



Joseph's Cup Found

Genesis 43; 44:1-17

Level C

Ages 11-14

Life Focus: I am responsible for what I do.

Story Summary: The famine continued, and Jacob and his family needed more grain. Judah reminded Jacob that Benjamin had to go to Egypt with them and he took responsibility for Benjamin's safekeeping. The brothers returned to Egypt with gifts and double the money they needed. Joseph saw them and prepared a feast for them. The frightened brothers told the steward about the money in their sacks and learned that it was not a problem. The brothers bowed to Joseph when he arrived. Overcome by seeing Benjamin, Joseph wept. The brothers were seated by age at the feast, and Benjamin was served five times more food than anyone else. The next morning Joseph instructed that his cup should be secretly put in Benjamin's sack along with the grain. Shortly after the brothers left, Joseph's steward went after them and found the cup. The brothers returned to Joseph, bowing to the ground.

Lesson 5

Materials Needed

		Supplied with Lesson	Additional Materials
1. Getting Started (2-3 min)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Welcome Warm-up Activity directions p. 46	<i>optional:</i> pencils and paper
2. Focus on the Word use all activities (5-7 min)	Read the Word Talk About It story discussion	Talk About It discussion guide p. 46	Bible or copy of Genesis 43; 44:1-17
3. Engage with the Word choose 1 or 2 activities (15-20 min)	Service Project make, set up and/or serve refreshments for the congregation	Serving Body and Soul suggestions for food, set-up and serving p. 47	food to prepare or prepared Food, plates or napkins, serving trays, etc.
	Skits explore honesty issues through drama	Is This Honest? directions pp. 47-48 <i>Is This Honest?</i> pp. 50-51	
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 min)	Take the Message Home a door hanger with a summary of the lesson and activities	Joseph's Cup Found Door Hanger p. 52	color version available at www.newchurch.org/youth-journey-programs

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

Two Truths and a Lie

Ask each student to come up with 3 facts about him or herself. Two should be true; one should be made up. (Wait to share them with others!) *Optional*: provide paper and pencils to jot the ideas down for easier recollection.

Students tell their 3 facts to the group. The group tries to guess which fact is not true.

2. Focus on the Word

Read Genesis 43; 44:1-17 (choose selections)

**Talk
About It**

If your parents stopped going to the store to buy food, how long would it take your family to run out of food?

Jacob waited a long time before sending his sons back to Egypt to buy more food. What was he worried about? He did not want to send Benjamin because he was worried something might happen to him.

Think of a time when you were worried about something you knew you had to do. Describe your experience.

Who was in prison in Egypt and would not be released until Benjamin came? Simeon.

What did the steward say when the brothers tried to give back the money they had found in their sacks after their last trip? He said that he had already been paid and that their God had given them the money in their sacks. **How might they have felt about this?**

How did Joseph respond to seeing Benjamin? He cried.

How did Joseph seat his brothers at the feast? From oldest to youngest. **Why was this surprising?** It would have been impossible for someone to know the brothers' ages just from looking at them.

Why do you think Joseph hid his cup in Benjamin's sack? There may be many imagined reasons for this. The deeper spiritual meaning has to do with the way the Lord (represented by Joseph) plants good and true ideas in our minds without our knowledge. The steward's accusation that he took the cup himself pictures the way we sometimes take credit for true and good ideas from the Lord, claiming them as our own (see *Secrets of Heaven* 5780, on p. 53).

What did Judah admit when Joseph interrogated them? They were guilty of having done something wrong. (The full admission of exactly what they had done is in the next lesson.) The first step we can take if we have done something wrong is to admit what we have done.

Judah spoke out on behalf of his brothers and took responsibility for Benjamin's apparent theft. He asked to stay in Egypt in Benjamin's place. Taking responsibility for our actions, admitting wrong-doing, is the first step in turning and leading a new life—a life that leads to heaven.

3. Engage with the Word

Choose one or two activities

Choice

Serving Body and Soul

When Joseph's brothers returned to Egypt with Benjamin, Joseph invited them to his home for a meal. Breaking bread together is a tangible act of sharing the Lord's love with others. Jesus Himself broke bread and shared it with His disciples.

Students will prepare and serve food to their church congregation. Choose a level of commitment that feels right to you! Purchase, prepare or bake enough food for your congregation. Set up and serve. Since you (the teacher) will be preparing for this activity ahead of time, you will be making decisions about the level of involvement the students will have. Give students as much ownership in the event as you can by getting them to choose and set up work teams to handle different tasks, e.g. food preparation, room set-up, table set-up.

