

*Get Ready!*

## Joseph in Egypt

By: Terri Tschaenn



### Text

Genesis 39-45

### Key Quest Verse

“The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master” (Genesis 39:2, NIV).

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5 NIV).

### Bible Background

Stephen in his speech before his death best summed up the background for this story:

(Acts 7:9-10, NIV) “Because the patriarchs were jealous of Joseph, they sold him as a slave into Egypt. But God was with him and rescued him from all his troubles. He gave Joseph wisdom and enabled him to gain the goodwill of Pharaoh king of Egypt; so he made him ruler over Egypt and all his palace.”

It is interesting that Joseph never wavered in his trust in God . . . even as he interpreted the dreams he stated it was not him but only God who could do it. Joseph came from a dysfunctional family who was out to kill him, but settled on just selling him into slavery. He was now in the heart of Egypt wondering what God had in store for him and how in the world he would do it through this means. But, Joseph knew one thing for certain and that was what kept him going. The writer of Hebrews reminds us of what Joseph knew: “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for **he who promised is faithful**” (Heb. 10:23, NIV). Joseph held tight to this promise throughout his life, and God never failed him!

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### Lesson Quest

**What I want my students to:**

**Know:** Joseph went through many hard times, but he never stopped trusting in God.

**Feel:** God will guide and direct them in their lives, just as He did for Joseph.

**Do:** Appreciate their family!

### Leader's Devotion

Joseph's story is pretty amazing. He went through so many ups and downs in his life, it wouldn't be surprising if he questioned God or even gave up! But he didn't. God was faithful to him. God never gave Joseph more than he could bear and in those times of sorrow, God gave him the strength, courage and wisdom he needed to get the job done that God had in mind for him. I know I have had some pretty stressful, even discouraging times in my life – and I'm sure you could think of some for yourself. Maybe you're even going through one of those times right now. If so, I want to encourage you with these reminders of God's unfailing love and the promise of His comfort and guidance.

“I can do everything through him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13).

“A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all” (Psalm 34:19).

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze” (Isaiah 43:2).

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

“For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations” (Psalm 100:5).

**PRAISE BE TO GOD! HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!!**

*Get Set!*



## Option A

### CELEBRATING FAMILIES

**Materials:** Paper, markers and/or pencils, a dictionary and/or a thesaurus could help also

**Procedure:** Tell the students that today we are celebrating families. Families are all different. Some families may not see each other very often, some families may not get along very well, some families may be very small, or some may be very large as in our story today. Each one is unique and special in some way. Today we are going to think of some words to describe our families. Instruct students to turn their papers vertical and write their last name longways – they will be making an acrostic using each of the letters in their last name to describe their family. If you have dictionaries or a thesaurus it will help them think of ideas especially for harder letters.

Example for my last name: (pronounced “shane”)

- T – Totally Terrific
- S – Silent letters in our name
- C – Churchgoers – specifically Lawrenceville COG
- H – Happy to be Ohio Buckeyes
- A – Animals are part of the family (3 cats, 1 dog, 1 rabbit)
- E – Every day we seem to be very busy!
- N – Normal most of the time
- N – Numbered at 5 – Dad, mom, three kids!

**GO TO THE BIBLE STORY**

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**Get Set!**

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**Option B****RESPONSIVE READING**

**Materials:** Bibles for everyone (best to be in same version)

**Procedure:** Together, have everyone look up Psalm 136. This is a passage that works great for a responsive reading. Instruct them that you will read the first part of each verse and as a group they will be reading the second part of each verse. In the Bibles I looked at, the second half of the verse was italicized as follows from the NIV example of verse 1:

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love endures forever.*”

My suggestion would be to do a shortened version using verses 1-9, then finish with the last verse (26), but if this is something you like – do the whole chapter!

Joseph is a perfect example of God’s unfailing faithfulness. He came to a time in his life where many would have turned away from God, but Joseph knew that God had a plan for him, and He was right! God used him in mighty ways. HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!

<b>GO TO THE BIBLE STORY</b>
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Get Set!



