

EGYPT

“The faith of Joseph”

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 faith is our strength through difficult times.

Lesson Passage: Genesis 42-45

Materials Needed: Bibles, theme verse on a poster

Lesson Plan: Remind students of the trials of Joseph from last week: Brothers hated him, wanted to kill him, sold him into slavery, accused of trying to rape a woman when he was actually fleeing temptation, thrown in jail, forgotten about in jail, but at every stop, God blessed him, even in the worst of situations. To catch up to where we are today, Joseph finally gets out of prison and is put second in command over all Egypt to prepare the country for a coming famine. Joseph does an amazing job storing food for the country to help when the 7 year famine hits. He does so well that neighboring countries come to Egypt to buy food from him. One family affected by the family is Joseph’s family...

Divide students up in three small groups. Have one group read Genesis 42, Genesis 43, and Genesis 44. Have them give a quick summary of each chapter.

Talking Points: Genesis 45:1-15

- Why did Joseph kick everybody out of the room? (So he could tell his brothers who he was)
- Was Joseph emotional at seeing his brothers? (Yes, he wept so loudly that he was heard throughout the palace)
- Why did Joseph’s brothers not respond when he revealed who he was and asked about his father, Jacob? (They were scared. They had sold him into slavery and now he was the second most powerful man in Egypt. What if Joseph was holding a grudge?!)
- Did Joseph understand their silence? (Yes, he knew they were scared)
- How did Joseph calm their fears? (He said that everything done to him was to save others and what they meant for harm to him, God used for good. He even says that God sent Joseph, not the brothers)

- What does Joseph want most? (To see his father)
- How does Joseph show he has forgiven his brothers? (He lets them go, but also kisses each one of them, a sign that they are family)
- Jacob does go to Egypt and his family moves there. The Hebrew people actually become one of the largest groups in Egypt, numbering in the millions. Next week, we will look at the rising of another leader of the Hebrew people in Egypt. But this week, take some time to read Genesis 46-50 and hear the rest of Joseph's story.

The Story and Me:

- Have the series memory verse on a poster.
- Ask the students how the Series Theme Verse applies to the life of Joseph?
- Would you say that Joseph is a man of great faith? Why or Why Not?
- What does that type of faith look like in our lives? (Forgiving, belief in God's provision, even in painful times, etc.)
- Write the verse on a notecard and have the students place the card where they will see it every morning when they wake up. This will be a reminder of Joseph's faith and the faith we should have each day.