

Adventures with GOD!

JOESPH, THE LOVED SON (A.2.FALL.7)

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| Biblical Reference | Genesis 37:1-11 |
| Key Verse | Genesis 45:8a |
| Key Concept | God uses difficult situations to fulfill his plans in my life and in the lives of others. |
| Educational Objectives | At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Say how many brothers Joseph had. 2. Demonstrate the reaction of his brother's when Joseph received a special gift from his father. 3. Express something about the relationship between Joseph and his father. |

LIFE APPLICATION

Joseph's whole life was guided by God. While his brothers hated him, God had an important plan for him. God can use even the most difficult things in life, for our good and the good of others. This was the experience of Joseph. The children will have three weeks to explore and learn about Joseph. Every detail of Joseph's life teaches us many things. The Bible exploration and activities should help them understand that God is with us even when we are going through unpleasant moments.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

| Activity | Materials | Time |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------|
| Opening Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |
| Craft | Sheets, crayons | 10 minutes |
| Bible Exploration | Illustration, bible, puppets | 10 minutes |
| Game | See instructions | 10 minutes |
| Crafts | Fabrics, crayons, white paper | 10 minutes |
| Closing Prayer | Candle | 1 minute |

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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer

Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle

Prayer: God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen (For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Craft: As children arrive to the classroom, have them add another piece to their booklets. The symbol of today is a coat of many colors.

Bible Exploration: Use the following illustration and tell the story of Joseph and the relationship with his father. Use the story found on the following page. We must emphasize the idea that God was with Joseph in every situation of life. You can tell the story using puppets.

Game: Work on the puzzle ahead of time, so that you can have a copy of one for every two children in the class. Ask them to help color and stick on thick cardboard with adhesive on back. With your guidance and assistance cut out and let them play a while.

Crafts: Attached are several crafts that could be used today. Children can make one or two, depending on the weather. At this age some children do not know numbers, it is important to help them. It would be better to enlarge the illustration and color as instructed. If you choose the “coat of many colors” use cardboard to withstand the weight of the pasta that they will stick to decorate the coat. If you have other ideas, use them. Make sure that each child has 12 figures of the sons of Jacob. It would be better to give them the cutouts with the holes made in the black dots, and color them to pass the string of yarn through the holes, making a collar. They can take the craft home to tell family and friends the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Closing Prayer

Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

Prayer: Thank you God for making us, Thank you God for making the world. Amen

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Bible Exploration

The boy who saved his family

Note: Tell the story in several parts - one each Sunday.

PART I: Joseph, the beloved son

There once was a boy named Joseph. He belonged to a family of 12 children. His father's name was Jacob and his family lived in Canaan from the time of his great-grandfather, Abraham.

Jacob had many animals. His children looked after the sheep and goats.

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his children. Joseph was an obedient and affectionate child who worked hard with his father. While his brothers were naughty and bothered him, Joseph was a good son who obeyed his father. Joseph helped his father Jacob in all that he could. Although he was very young, God began to show him things through dreams; he would be someone very important. Joseph had to suffer much throughout his life, but he never forgot his father's love. Joseph loved God and always obeyed and loved his father.

One day Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful color long coat. With this gift all his brothers realized that Joseph was going to be the leader of the family, but felt that he was too young. The child Joseph was very proud of his coat.

PART II: JOSEPH, BROTHER HATED

Joseph's brothers could see that their father loved Joseph more than them. And for this reason they were jealous of him. When Joseph told his brothers, "I dreamed that we were making bundles of wheat." Joseph's Dream angered his brothers. He went to say that "on another occasion I dreamed that the sun, moon and stars bowed down to me!"

"Do you think we will bow before you?" they answered and mocked him.

One day Joseph went to his brothers in the field. When they saw him from a distance, one of them said: "Let's kill the dreamer." "No," said the major. "Rather throw him in a dry well."

Then they took his beautiful robe off and put him in a deep hole. At that time merchants passed the well on their way to Egypt and sold him into slavery for twenty pieces of silver.