### Bible Story

**Teacher Tip:** Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles

Remind the students that we've been studying the life of Joseph. **To get ready for today's story, let's review what happened between Joseph and his brothers.** Ask students to retell previous lessons: Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful robe; Joseph's brothers were jealous; they sold their brother as a slave; and then told their father that a wild animal had eaten him; the slave traders took Joseph far away to Egypt. **Joseph could have been sold to a terrible master, but he was sold to Potiphar, a man who was in charge of the king's soldiers. Joseph did his work so well that soon Potiphar put him in charge of all the work in his house.**

**The Lord was with Joseph and all that he did was blessed (39:2). Everything was going well until Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to commit a sin. When he refused, she became so angry that she told her husband a lie about Joseph and Potiphar believed her. He threw Joseph into prison.**

**Again the Lord was with Joseph and blessed everything he did (39:21). Soon the keeper of the prison put Joseph in charge of all the other prisoners. Two of them were Pharaoh's chief cupbearer (like a butler) and chief baker. They had angered Pharaoh in some way, and he had put them in prison. One night both men had unusual dreams and they wondered what they meant. Joseph told them that only God could tell what dreams meant, and because God was with Joseph he was able to tell them the meaning of the dreams.**

**Two years later, the king had a dream. He knew it must mean something important, but none of his wise men could explain it to him. The cupbearer who had met Joseph while he was in prison, knew that God was with Joseph. The king sent for Joseph. God helped Joseph to explain what the king's dream meant: that Egypt would have seven prosperous years with plenty of food and then hard times would come, because of no rain and there would be seven bad years. Joseph told the king how to keep the people from going hungry during the drought in the seven bad years. The king was so impressed that he put Joseph second in command over the whole country. Joseph was given the job to gather up all the extra food in Egypt and store it away for the years when there would not be enough to eat. (41:40)**

**After the seven good years were over, people all around Egypt began coming to Joseph to buy food. One day, Joseph saw his ten brothers coming toward him. He recognized them, but they did not know him (42:7). He wondered if they had changed. Were they still jealous, evil men? Joseph decided to test them.**

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**Bible Story**

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CONTINUED . . .

They proved to Joseph that they were honest and kinder than they used to be and Joseph knew they had become better men. So, Joseph told his brothers who he was. He told them not to be afraid of him and that he was not angry with them because they had sold him to the Ishmaelites. Joseph told them that it was God's way of saving their lives from the famine and it allowed Joseph to help save the lives of many other people. Joseph asked them to go home to bring their families and their father back to live with him where they could have a new home with plenty of land and enough food to eat (45:10).

Joseph was able to forgive his brothers, because he knew that God had used unfair things in his life to bring about good results that helped many people.

**Go!**



### Don't Give Up!

#### OBJECT LESSON

**Materials:** A stack of bricks or other heavy objects (enough to convince the class of the difficulty in moving such a great weight)

### Quest Connection

To illustrate God's power to provide us a way if we won't quit and take every problem just a little at a time.

Even though Joseph had a hard life after he was taken from his family, he didn't quit doing what was right. He NEVER gave up.

What made Joseph the great man of God that he was? Three words – don't give up! It might have been easier for Joseph through all the trials he went through to just give up and quit. But he didn't do it. He kept hanging in there. He wouldn't quit; he wouldn't stop. He kept believing and trusting in God all through his life.

**Procedure:** Show the class the stack of bricks saying, **see this heavy stack of bricks on the table. Today, we're going to think of this stack of bricks as a big pile of problems that we could have in our lives.** Have students brainstorm the kind of problems they or their friends might have . . . not getting along with brothers and sisters, not getting along with parents, problems at school, fighting with friends, someone picking on them, didn't get on the basketball team, someone hurt or sick. **If you are anything like me, sometimes you feel that problems in your life just building up and building up until they are too heavy to lift – kind of like this stack of bricks that has built up and is way too heavy for me to pick up all at once. Sometimes we might feel like we'll never get through all the problems. And, I'll tell you what, if you take them all at once, you can't! But, what did Joseph do? Say it with me, "he NEVER gave up." He never lost faith in God.**

