

LESSON



Joseph Goes to Jail

GRACE

God knows us and cares for us.

References

Genesis 39:1-6, 17-23; 40:1-23; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 213-219.

Memory Verse

"Nothing can separate us from the love God has for us" (Romans 8:38, 39, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that bad things happen sometimes, but God never stops loving us.

Feel loved by God even in bad times.

Respond by turning to God with their troubles.

The Message



God is with us in good times and in bad.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Joseph is sold to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials. He is soon put in charge of all of Potiphar's household affairs. Potiphar's wife wrongly accuses Joseph, and he is put in prison. Again God blesses Joseph's efforts, and he is soon put in charge of all the prisoners.

When the king's cupbearer and baker have dreams they don't understand, God tells Joseph the meaning, and he tells the men. In three days the cupbearer will go back to work in the palace, but the baker will die. Joseph asks the cupbearer to tell

the king to let him out of prison, but the cupbearer forgets about Joseph.

Joseph is patient and trusts God. He is cheerful and works hard. He helps everyone he can. God takes care of Joseph in prison and keeps him safe.

This is a lesson about grace.

Because He loves us, we can trust God to take care of us regardless of the circumstances in which we find ourselves—good or bad. He will help us to be patient and cheerful at all times. Even though bad things may happen to us,

ELEVEN

Program Outline			
LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Good Times/Bad Times</i> B. <i>Book Balance</i>	pictures representing good times and bad times books
* Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	See page 113. *Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story	none
		Bible Study	Bible
		Memory Verse	Bible
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Bad Things Pantomime</i>	none
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Happy/Sad Hearts Stick</i>	happy/sad hearts pattern (see p. 147), paper, crayons, craft sticks or tongue depressors, glue

God is still watching over and loving us.

Teacher Enrichment

"The marked prosperity which attended everything placed under Joseph's care was not the result of a direct miracle; but his industry, care, and energy were crowned with the divine blessing" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 214).

"Had Potiphar believed his wife's charge against Joseph, the young Hebrew would have lost his life; . . . and yet, to save the reputation of his master's house, he was abandoned to disgrace and bondage" (*Patriarchs and*

Prophets, p. 218).

Have you ever been wrongly accused of something? Did others know of your innocence because of your upright character?

Room Decorations

Make an Egyptian home scene with chair, table, pottery, broom, Egyptian statue or idol, etc. Use the sheet from Lesson 8 to make a "jail." Hang black crepe paper or strips of black garbage bags in front of the opening for bars. Or use chairs arranged like a jail in one corner, or a big blanket thrown over three sides of a table.

Teaching the Lesson

Welcome

Welcome children at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Encourage them to share any experiences from last week’s lesson study. Have them begin the readiness activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

A. Good Times/Bad Times

You Need:

- pictures representing good times and bad times

Gather a variety of pictures representing good times (picnic with family, swimming, playing with friends, birthday party, etc.) and bad times (storm, flat tire, broken toy, sickness, etc.).

Say: **I need volunteers to pick a picture and hold it up for everyone to see. Then I’m going to ask the class if God is with us during that time. Stand up if your answer is yes, and stay seated or sit down if your answer is no.**

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Is God with us all the time? Even in bad times? And in good times? Yes, Jesus loves us and cares for us even when things are not good.**

Our Bible story is about Joseph. He had good times with his father, who loved him very much, but he also had bad times when his brothers treated him cruelly. In this week’s lesson we will learn more about the good and bad times of Joseph’s life. In all those times Joseph knew God was with him, and Joseph kept trusting Him. Today’s message is:



God is with us in good times and in bad.

Say that with me.

B. Book Balance

You Need:

- books

Have the children balance a book on their heads as they walk from one designated point to another. If the book falls off, they must start again.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Was it easy or hard to balance a book on your head while you walked? How did you feel? Sometimes things**

are hard, and sometimes things are easy. When things are easy, we like them; they feel good. When things are hard, we don't like them so much, and it feels bad.

Our Bible story is about Joseph. He had good times with his father, who loved him very much, but he also had bad times when his brothers treated him cruelly.

In today's lesson we will learn more about the good and bad times in Joseph's life. In all those times Joseph knew God was with him, and he kept trusting Him. Today's message is:



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PRAYER AND PRAISE



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study and review the memory verse. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"He Cares About You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 91)

"Jesus Sees Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 109)

"God Is So Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 88)

"At Sleep or at Play, God Sees" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 122)

"Someone Cares" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 170)

Mission

Use a story from *Children's Mission*. Ask: **How did people worship God in our story today?** Don't limit discussion to Sabbath activities.

