

Get Ready!

Joseph in Egypt

By: Jesse Winner



Text

Genesis 39-50

Key Quest Verse

“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 a hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11).

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!

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I want my students to:****Know:** God has a plan and purpose for all His children.**Feel:** Comfort in knowing that even in trials, God's purposes will be accomplished.**Do:** Not let injustices and troubling circumstances become excuses to sin or lose hope.**Leader's Devotion**

Sometimes we think our lives are like a pinball that bounces from one bumper to the other until it drops out of play or until our lives are sitting on "tilt," but God assures us He has a plan and a purpose for each of us. Trials will either make us bitter or better. In times of adversity, we wonder why this is happening to us. What did we do to deserve this? Why do all the good things happen to everyone else? With questions like these, we find our faith faltering and our lives short-circuiting the connection with our Creator. It calls to question what kind of testimony we have if we lose our faith and confidence in God when we need Him the most, and if we aren't confident, can we really lead someone else to the Lord?

In our story in Genesis, we find Joseph literally in chains of despair. After being hated and rejected by his brothers, being physically abused and stolen from his family and his home, he is sold into slavery to foreigners and reported dead. Then, at the very moment he is achieving a comfortable position in his master's standing, he resists seduction only to be framed for rape, and is shackled and thrown into prison though wrongly accused. Again he rises to a better position and is yet forgotten when he aids the servant of the king. After over ten years in prison, and nearly thirteen since his own brothers sold him out, he must have wondered about this just God of whom his father Jacob had spoken to always trust for guidance and blessing.

What did Joseph do though? Did he mope and complain? Did he turn away from the Lord? Through all the trials and suffering, he continued in diligence and obedience to rely on his God, even being the only believer within this foreign land filled with idols and strange customs. How hard it must have been! The story doesn't stop there though . . .

Read the parable in Matthew 7:24-27. Did you notice that even the house built on the rock was not protected from the wind and the rain? Perhaps this lesson will remind us that foundations don't stop the rain or the flood, but that foundations do keep the house from falling apart through the calamities. Although men may spoil our plans, they can never alter God's purpose. God's plan is always much broader. For "all things work together for good to those who love God, for those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). Let's try to keep that in mind in troubling times.

Get Set!



Option A

RECIPES

Materials: Resource Pages (ingredients are listed in the Resource Pages)

Procedure: As an interesting introduction, you may like also to prepare some simple Egyptian recipes for the students to sample (food always gets their attention).

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

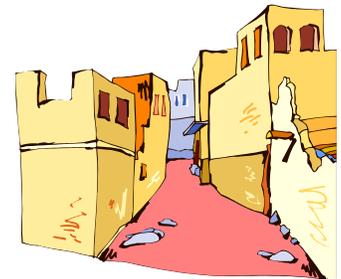
Option B

HISTORY

Materials: Artifacts or history books from Egypt

Procedure: As a further introduction to our story, you may want to bring in any artifacts or history books from Egypt to help introduce the culture and ask the students to explain some differences between Israel (Jacob's family and their God) and Egypt and their culture.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY



Get Set!



Bible Story

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

Read Genesis 39-50 from different translations of the Bible.

Go!**Hieroglyphic Cartouche Pendants****CRAFT**

Materials: Shrinky Dinks plastic, cut to 4" x 5" oval, Toaster oven, hot mitt, practice paper, pencils, Hieroglyphic alphabet chart hand-outs, examples of various Egyptian symbols, colored pencils, hole-punch, yarn

Quest Connection

In Joseph's time, the land of the Pharaohs was the center of learning and culture, and the leaders of the land proudly displayed their cartouches as a symbol of their power, but all along, God had saved Joseph, a lowly, foreign slave as for his chosen position and purpose.

Procedure: Explain that Egyptian cartouches were like name plates for the rich and powerful, like Joseph. Explain that they will be creating cartouche pendants which have their names, written vertically in hieroglyphics. (Refer to Hieroglyphics Resource Page for lettering.) Pass out alphabet charts and have students practice writing their name in hieroglyphics, both horizontally and vertically on practice paper. When they are pleased with the placement of their hieroglyphics, they may lightly trace their name onto the rough side of the clear Shrinky Dink material. Using colored pencils, have students color in their hieroglyphics. Establish a border of vertical lines on either side of their name. From this border outward to the edge of the material, students may decorate their pendant with other Christian symbols and designs. When students are finished with their designs, place them in a Toaster oven at 300 degrees for approximately two minutes. (Place plastic on a piece of brown bag material to prevent sticking.) Watch closely. When the material lies flat and is significantly reduced in size, it is probably "done." Remove from oven and press firmly with a hot mitt to flatten. When cool, have students tie yarn through the hole to create a pendant (or bracelet).

Close

Prayer: Lord, thank You for having our names in Your heart and choosing us to one day become the elect of the promised land.