Now this stack of bricks may not be able to be moved all at once, but how do you think we could move them? That's right, we can move them one at a time. Begin moving them from one side of the table to another. **One at a time, one problem today and God will provide a way. One problem tomorrow, and God will provide a way. Another problem the next day and God will provide a way. He'll provide us a way every day if we DON'T GIVE UP!**

### Close

Refer the students to the Bible – verse, 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV). "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

**Go!****Inmate Insight****CHARACTER CONNECTION**

**Materials:** Black construction paper (several sheets for each student), stapler, scissors

**Quest Connection**

**Have you ever been punished for something you didn't do? Joseph was put in prison for something he didn't do. As a matter of fact, he did the right thing, but was put in jail because of someone else's lies.**

**Procedure:** Let your students act out what it would be like to be accused of something they didn't do. You as a teacher can get in on the action by doing a prison "line-up" and accusing them of doing something in the class – like taking something of yours or breaking something.

Tell them that they are going to experience prison "lock-up" by making chains. Have them cut the black construction paper into strips longways, then staple them together to form chains for their arms and legs. After they are fastened with their "chains," ask them to imagine that they have been put in prison for something that they didn't do. Ask them to think about how they would feel, what they would miss from home and how they would spend their time.

**Close**

**Being in prison for something you actually did would be bad enough, but being locked up and taken away from your home for something you did not do would be so much worse! Joseph probably wondered at times what was going to happen next in his life. But, he never gave up trusting in God to bring him through. Genesis 39:21 says that while Joseph was in prison, the Lord was with him; he showed him kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden. We can trust God to bring us through our difficult times – He will be with us, too!**

**Go!****Dreams****BIBLE STUDY**

**Materials:** Bibles, paper, pencils

**Quest Connection**

**We all have dreams. Sometimes we remember them, sometimes we don't; some dreams are funny, exciting, silly, or sometimes even scary. Scientists study dreams in laboratories by testing people while they sleep – and yet very little is really known about dreaming.**

**Throughout the Bible, there are times where God used dreams to speak to people. In our lessons about Joseph there are several dreams with messages. In this lesson we even heard about how God used dreams to help Joseph save a lot of people from a famine.**

**Procedure:** The dreams were not covered in detail during the lessons, but are very important to the whole picture. Either as groups or individually, assign students one of the passages below and have them look up the dreams from the story of Joseph, and tell them in their own words. Another option would be to read each passage aloud and discuss the dream and interpretation.

1. Gen. 37:5-8 (Joseph and brothers – sheaves of grain bowing down)
2. Gen. 37:9-11 (2<sup>nd</sup> dream – sun, moon, eleven stars bowing down)
3. Gen. 40:9-13 (cupbearer's dream – grapevine predicts his return to service)
4. Gen. 40:16-19 (baker's dream – baskets of bread predicts his death)
5. Gen. 41:17-21 plus 25-32 (Pharaoh's 1<sup>st</sup> dream – cows predicting 7 years of famine)
6. Gen. 41: 22-24 plus 25-32 (Pharaoh's 2<sup>nd</sup> dream – heads of grain predicting famine)

**Close**

**God speaks to us in many different ways. We have to be willing to listen and have a good relationship with Him and His Son, Jesus. One way of communicating with God is in prayer, so let's close our lesson today with prayer.**

**Go!****An Egypt Cartouche****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Copies of Hieroglyphics Resource Page, paper plates, markers, hole punch, yarn

**Quest Connection**

Joseph was taken from his family home to the unfamiliar land of Egypt. Undoubtedly, things were quite different for him and he had to adjust from the simple life of a shepherd's family to living in the wealthy home of Potiphar, one of the king's officials. He would have had to learn a new language, a new way of dress, and new customs. Traditional Ancient Egyptian letters are called Hieroglyphics today, and many of you have probably seen examples in school or in books you've read. Today we are going to be making an Egyptian Cartouche (pronounced kar toosh'). A cartouche is sort of like a nametag. Ancient Egyptians made cartouches for kings, queens, and other high-ranking people in the kingdom.

**Procedure:** Pass out copies of the Hieroglyphics page, paper plates, and writing supplies to each student. Instruct students to copy the Hieroglyphic pattern to spell out their name on their cartouche. Have them decorate with markers or crayons as desired, punch a hole and string yarn through it for hanging.

