

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 3 – Lesson 11
Joseph Welcomes His Family (Genesis 42-50)

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord never lets misfortunes come to us without a good reason.
- B. Every place mentioned in the Word has a special meaning.
- C. If we trust in the Lord and obey His commandments, His power will always protect us.
- D. The Lord keeps our early states of belief stored up within us as a basis for our later salvation.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. Last time we talked about how the Lord raised up Joseph from being a slave and then a prisoner to being the second most powerful man in all Egypt. Do you remember what very important job Pharaoh gave to Joseph? (To store up food during the 7 years of plenty so there would be food during the 7 years of famine.)
- 2. Do you know why Pharaoh gave this Job to Joseph? (He knew Joseph must be a wise man because the Lord had chosen to show Joseph the meaning of dreams.)
- 3. Today we will finish the story of Joseph.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Retelling of Genesis 42:

The famine came, just as Pharaoh's dream had warned. Back in the land of Canaan, Jacob heard there was grain for sale in Egypt, so he sent his sons to buy some. But he kept Benjamin at home because he was afraid something bad might happen to him.

When the ten brothers arrived in Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, he recognized them, but they didn't recognize him. Joseph pretended that he thought the brothers were spies, and he put them all in prison for 3 days. Then he told them to go home, get their youngest brother, and bring him back to Egypt to prove they weren't spies. He kept Simeon in prison and sent the other nine home.

Jacob was angry with his sons for saying they had a youngest brother, and he refused to send Benjamin to Egypt.

2. Retelling of Genesis 43:

But eventually Jacob and his household ran out of grain, and Jacob told his ten sons, "Go back, buy us a little food." (45:2) Judah, the fourth born son, reminded his father that they couldn't buy any more grain unless they brought Benjamin with them to prove they weren't spies. Judah promised to bring Benjamin home safely, and Jacob reluctantly agreed to let his favorite son go on the journey.

So the ten brothers took a present of balm, honey, spices, myrrh, and nuts for Joseph, and they took their youngest brother, Benjamin, and they set out again to buy food in Egypt. When they arrived, they gave Joseph the present and showed that they had their brother, Benjamin, with them. Joseph was so glad to see Benjamin that he hurried out of the room and cried where his brothers couldn't see him. Then he came back and invited them to dine with him. He had them seated around the table according to the order in which they were born, which astonished them very much, and he gave Benjamin five times as much food as anyone else!

3. Now we'll read part of the story right from the Word. (Read Genesis 44:1-4, 6, 11-17.)
4. But Judah had promised his father that he would bring Benjamin back safely. He couldn't let Joseph keep Benjamin as a slave! So he begged Joseph, "Please let [me] remain instead of the lad as a slave to [you], and let the lad go up with his brothers. For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me?" (44:35, 34)
5. Let's read what happened next. (Read Gen. 45:1-5, 8-9, 24-28; 46:1-4.)
6. So Jacob gathered his household together, all their livestock and belongings. And "all the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy." (46:27)
7. Retelling of Genesis 47-49:

Pharaoh gave permission for Jacob's household to live in Goshen, the best part of Egypt, and to have it for their very own. And Joseph gave food for free to Jacob's household throughout the rest of the famine. Now Joseph's father, Jacob, or Israel as he was also known, was 147 years old, and he was dying. He blessed Joseph's 2 sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, and he blessed each of his own 12 sons. And then he died.