Joseph's brother's smeared the coat with goat blood. When Jacob the father saw the robe he gave his beloved son, cried and said: "A wild animal has killed my son." And he was very sad.

En route to Egypt Joseph wept along the way and thought: "When will I see my father again and why did my brothers do this to me?" Then Joseph thought, "God can do something bad, something good." And Joseph began to feel better and the fear began to fade.

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PART III: JOSEPH, THE KING'S FRIEND

In Egypt Joseph was bought by a wealthy man. He had to work without pay but his master liked what he did. God was with Joseph.

One night the king of Egypt called all his wise men. He said: "I dreamed that seven fat cows and seven lean cows ate up the fat. Then I saw seven strong wheat stalks and seven weak wheat stalks. He asked the wise men: What can my dream mean? "But the wise men could not interpret his dream. One of the king's servants said to him, "Joseph can interpret dreams." (Meaning that Joseph knew what the dreams meant because God helped him understand). The king commanded to bring him immediately. Joseph was an adult by this time.

Joseph explained the dream. "O King, for seven years there will be much food here. But seven years later there will be almost no food. They have to store food in the years of plenty. So there will be food in the years of poverty." "You're a very wise man," said the king. "I want you to take care of everything I have." The king gave him new clothes, a real ring, a horse and wagon.

PART IV: JOSEPH, BROTHER PARDONER

Suddenly came the seven good years of plenty. Everything grew quite dramatically (wheat, corn, vegetables, fruit, and cattle and sheep). Joseph had to build new warehouses to store everything. And then came the bad years of poverty. But people could buy food because Joseph had saved in the first seven years. Then the elder brothers of Joseph came from their country to buy food for their families. They leaned against the head of Egypt (Joseph). Although they did not identify their brother, Joseph recognized them. "You are spies!" he shouted. "Oh, no, sir," they replied. "We've come a long way just to buy food for our families." "No, you are spies!" Joseph said again, and ordered to send them to jail. After three days the brothers were brought back into the presence of Joseph. "Now we are paying for what we did to our brother Joseph" thought them very fearful and feeling guilty for what they had done with his brother in the past. Joseph heard what they said felt sorry for them and presented himself to his brothers, saying: "I am Joseph, your brother and I'm not angry with you. God brought me to Egypt to help. And Joseph forgave his brothers. The brothers were happy! For many years they felt sorry for what he had done. They returned to Egypt to bring their families food. Jacob was very happy to learn that his son had not died "Lord you are helping us!" Joseph felt in his heart. God said, "I'll take you to Egypt, but someday I will bring back to your family and I will give this land again." Jacob and his children and grandchildren moved to Egypt. Joseph was overjoyed when he saw his father. The family received bags with wheat, flour and other food. Their animals were able to feed on good pastured valley. God was with them. And he fulfilled his promise to bring them back to their country.