Offering

Say: **We can worship God by bringing our offerings so others can know God cares for them too in good times and bad.**

Prayer

Sing a prayer, "Jesus Cares for You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 92).

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

2

Bible Lesson

Experiencing the Story

Divide the children into four groups, each with an adult helper: Josephs, cupbearers, bakers, and jailers.

When you say: **The children jump up and say:**

Joseph	I trust God.
baker	I must check my bread!
cupbearer	This juice is good!
jailer	Joseph is a good man.

Have each group practice jumping up and saying their parts. Say: **Whenever I say “jail,” I want everyone to hold your hands like you are holding bars in a jail.** (Fists in front of them at elbow level.) **Let’s practice.** (Allow time.) **Remember your parts as we tell the story together.**

Read or tell the story.

Joseph [I trust God.] shook his head. He couldn’t believe he was in **jail** [hold bars]! Yesterday he had been the boss at his master’s house. Today his master had thrown him in **jail** [hold bars]!

Joseph [I trust God.] knew he hadn’t done anything wrong. He knew he didn’t deserve to be in **jail** [hold bars]. And he knew one more very important thing. He knew that God was with him and would take care of him—even if he was in **jail** [hold bars].

“Come in here and help serve supper!” the **jailer** [Joseph is a good man.] called to **Joseph**. [I trust God.] And **Joseph** [I trust God.] did.

“Help clean up!” the **jailer** [Joseph is a good man.] said to **Joseph** [I trust God.] when everyone finished. And **Joseph** [I trust God.] did.

Every day the **jailer** [Joseph is a good man.] gave **Joseph** [I trust God.] work to do. Every day he did his work without complaining. And he always tried to do a good job. Before very long, the **jailer** [Joseph is a good man.] put **Joseph** [I trust God.] in charge of everything in the **jail** [hold bars].

One morning **Joseph** [I trust God.] noticed that two of the people in **jail** [hold bars] looked worried and unhappy. One prisoner had been the king’s **cupbearer**. [This juice is good!] One prisoner had been the king’s **baker**. [I must check my bread!] But the king had become angry with them and put them both in **jail** [hold bars].

“What’s wrong?” **Joseph** [I trust God.] asked the **baker** [I must check my bread!] and the **cupbearer**. [This juice is good!]

“We had strange dreams last night,” they answered. “And no one here can tell us what they mean.”

“God is the only one who can explain dreams. What did you dream?” **Joseph** [I trust God.] asked the **cupbearer**. [This juice is good!]

“I dreamed I saw a vine with three branches,” he said. “There were grapes on the vines, and I squeezed the grape juice into the king’s special cup and gave it to him.”

Joseph [I trust God.] said, “God will help me explain the dream to you. In three days the king will set you free, and you will go back to work in the palace.”

The **cupbearer** [This juice is good!] smiled a huge smile. He was so happy!

“When you see the king, please tell him about me,” **Joseph** [I trust God.]

begged. "I have done nothing bad. I shouldn't be in **jail** [*hold bars*]."

Then the **baker** [*I must check my bread!*] told **Joseph** [*I trust God!*] about his dream. "I dreamed there were three bread baskets on my head," he said. "There were fancy breads and cakes for the king in the top basket. But the birds were eating the food."

Joseph [*I trust God!*] prayed silently for God's help. "I will explain the dream to you," he said. "In three days the king will punish you, and you will die."

In three days the king had a birthday, and he gave a big party. He sent to the **jail** [*hold bars*] for his **cupbearer** [*This juice is good!*] and his **baker** [*I must check my bread!*] and had them brought to the birthday party. The king gave the **cupbearer** [*This juice is good!*] his old job back, just as **Joseph** [*I trust God!*] had said he would. The king punished the **baker** [*I must check my bread!*], just as **Joseph** [*I trust God!*] had said.

