

EGYPT

“Joseph in the Pit”

Series Objective:

Students will learn:

- Joseph in the Pit
- Joseph at Potiphar’s House
- Moses commits murder
- Moses returns to Egypt

Series Theme Verse: “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

Lesson Objective: For students to understand that we all go through “pit” experiences, but where we turn in those moments determines how we respond.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 37

Materials Needed: Bibles, theme verse on a poster, paper for each student, crayons or markers or pencils

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:

- While in the pit, the only place Joseph had to look was...UP!
- We will all experience suffering in our lives, and we must learn to look up.
- We approach God in prayer in many ways, but sometimes we need to pray in a way that helps us to convey our feelings.
- Writing a prayer can be the best way to pray during the painful moments in our lives.
- Give each student a piece of paper and have them write a prayer to God:
 - First thanking God for a specific way that God provided for them during the week
 - Then writing any requests they might have
 - Then writing any emotions they might have experienced and how they need God to respond
 - Finally thank God for the love shown in us being able to approach God in prayer.

The Story and Me:

- Remind students that in times of suffering, we should seek God's comfort and peace.
- Point to the poster and have each student read the Series Theme Verse out loud.
- Read the verse as a group and tell students that we will see several times in the upcoming weeks where heroes of the Bible needed God's peace, just like Joseph did in the pit.