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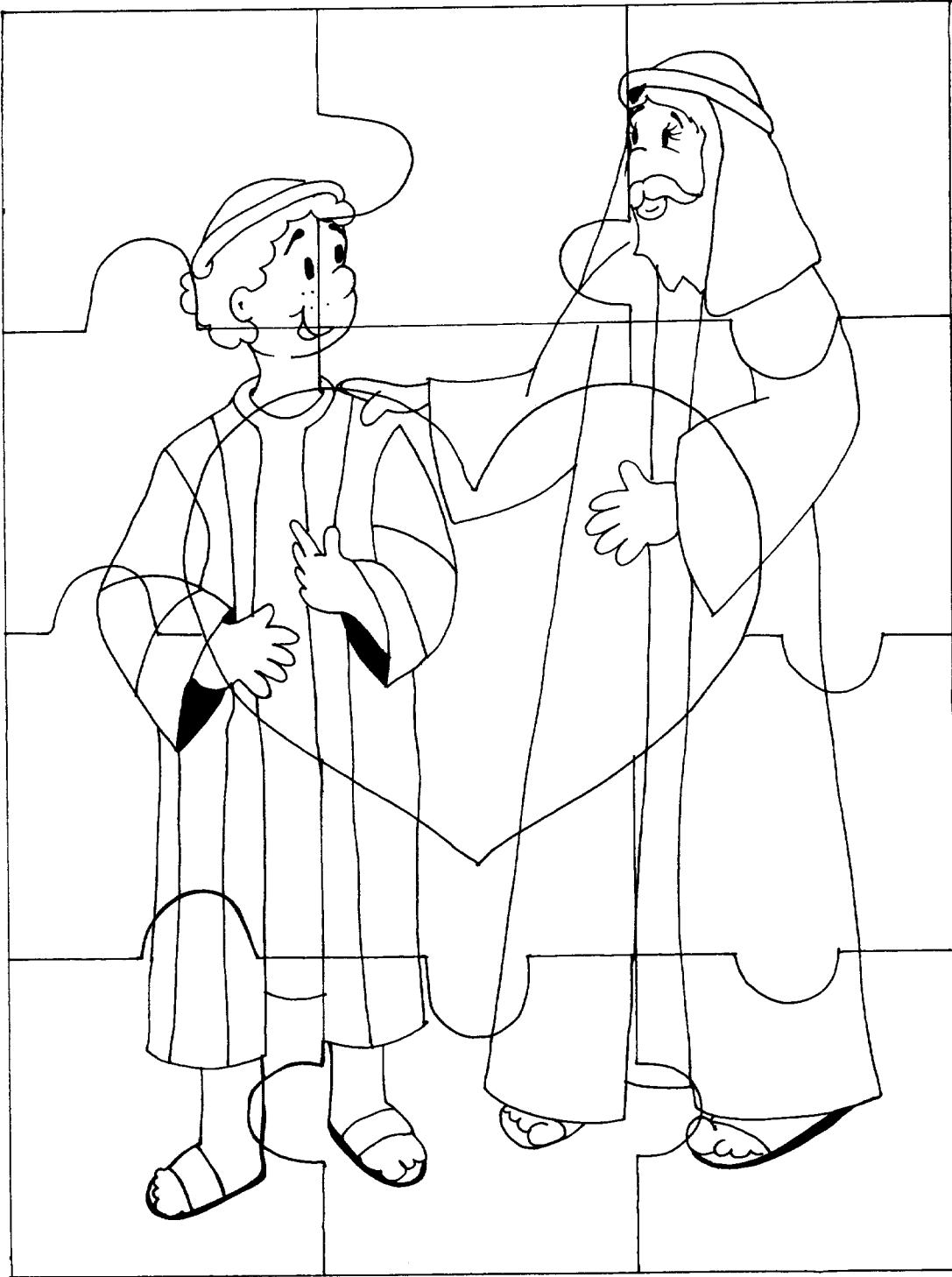
ILLUSTRATION

You can use this as a visual illustration for the story or for children to color after hearing the story.



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PUZZLE



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CRAFT

Joseph was a boy who loved and obeyed God and so God blessed him. Joseph was tending his father's sheep. Joseph's father loved him very much and one day gave him a beautiful coat of many colors.

Using the guide color Joseph's coat. Then color the sheep and the rest of the drawing.

1 = red 2 = yellow 3 = blue



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CRAFT - Coat of many colors JOSEPH

Materials: white paper
egg carton pieces (different colors) or pasta of different colored shapes (such as soup letters pasta)
glue (rubber) crayons scissors

