

Sacks of Grain from Egypt

Genesis 41 and 44

For **Genesis 41**, have the students make small sacks, fill them with grain, put the money into the mouths of the sacks, and tie them closed. The purpose of this project is to develop sewing skills, and to practice weighing skills. When you have finished the activity, put the money into the mouth of the sacks and tie closed with twine.

For **Genesis 44**, have the students make small scale sacks, fill them with grain, and one student will put a “cup” in his sack.

Choose one of the following methods:

1. To make hand-made bags, use brown felt and stitch the edges with embroidery thread. The teacher will need to cut the felt into rectangles. (Hint: for fast cutting, buy felt squares, and use a rotary cutter and metal-edge ruler to cut several at once.) Threading needles ahead of time and using doubled thread with a knot at the end will also reduce the amount of help students will need to stitch their bags.
2. Use sewing machines to stitch the edges of the sacks. You can use felt or other fabrics from the remnant table at the sewing store. (Hint: use a rotary cutter for faster cutting.) For faster sewing, you can ask for volunteer parents to help with the sewing.
3. Find a parent volunteer to make sacks for you or purchase small bags, and make this an exercise in using a scale to weigh out grain.

Materials for Method 1:

felt squares (one square will be enough for 2 students)
needles and embroidery floss to match the felt square
grain to fill the sacks

(If you can't find wheat, look for barley in the dried bean section of the grocery store. This looks similar to wheat.)

For a lesson on **Genesis 41**, you will need “money” to go in the mouth of the sacks.

(Try the dollar store for plastic money. If this fails, make coins out of aluminum foil. Coins would not have been perfectly round and standard as they are today.)

For a lesson on **Genesis 44**, you will need a “cup” to go in Benjamin's sack.

(Try the dollar store for fridge-sized plastic award cups, or a doll house store for a miniature cup.)

scissors and/or rotary cutter and board
twine for tying up the sacks
optional: a scale for weighing grain

Materials for Method 2:

fabric remnants or burlap (These are the least expensive. Burlap ravel easily, so you may want to protect the edges with masking tape if you decide to use it.)

sewing machine(s) and thread to match the fabric
scissors and/or rotary cutter and board
grain

“money” or “cup” (depending on which story you are teaching)

twine for tying up the sacks
optional: a scale for weighing grain

Materials for Method 3:

Purchase small bags, or get help making small sacks using burlap or fabric remnants.
grain
“money” or “cup” (depending on which story you are teaching)
twine for tying up the sacks
scale(s) for weighing out grain. (This could be a balance, a scale with kilos, grams, ounces, *etc.*)

Sewing recommendation:

Teach the students running stitch—a simple in and out stitch along each edge of the sack.