1) Jesus

and (2) Joseph (jpegs in curriculum folder)

5. Song: Bravery (use the video with hand motions and lyrics)
6. Song: I'm Not Alone (use the video with hand motions and lyrics)

special room set-up

None

connect questions

Tell me about Joseph.

What does this story show us about God?

parent page

Today, we talked about how Joseph had to go through a lot of tough circumstances. And just when things seemed to get better...they would get worse! But God had a bigger plan in mind: He was going to use Joseph to save his whole family. Ask your kid about it. You can also read this story together in Genesis 37-48 or watch a video about it on CrossroadsKidsClub.net.