**Close**

Sometimes we forget that other cultures (the way people live in areas different from ours) are full of interesting, yet different ideas than ours. God has made each of us different and loves us all the same. Remember to celebrate and appreciate the differences in people you meet.

*Go!*



## Wordo

### GAME

**Materials:** Copies of the Wordo game board from the Resource Page, something to use as markers (small candy, cereal, dried beans, etc), small slips of paper to draw from

## Quest Connection

Many of the words you and your class have discussed during the last few weeks may have been unfamiliar to your students. Wordo is a good way to review vocabulary meaning as well as review the story.

**Procedure:** Wordo is the word version of Bingo. Most students will be familiar with this game, but there are many versions of the way to win – 5 in a row, 4 corners, fill the board, etc., so decide on the rules for your game before you start.

Either as a class or by yourself beforehand, prepare a list of words from your lesson to play this game. Look through the Bible references to find unusual words that relate directly to the lesson. Write the list on a chalkboard or white board for all to see. Pass out copies of the Wordo board and let students randomly fill in their copy with one word in each square (don't duplicate words). You will also need one copy of each word on a slip of paper and placed in a bag or bowl to draw from. You will want at least 25 words (or 24 if you use a 'free space' in the middle) to fill the board.

Play the game like normal bingo, drawing and calling out one word at a time. If you like, have someone say a quick explanation of the word that you've drawn. Play it one or more times as your class time allows. I have found this to be a great time filler for any lesson and a good review game. The students especially like it when the teacher joins in the game also and everyone can take turns drawing.

## Close

**We've covered a lot of new terms and phrases in our lessons about Joseph. It's fun to review and learn from each other!**

**Go!****Lesson in Dreams****WORKSHEET****Materials:** Resource Page**Quest Connection**

God spoke to several people from our lesson in dreams. Did you know one of the ways that God is talking to you all of the time is through His Word – the Bible?

**Procedure:** Look at the verses listed and write them in your own words.

**Close**

Remember the next time you're feeling down, that you will never face a problem alone.

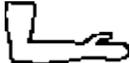
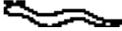
## Joseph and His Family

Review the lessons about Joseph by answering these questions below. If the sentence is true, circle the letter under TRUE. If it is false, circle the letter under FALSE. Then fill in the blanks at the bottom of the page with the circled letters to find out why Joseph was successful.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Jacob had 15 sons.	S	J
2. Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful robe.	O	L
3. Joseph's brothers were farmers.	M	S
4. Joseph's brothers liked to hear about his dreams.	W	E
5. The wicked brothers plan to kill Joseph.	P	Z
6. The brothers sold Joseph for 20 shekels of silver.	X	H
7. The brothers threw Joseph's coat into a well.	A	T
8. The Ishmaelites sold Joseph to Pharaoh.	Q	R
9. Joseph was put in prison for something he did not do.	U	V
10. The king's butler and baker were in prison with Joseph.	S	B
11. It was 2 years before the butler told the king about Joseph.	T	G
12. Pharaoh dreamed about a lot of snow covering his land.	F	E
13. Pharaoh's wise men could not tell him what his dream meant.	D	N
14. A famine is when there is not enough food for everyone to eat.	I	W
15. Joseph recognized his brothers when they came to Egypt.	N	J
16. Joseph tested his brothers to see if they had changed.	G	M
17. Joseph forgave his brothers for what they had done to him.	O	A
18. Joseph sent his brothers home and he never saw them again.	L	D

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## Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphics

					
A	B	C	D	E	F
					
G	H	I	J	K	L
					
M	N	O	P	Q	R
					
S	T	U	V	U or W	Z

W	O	R	D	O



**Look at the following verses and put them in your own words.**

<p>“It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect” (Psalm 18:32).</p>	<p>“Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7).</p>
<p>“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28).</p>	<p>“For I know the plans I have for you, ‘declares the LORD,’ plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).</p>

**“The LORD was with Joseph and he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master” (Genesis 39:2, NIV).**

**“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5, NIV).**