Teach students how to set up/run a coffee maker, what to put out to serve hot drinks, how much juice to pour into cups for children, how to run the dishwasher or do dishes, etc. Empower students to organize, set up and serve refreshments independently in the future!

1. Purchase baking supplies or food that can be easily assembled. Suggestions:
 - cookie ingredients or a mix that can be prepared and baked in half an hour
 - crackers with hummus or cheese (cut up cheese, set up on serving platters with crackers)
 - fresh vegetables, e.g. carrots, broccoli, cucumber, peppers, etc. (wash, peel, cut up) *optional*: serve with dip
 - fresh fruit, e.g. apples, pears, grapes, oranges (wash, cut up)
2. Express appreciation to the students as they work and encourage others to do the same. This will help them feel they are making a difference and will encourage them to do it again.

Choice

Is This Honest?

The story of Joseph presents the theme of honesty and dishonesty in a variety of ways. Joseph's brothers dishonestly hide what they have done to Joseph and present their father with his bloody coat, leading Jacob to think that a wild beast has killed Joseph. Memories of these actions return to the brothers whenever something bad happens. In this story Joseph plants his cup in Benjamin's sack and then accuses the brothers of theft. The Heavenly Doctrine tells us that the deed of hiding the cup pictures the way we claim credit for the true ideas that we know and the good deeds that we do that really belong to the Lord.

'What deed is this that you have done?' means that to lay claim to what is not one's own is a gross evil. This is clear from the meaning of 'theft', of which the brothers were accused, as laying claim to truth or good that is the Lord's. This is 'the deed' that is meant in the internal sense (*Secrets of Heaven* 5780).

Twelve skit scenarios are provided to help students explore honesty and dishonesty. Choose skits that will work for your group. Each skit explores a different type of stealing. Themes include taking credit falsely, stealing an opportunity, stealing someone's reputation, stealing someone's work, stealing an object, etc.

Important

If your congregation regularly serves food after church, coordinate with your refreshment head well ahead of time and find out how students can make a difference to them and to others!

Preparation

plan and purchase enough finger food or baking supplies for your event, and any napkins, plates, cups, etc. you need to serve

Materials

Is This Honest? pp. 50-51, cut apart

Preparation

Cut apart the *Is This Honest?* cards.

Is This Honest? *continued*

1. What is honesty? Are there ways in which we can be honest or dishonest in addition to taking something from another person?
2. We will be acting out skits about honesty. Each skit gives you three possible ways to handle a situation. Prepare to act your scenario three times—with a different ending each time.
3. Divide students into groups of 2 or 3.
4. Assign a skit to each group, or let groups choose a skit.
5. Give groups 5 minutes to prepare.
6. Gather students for presentations to the entire group. Stop the action after each ending and ask the students to comment on the choices being made. For example,
 - Is this a good idea?
 - What is wrong?
 - How might he/she feel about that later?
 - Will this make the situation better or worse?
 - How would you feel if that was you?
 - Have you felt like that before?
 - Have you been in a situation like this?
7. How many kinds of honesty and dishonesty were presented in this activity?
8. Did any of them surprise you?
9. In what ways is the saying “honesty is the best policy” wise?