Joseph [*I trust God!*] waited and waited to hear from the **cupbearer**. [*This juice is good!*] He had wanted the **cupbearer** [*This juice is good!*] to tell the king about him. He wanted the **cupbearer** [*This juice is good!*] to say, "**Joseph** [*I trust God!*] has done nothing bad. He doesn't deserve to be in **jail**." [*hold bars*] But the **cupbearer** [*This juice is good!*] got so busy doing his job that he completely forgot about **Joseph**. [*I trust God!*]

Joseph [*I trust God!*] was sorry that the **cupbearer** [*This juice is good!*] had forgotten him. But he kept working hard at his many jobs in the **jail** [*hold bars*]. **Joseph** [*I trust God!*] was patient and cheerful even though he was still in **jail** [*hold bars*]. He knew that God loved him, and he trusted God to take care of him even during bad times.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask:

Why do you think Joseph trusted God even when bad things were happening to him? Do you think you can trust God like Joseph did?

Sometimes bad things happen to God's people, but that doesn't mean that God doesn't love us anymore, or that He stops caring for us. God is always with us. Do you remember our message?



God is with us in good times and in bad.

Say that with me.

Bible Study

Open your Bible to Genesis 39:1-6, 17-23; and 40:1-23. Point to the texts and say: **This is where today's story is found in the Bible, God's Word.** Read selected verses aloud, paraphrasing as necessary.

Allow response time as you ask: **Who did Joseph work for? Did Joseph have an important job? Why did Joseph get put in jail? What kind of job did he have there?**

Who had dreams? Who was able to tell what their dreams meant? (Joseph, with God's help) Who did Joseph want the cupbearer to tell about him to get him out of jail? What happened? Did Joseph feel that God was still with him?

Do you feel like God is still with you even in bad times?

Remember . . .



God is with us in good times and in bad.

Say that with me.

You Need:

Bible

Memory Verse

You Need:

Bible

Turn to Romans 8:38, 39 and say: **This is where we find our memory verse in God’s Word, the Bible.** Read the text aloud.

“Nothing can separate us from the love God has for us.”

Ask: **What does *separate* mean? To separate something means to take something away from something else. If you can’t separate something, it’s as though it was glued together. That’s how God’s love is.**

Nothing, not where we are, or what’s happening to us, can keep us apart from God’s love. It’s impossible. He’s always with us, and He always loves us.

Teach the children the following actions for the words in their memory verse:



Nothing can

Wave index finger back and forth in the air to say no.



separate

Hold your hands together, then pull them apart.



us

Point to self, then others.



from the love

Cross arms over chest.



God

Point upward.



has for us.

Point to self, then others.



Romans 8:38, 39

Palms together, then open.

3

Applying the Lesson

Bad Things Pantomime

Say: **Who would like to act out something that they don’t like happening to them, such as falling down and scraping your knee, or getting a shot at the doctor’s office? We’ll try to guess what it is.**

Allow the children to take turns acting out one thing without talking. If they need help thinking of something, you can whisper in their ear one of the following: stub your toe, hit your head on a table, cat scratches you, have a stuffy nose and sore throat, fall off your bike, get lost in a store, etc.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Some things are not very nice, are they? When bad things happen, who helps you feel better?** (moms, dads, friends, etc.)

When you feel bad or are hurt, do your mom and dad still love you? Of course they do. Your mom and dad feel sad when you are hurting. They don’t want you to feel bad, but sometimes bad things happen. Your mom and dad try to help you feel better because they love you. What do they do to try to

help you feel better?

God also feels sad when you are hurting. God doesn't want you to feel bad either, but sometimes bad things happen. God wants you to feel better knowing that He is with you when bad things happen. He doesn't leave you. He is still caring for you and loving you. Think about this:

God loves me when I'm happy,
He loves me when I'm sad.

God loves me when all
things are good,
And also when they're bad.

Let's say the rhyme together.

Repeat the rhyme three to five times. Ask the children to make up some actions.

Say: **Let's say our message together:**



God is with us in good
times and in bad.

4

Sharing the Lesson**Happy/Sad Hearts Stick**

In advance, copy the happy/sad hearts pattern (see p. 147) for each child (each child should have two hearts).

Have the children draw a simple happy face on the heart that says "God loves me in happy times." And draw a simple sad face on the heart that says "God loves me in sad times." The children can color the hearts and cut them out. Then glue the hearts together with the craft stick between them at the bottom of the heart so the children can hold the stick.

Debriefing

Allow response time as you ask: **Does God love you in happy times? Yes! Show me the happy face.**

Does God love you in sad times? Yes! Point to the sad face. God loves you and cares for you all the time.