8. Read Genesis 50:14-21

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9. Joseph and his father's household stayed in Egypt for many years, even after the famine was over. And Joseph lived to be 110 years old. When Joseph was about to die, he said to his brothers, "I am dying; but God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land to the land of which He swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. The first time Jacob sent his 10 sons to Egypt to buy grain, did they all come back? (No) Why? (Joseph said they were spies, and he kept Simeon in prison while the other 9 went home to get Benjamin.)
2. Did Jacob let Benjamin go right away? (No)
3. Why did Jacob let Benjamin go to Egypt at all? (They ran out of food and couldn't buy more unless they took Benjamin with them.)
4. Which of Jacob's sons promised to bring Benjamin back safely? (Judah, the fourth born)
5. When Joseph saw Benjamin, what did he do? (Hurried out of the room and cried where his brothers couldn't see.)
6. Joseph still didn't tell his brothers who he was. He invited them to dine with him. What did he do that surprised them so much? (Seated them according to birth order)
7. What did Joseph secretly tell his steward to put into the brothers' grain sacks? (Each man's money in his sack, and Joseph's silver cup in Benjamin's sack)
8. Joseph's steward chased after them, found Joseph's silver cup in Benjamin's sack, and took the 11 brothers back to Joseph. Did Joseph want to keep all of them as slaves? (No) Who did he say should be his slave? (The one in whose sack the cup was found - Benjamin)
9. Which brother offered himself as a slave in Benjamin's place? (Judah)
10. When Joseph finally told his brothers who he was, was he angry with them for having sold him into slavery? (No; he forgave them.)
11. Who did Joseph say sent him to Egypt, and why? (The Lord; to save his family from starvation during the famine)
12. When Jacob and his household moved to Egypt to be with Joseph, what part of Egypt did Pharaoh give them? (The land of Goshen, the best part)
13. Did Jacob's household leave Egypt after he died? (No)
14. Did Joseph's family—Jacob's family—leave Egypt when Joseph died? (No; they stayed in Egypt waiting for the time when the Lord would visit them and bring them out of Egypt and back to Canaan.)

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D. Further Ideas

1. Forgiveness

- a. If your brothers stole you away from your family and sold you as a slave to live far away from home, do you think you'd be angry and want to get even with them if you had the chance? Well, Joseph got that chance. Joseph had lots of power and could have done anything to his brothers that he wanted, but he didn't hurt them. He was not angry with them, and he didn't try to get even with them. Joseph could forgive his brothers and be kind to them because Joseph loved and trusted the Lord. And the Lord never wants us to get even with those who hurt us.

2. Children of Israel

- a. Can you name the first 12 children of Israel? (Remember, the Lord gave Jacob the name "Israel"; so who were Jacob's—Israel's—12 sons?) Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin
- b. Jacob's/Israel's sons married and had children of their own.
- c. So when Jacob/Israel moved his household from Canaan to Egypt, the "children of Israel" numbered 70 people. In Egypt, Jacob's grandchildren grew up and had children, and so on, and so on, until Jacob's descendants grew into a very large number of people. These many descendants of Jacob/Israel were called the children of Israel. We'll be learning much more about the children of Israel during Sunday School for the next few months.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "I'm Joseph," LORI'S SONGS I (Side 1, 9th song). (Children can just listen to it on the tape.)

B. Activities

1. If there is time, review the names of Jacob's 12 sons in birth order: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin.

C. Project: Benjamin's Sack of Grain

1. Before Class

- a. Make small drawstring sacks or buy plastic sandwich bags. (Instructions for making drawstring sacks can be found in *Sunday School Activity Book*, lesson 27 "For the Little Ones".)

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- b. Trace circles on gold poster board or construction paper for coins (about 5 per child); trace cups (goblets) on silver, or form silver goblets out of aluminum foil.
 - c. Purchase enough grain (rice or other) to partially fill sacks.
2. In Class
- a. Each child cuts out gold coins from poster board or construction paper, and a silver cup from silver poster board (or form a cup from aluminum foil).
 - b. Have children partially fill their sacks with rice or other grain.
 - c. Place coins and cup inside, on top of the grain.
 - d. Pull drawstring or tie with string to close.
 - e. Take home!

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Illustrations of Joseph making himself known to his brothers, greeting his father, and Jacob blessing Ephraim and Manasseh; people filling or buying sacks of grain.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's Bible Study Notes, Vol. 1, "Joseph's Sons" (Genesis 48: 50:22-26), pp. 417-429 (especially Junior level).
- B. The Sower, Vol. 1:
 - "The Brothers Come" (Genesis 42)
 - "Joseph and Benjamin" (Genesis 43)
 - "The Silver Cup" (Genesis 44)
 - "Jacob in Goshen" (Genesis 45-47:12)
 - "Burial of Jacob" (Genesis 50)