

Dramatize the Story of Joseph Receiving His Brothers

Genesis 42-45

Preparation

If you want to use costumes, let Joseph wear a large white T-shirt (adult size) with a sash tied at the waist. You may want to use fabric crayon to make a colorful design around the neck to suggest an Egyptian necklace. The brothers can wear old men's shirts that have the collars and cuffs cut off. You could also make a chariot by decorating the sides of a wagon with cardboard spray-painted gold.

In preparation for the dramatization, assign each child the name of a brother. Have them line up in order of oldest to youngest: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, and Benjamin. (To help the children learn the names of the 12 sons, you may want to teach them "The Twelve Sons of Israel" song by Lori S. Odhner which is available as a video.)

Dramatization

Retell the story or read selected portions from the Word as the children dramatize the story of the brothers going to Egypt and being reunited with Joseph.

- While in Egypt, fill their sacks (bags) with sand from a sandbox and hide the money in each sack.
- Have the children go back "home" (without Simeon) and be dismayed to find the money.
- When they return to Egypt with Benjamin, have them take some honey and almonds as gifts for Joseph. They are taken to Joseph's home, where Simeon is reunited with them.
- Have an Egyptian meal, seating all of the brothers in order of age.
- The brothers depart once again with their sacks refilled.
- Hide money in each sack and put a metal goblet (or a plastic one) in Benjamin's sack.
- After they depart for home, have them pursued and the cup found in Benjamin's sack.
- Have Judah plead with Joseph to spare Benjamin.
- Now Joseph reveals himself to them, saying, "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt."
- Joseph hugs Benjamin and weeps for joy. Then he greets all of his brothers and talks with them, before sending them to bring their father back to Egypt with them, where they will all make their home.
- The brothers tell their father Jacob, "Joseph is still alive, and he is governor over all the land of Egypt."
- Jacob does not believe them at first. But when he hears their story and sees all of the gifts that Joseph has sent with them, he says, "It is enough. Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."