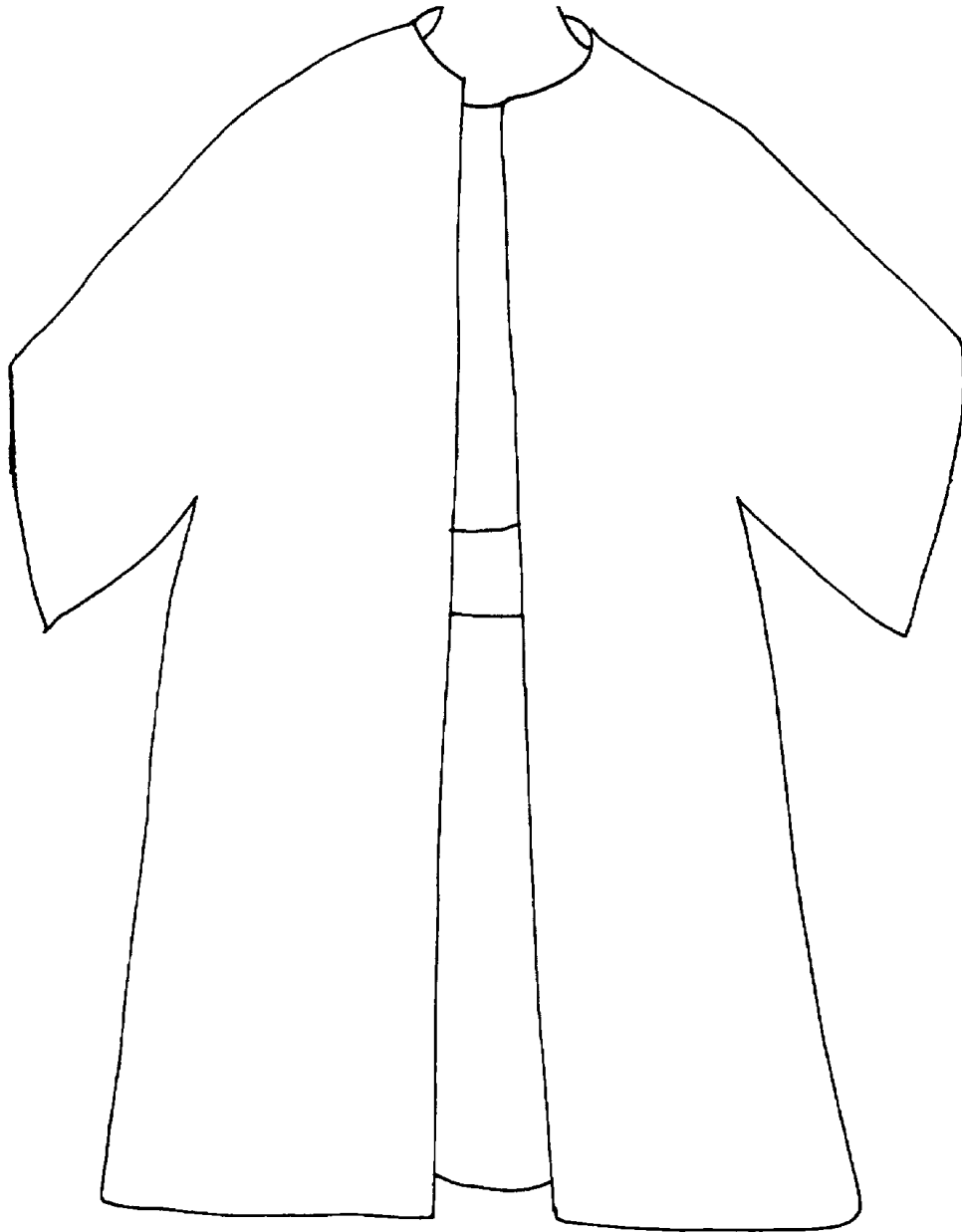
- Preparation:
1. before class you could make copies for each child.
 2. Cut pieces of egg cartons of different colors or pieces of pasta shapes.
 3. Children can glue the pieces of cardboard of different colors in different areas of the coat.
 4. When dry - trim the two sides of the coat.
 5. Then glue the two parts in the picture of Joseph, and color the face, hair, and so on.



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CRAFT

Coat of many colors of Joseph



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CRAFT

Joseph with the coat of many colors



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CRAFT - A FAMILY ON A STRING

Jacob had twelve (12) handsome sons, but Joseph was his favorite.



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