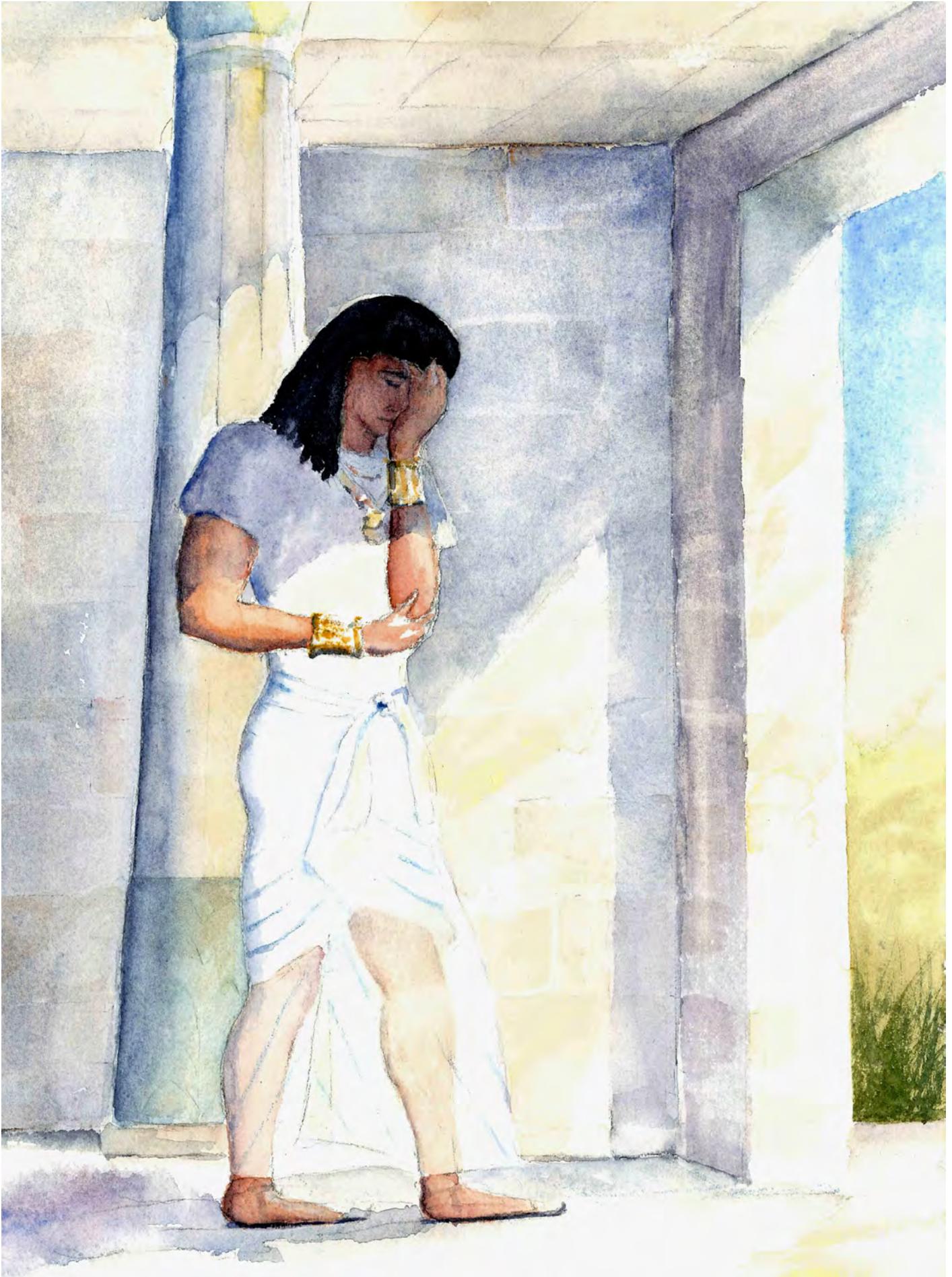
4. Wrap It Up

Closing

Gather the students together. It is easy to blame others to avoid being caught if we have made a mistake or done something wrong. Admitting the truth can be painful. In what ways can you take responsibility for your actions, as Judah did? The Word says “turn and live” (Ezekiel 18:32). Taking responsibility is a turning point in our journey towards heaven.

Hand each student a copy of the *Joseph’s Cup Found Door Hanger* (p. 52). Read the “You can choose to be honest” section at the top of the hanger with the students. Look at “Shun deceit.” Encourage the students to do one or more of the activities this week.

Note: a color version of the door hanger can be printed from www.newchurch.org/youth-journey-programs.



Is This Honest?

Weed Whacking Oops

You and a friend have been hired to mow and weed whack a neighbor's lawn. You accidentally ruin an expensive soccer goal on the lawn by slicing the net with the weed whacker.

1. Discuss what has happened with your friend. Decide to hide what has happened and pray nobody will find out you did it.
2. Finish the job. Tell your employer what you have done, but tell him it wasn't your fault because the goal shouldn't have been left there.
3. Stop what you are doing. Tell your employer what happened and offer to pay for the damage.

Group Project

You have been assigned a group project in school. Your project will receive one shared grade. You want to do well. You think that others in your group don't care about their grade.

1. Do the project alone so you get the grade you want.
2. Divide the work as you have been instructed and do a good job on your part. Accept the shared grade.
3. Let your group know how much you care and encourage everyone to do their best so you can all get a good grade.

Going to the Movies!

The final episode of a movie trilogy is finally out! Your friends have seen the first two movies. A boy who has not seen the other movies wants to come. He's a little awkward and your friends are worried he'll ask lots of questions and ruin the movie. They don't want him to come.

1. Tell him the truth and offer to watch the first two movies again with him.
2. Go without him and hope he doesn't find out.
3. Tell him you've decided not to go and then go without him.