God loves us so much He sticks to us no matter what, just like these two hearts are stuck together.

You can take your "Happy/Sad Hearts Stick" home and share it with someone as you tell them about Joseph in jail, and how he kept on trusting God to take care of him. Let's say our message together one last time:



God is with us in good
times and in bad.

You Need:

- happy/sad hearts pattern (see p. 147)
- paper
- crayons
- craft sticks or tongue depressors
- glue

Closing

Encourage a child to pray. Wish everyone a good week. Remind them that God loves them all the time.

STUDENT LESSON

Joseph Goes to Jail

References

Genesis 39:1-6, 17-23; 40:1-23; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 213-219

Memory Verse

“Nothing can separate us from the love God has for us” (Romans 8:38, 39, ICB).

The Message

God is with us in good times and in bad.

Can you think of the best thing that’s ever happened to you? What about the worst thing? Did you know God was with you both times, just as He was with Joseph?

Joseph couldn’t believe it! Yesterday he had been in charge of all of his master’s house. Today his master had thrown him in jail!

Joseph knew he hadn’t done anything wrong. And he knew one more very important thing. He knew that God was with him and would take care of him—no matter where he was.

The chief jailer gave Joseph work to do. Joseph worked without complaining. And every day the chief jailer saw that Joseph did things right. Before long, he put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners.

One morning Joseph noticed that two of the prisoners looked worried. One had been the king’s cupbearer. The other had been the king’s baker. But the king had become angry and had them both put in prison.

“What’s the matter?” Joseph asked.

“We had strange dreams last night,” the cupbearer answered, scratching his head. “And we don’t know what they mean.”

“God is the only one who can explain dreams,” Joseph said. “Tell me your dreams.”

“I dreamed I saw a vine with three branches,” the cupbearer replied. “There were grapes on the vines, and I squeezed

the grape juice into the king’s special cup and gave it to him.”

Joseph said, “God will help me explain the dream to you. In three days the king will set you free, and you will go back to work in the palace. When you see the king, please tell him about me,” Joseph begged. “I have done nothing wrong. I shouldn’t be in this prison.”

Then the baker said, “I dreamed there were three bread baskets on my head,” he began. “There were fancy breads and cakes for the king in the top basket. But the birds were eating the food.”

Joseph prayed silently. “I will explain the dream to you,” Joseph said quietly.

“In three days the king will punish you, and you will die.”

In three days the king had a birthday, and he gave a big party. During the party he sent to the jail for his cupbearer and baker. The king gave the cupbearer his old job back, but punished the baker, just as Joseph had said.

Joseph waited and waited to hear that the cupbearer had told the king about him. But the cupbearer forgot about Joseph.

Joseph was sorry that the cupbearer had forgotten him. But he knew that God loved him. Joseph trusted God to take care of him even in jail.



Do and Say

Sabbath

Each day this week read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

Nothing canWave index finger back and forth to say no.

separatePalms together, then pull them apart.

usPoint to self, then others.

from the loveCross arms over chest.

GodPoint upward.

has for us.Point to self, then others.

Romans 8:38, 39 . . .Palms together, then open.

Sunday

Make bread or cookies with your child. Talk about the need to trust people who make food or juice for others.

For the evening meal have your child play the roles of cupbearer and baker and serve drink and bread.

Monday

Encourage your child to share the "Happy/Sad Hearts Stick" made in Sabbath School with someone as they tell them about Joseph in jail.

Have your child try walking around the room with a book balanced on their head. How long before it falls off? Ask: Was it easy or hard? Remember that God is with you whether things are easy or hard.



Tuesday

Help your child decorate a paper or Styrofoam cup with uncooked noodles, yarn, rice, beans, glitter, etc. Let your child pour juice or water into the cup.



Wednesday

Think of some things that your child doesn't enjoy but are important (shots, removing slivers, going to the dentist, etc.). Take turns in acting them out and letting each other guess. Thank God that He loves us in good times and in bad.

Thursday

Clap the following rhyme together: *God loves me when I'm happy, He loves me when I'm sad. He loves me when all things are good, and also when they're bad.*

Sing "God Is So Good."

Thank God for caring for you and your child and for being with you all the time.

Friday

Act out the Bible story with your family. Ask: How do you know Joseph was a good person? Talk about good times and bad times. Thank Jesus for being with you in both.