

EGYPT

“Joseph and Suffering”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- Joseph and suffering
- The Faith of Joseph
- God Calls Moses
- Moses and Aaron approach Pharaoh

Series Theme Verse: “Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.” 1
Corinthians 16:13

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that suffering happens in the world and as Christians, we must address the needs of others when they are suffering.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 37

Materials Needed: Bibles, theme verse on a poster

Lesson Plan:

Talking Points:

- What job did Joseph and his brothers do for their dad? (Took care of the animals)
- Joseph was Jacob’s favorite son, what did he give Joseph? (Ornate or colorful robe/tunic)
- Did the special gift make Joseph’s brothers happy? (No, hated him and said only bad things about Joseph)
- Joseph had weird dream one night and told his brothers about it, what was that dream? (Their grain bowed down to Joseph’s grain...That Joseph would be the boss of, or rule over his brothers)
- Did Joseph’s dream make his brothers happy? (No, they hated him even more)
- Joseph had a second dream and told his father and brothers about it, what was that dream? (That planets and the sun and moon bowed down to him...That Joseph would be the boss of, or rule over his dad, mom and brothers)
- How did his dream make his brothers feel? (They were jealous of him)
- How did his father respond to his dream? (He told Joseph not to talk about the dream, but his dad remembered the dream)
- One day, Joseph’s brothers were feeding the sheep a long way from home, and Jacob sent Joseph to check on them and then to come back and tell Jacob how his sons were doing. When Jacob finally found his brothers, what did the brothers plan to do to Joseph? (Kill Joseph)
- Why did they want to kill Joseph? (Because of his dreams and he was their dad’s favorite)

- How did they plan to kill him? (Throwing him in a deep hole and making it look like an animal killed him)
- Did they kill Joseph? (No, Reuben convinced them not to. Instead he convinced them to just throw him in the deep hole)
- Why did Reuben not want to kill Joseph? (He wanted to save Joseph because he knew it would make his father happy that Joseph was alive)
- After they stole his robe and threw Joseph in the deep hole, what did the brothers do? (They saw traders and they sold Joseph to the people as a slave)
- What did the brothers do with Joseph's robe? (Dipped it in blood and took it to their father)
- What did Jacob think happened to Joseph when he saw the robe? (He thought Joseph had been eaten by a ferocious animal)
- What ended up happening to Joseph? (He was sold to an official of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt)

The Story Retold:

- Divide students into two groups.
- Have one group read Genesis 39 and the other group read Genesis 40.
- Have each group summarize their chapter and tell the story to the class.
- After both groups have reported to the group, remind them of all the suffering Joseph went through: Brothers hated him, threw him in a well, sold him into slavery, lied about him, tempted to sin with Potiphar's wife, ran away naked, thrown in prison, forgotten in prison after helping someone, etc.
- Ask students to list all the emotions Joseph must have gone through in the early part of his life. List the emotions on a white board.
- Ask students how most people would respond to so much suffering in their lives?
- Explain to students that suffering happens every day in the world and right around us. We are called to be agents of God's Kingdom. When we see suffering, we are to intervene and bring hope to the situation.
- Ask students what kind of suffering they see in the lives of their peers? How can they bring hope to these situations? (Example: A friend's mom is dying, we are to walk with our friend, praying for and with them, and sometimes, just being there to give a hug and let our friend cry without us explaining why this is happening)

The Story and Me:

- Have the series memory verse on a poster.
- Read the verse together and remind students that we are to watch for and be alert to others' suffering. Our faith should lead us to help those that are suffering.
- Have each person say the verse out loud.