My Sibling Is Such a Pain

Your younger brother/sister is with you and your friends. He/she has threatened to say something embarrassing about you, such as the fact that you still take a stuffed toy to bed, that you "like" someone, etc.

1. Forcefully tell him/her to be quiet.
2. Deny what he/she is saying and accuse him/her of telling lies.
3. Say unkind things about him/her to discredit what he/she is saying.

I'd Rather Talk About...

You hate math class and did not study for a quiz. You know your math teacher loves football.

1. Stall for time to avoid taking the test by asking the teacher about his favorite football team.
2. Copy the test answers from a friend.
3. Take the test and accept the likely bad grade.

That Looks Good

You like a ring that you have found on the floor. A girl you don't know walks past, looking for a ring she has lost.

1. Hide the ring in your pocket and say you haven't seen a ring.
2. Ask the girl to describe the ring to see if it's hers.
3. Show the girl the ring, but tell her it now belongs to you since she was careless and lost it.

Is This Honest?

My Work

Your teacher has asked you to write a poem. You can't think of an idea. You copy one you find online and hand it in as your own work. You get an A.

1. Accept your classmates' praise when you are asked to read the great poem to the class.
2. Accept the A. "Modestly" hide your work when your teacher praises you in front of everyone.
3. Admit copying it when your teacher suggests submitting your poem to a national poetry competition.

I Could Do It Better...

You have many talents. You write and draw very well. You are doing a group project with people who are not as gifted as you. You think the girl who is drawing the pictures is doing a terrible job.

1. Tell her it looks bad and offer to re-do it.
2. Change her picture while she isn't looking.
3. Stop and think about your classmate and accept that this is her best work. Acknowledge the best elements of her efforts.

Hey, I Was Talking...

You have a lot to say in a conversation with a group of friends. After ten minutes someone else tries to say something that is unrelated to what you were saying.

1. Stare at him/her, tell him/her you have not finished, and continue speaking.
2. Stop talking and listen to what he/she has to say, but start right back up as soon as it's quiet again.
3. Apologize for not noticing how long you had been talking and let someone start a new topic of conversation.

I'm Just Borrowing It

It's Friday. You are going out but have "nothing" to wear. Your sister is away for the weekend. You go to her closet and put on her new clothes without asking.

1. Return the clothes later without telling her.
2. Tell her about your emergency and ask for forgiveness.
3. Remind her that she has taken your clothes in the past, making this OK.

I Did This!

You are a great athlete. You have worked hard and won a qualifying race and that gives you the opportunity to represent your country in an international event. People are congratulating you.

1. Take credit for your great work-out ethic because it has made you a great athlete!
2. Be unsatisfied until you are the best in the world!
3. Give credit to the Lord for giving you a healthy body and the discipline and drive to excel.

He Cheated!

Frank designs an amazing project and is awarded first prize for it. Andy takes second place. Andy is jealous and upset and tells people Frank cheated—his dad made it and he doesn't deserve the prize.

1. Disagree with Andy. Defend Frank—you think he's honest.
2. Let Frank know what Andy has said so he can defend himself.
3. Tell Andy his words and actions are cheating Frank of his prize and that he is ruining people's trust in Frank's work.

“What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves?”

Joseph's Cup Found

“What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves?”

Cut out the shaded doorhanger. Fold it in half and hang it over a door.

You can choose to be honest

“So far as a person is not deceitful, he is sincere. By sincerity is also meant integrity, justice, fidelity, and uprightness. A person who shuns fraud, cunning and deceit is in these virtues...from the Lord.” *Doctrine of Life* 82-83

The Lord's Word tells us that in order to learn to do good things we must first stop doing evil things. If we turn away from an evil act or thought, the Lord can fill us with the opposite good thought and desire. So, for example, to become an honest, sincere person, we must stop lying, stop being deceitful.

We may lie for all kinds of reasons—from embarrassment, fear of consequences, even just to avoid inconvenience. We can even deceive ourselves, telling ourselves negative self-messages that aren't true such as “No one likes me.”

Shun deceit

I can stop deceiving others about...

Think of something you lied about recently, even something small. Why did you lie? Figuring out why you reacted with deceit can strengthen your resolve not to do it again.

I can stop deceiving myself about...

Think of a time when you lied to yourself. The next time that message pops up in your head, remind yourself that it is a lie!

I can be true to my ideals...

What does being sincere mean to you? What steps can you take to live with more sincerity?

Cease to do evil,
Learn to do good...

