

Joseph Helps His Family (preschool – first grade)

Genesis 45:1-15, m50:15-21

September 10, 2023

GATHER

Have a copy of a world map or globe available for the kids to look at.

Greet kids as they arrive. Say: Today's story takes place here, in Egypt. Joseph met his brothers in Egypt even though they came from another place. Our families came from many different places too. Do you have family members that come from or live in a different city, state or country? Let's see if we can find those places on the map.

Prayer:

Dear God. When I am sad, you bring me joy! When I am scared, you give me strength. When I am angry, you give me peace. When things are bad, you make them good! Thank you for taking care of us. Amen.

Open the Bible

Say: Let's read our story to find out what harmful actions turned out to be for the good of many people.

- See the Story: [Joseph's Story](#)
- Read the story: Genesis 45:1-15 and 50:15-21.

Recap: Our story told us of how Joseph's brothers came to Egypt in search of food and when they got there, they learned Joseph was alive. They might have been worried Joseph would be mad at all the bad things they had done to him. Joseph was glad to see them, and he forgave them for what they had done to him.

1. Who came to Egypt looking for food?
2. How would you feel if your brothers or sisters did something mean to you? (or a friend or cousin to those without siblings) Would you forgive them?

Activate Faith

My Family Mobile

Kids make a mobile with all their family members represented on it as a reminder of how they can be helpful to their families, like Joseph was to his. Sometimes, our families have ups and downs, but God can make all things good.

Supplies: paper plates, hole punch, white index cards, yarn or string, crayons or markers, scissors. Optional items: bells, buttons, beads, ribbon.

Set Up:

1. Cut varying lengths of yarn or string to attach to the mobiles.
2. Punch or poke a hole in the very center of each paper plate.

Joseph Helps His Family (preschool – first grade)

Genesis 45:1-15, m50:15-21

September 10, 2023

3. Set supplies on table.

Instructions:

Today, we're making mobiles of our family to remind us of our Bible story. Joseph was away from his family for a long time, but when they finally saw each other again, everyone was happy! Even though life hadn't always been easy for Joseph or his family, God made things better. God can make all things good, even things that may not seem good at the time.

1. Show kids how to punch holes as evenly as possible around the edge of their paper plates, punching one hole for each person or pet in their family.
2. Give them index cards to draw their family members on, one person or pet per card. They can write names on the cards if they like.
3. Punch a hole in the tops of the index cards with the hole punch.
4. Tie one end of yarn through the hole in the index card and the other end through one of the holes in the paper plate. Repeat until all cards are attached to the plate.
5. Slide a longer piece of yarn or string through the center hole in the paper plate and tie a knot on the underside to secure it for hanging.

You each have important people who look out for you. God looks out for you, too, and God can make all things good. I hope when you see your mobiles hanging at home, they'll be a reminder that God loves you, and your family does, too.

Closing Conversation

Say: Today we've had a great time learning about Joseph and his family. How did God turn the harm the brothers intended toward Joseph into something good for many people? God didn't want Joseph to be hurt or sold as a slave. But when it happened, God used the situation to eventually help others.

Today's story has shown us that God can turn things that are intended to harm others into things that can help others. God asks us to forgive those who've been unkind to us. Forgiving isn't always easy, but God promises to help us with that to.