Go!**Dreamcatcher Reminder****ARTS/CRAFTS**

Materials: Blank or unwanted, used CDs (one per dreamcatcher), string (embroidery floss works nice), white glue, paint brush (for applying glue to CD), colored sand, glitter, pony beads, feathers, drill (small holes – approx. 1/8 inch)

Quest Connection

God can speak to us, like Joseph, and fulfill our dreams if we are patient and wait for His provision.

Procedure: Drill holes in a CD – about 4, more if you like, approximately 1/4 inch from the edge. Loop a piece of string through one hole at “top” of CD to hang disc. Tie strings approximately 8-10 inches long through 3 (or more) holes toward bottom of disc. Apply glue to entire disc (label side, if not blank). Sprinkle sand and glitter into glue to cover label and allow to dry. These can be re-glued and re-sanded and re-glittered if you do not like the results the first time. This will also add texture to the project. String beads onto threads. Use one extra bead to tie off at end of string. Push feathers up into beads. Test hang and enjoy. (Note: You may desire creating a different style or traditional dreamcatcher if you have other patterns you would like to try. Be creative.)

Close

Prayer: Lord, help us to realize You have Your own timetable, and waiting is part of our maturing process as You fulfill our dreams, and we fulfill Your will.

Go!**Mummy Wrap Relay****GAME**

Materials: Rolls of paper towels or toilet paper (game one), two or more, if needed, large bed sheets (game two)

Quest Connection

Joseph was thrust into a land filled with fast changes and strange customs like mummies and pyramids, but through it all, the Lord was with him.

Game One Procedure: Divide teams into equal teams. Let each team pick a volunteer to be the “mummy.” Play as a relay. Have each team wrap the volunteer with toilet paper or paper towels. Give each team 2-4 roles of paper and limit the time each player has to wrap the mummy. Winning team uses all their paper the fastest.

Game Two Procedure: Divide into as many teams as needed; have each team divide into 2 groups, which are at opposite ends from each other. The first person in each individual team must wrap themselves into the sheet by lying down and rolling up into the sheet, (must have arms inside of sheet) stand up (can get help from team members to stand up, if needed), and then run to their other same team group and unroll themselves. Then, that team member at the other end must do the same. The first team to have everyone do the same wins.

Close

Prayer: **Lord, help us to follow You without using our family, environment, and circumstances as excuses to sin.**

Go!**Ancient Egyptian Bookmarks****CRAFT**

Materials: Paper and/or sandpaper, scissors, glue, markers, glitter, paper, crayons, colored pencils, etc., cardboard, ribbon or string, laminating plastic, Resource Page

Quest Connection

Writing and reading was prominent and new in Egyptian culture, and important names and writings continue to be exposed and reviewed even to this day.

Procedure: Using the hieroglyphics Resource Page, let each of the students create a Bible bookmark decorating it with words, designs, verses, to remind them of the story of Joseph in Egypt.

Close

Prayer: Lord, help us to use the gifts we have, and the things we make, as a reminder of Your word and Your promises.

Go!**Commercial in a Bag****BRAINSTORMING/DRAMA**

Materials: Two bags filled with random household paraphernalia like: combs, hats, food, air freshener, etc., tape or CD of sound effects

Quest Connection

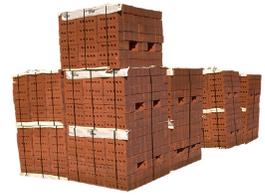
Joseph was renowned throughout all the land and brought business and news of hope to foreigners and to his brothers through his patience and diligence.

Procedure: Divide the class into two teams and decide on the amount of time they have to come up with a news report or commercial to present about the famine in Egypt, Joseph's biography, Joseph's family's big move, etc. (a topic in our story) using only the props and sound effects given. (The crazier the items and sound effects, the more creative the skit.)

Close

Prayer: Lord, help us be loyal and to remember that You are in control of this world and are in the business of redemption through the example of Joseph and the good news of Your son.

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."

Resource Page

Egyptian Vegetable Lentil Salad

2 cucumbers
6 green onions
One 16 ounce package of broccoli – steamed
One 8 ounce package of carrots – steamed
2 cups of dry lentils – cooked
1 - 8 ounce package of Feta Cheese
1 - 16 ounce package of Ricotta Cheese

Chop the onions into slices and place them in a large mixing bowl. Peel the cucumbers. Slice the cucumbers into thin slices. Add them to the onions in the mixing bowl. Next add the steamed broccoli and carrots. Mix in the lentils. Stir this mixture until blended. Add the Feta Cheese. Next add the Ricotta Cheese. Mix all these ingredients.

To make the dressing mix one cup of Italian dressing, 2 tablespoons of Dijon mustard and 2 tablespoons of honey in a small bowl. Pour the dressing into the salad and mix well. This salad will be a great addition to any Egyptian meal.

Egyptian Fig Cakes

1 cup almonds
1 cup walnuts
1 package of figs
Honey
Cinnamon
Nutmeg

Chop one cup of almonds in the blender. Pour the chopped nuts into a small bowl and save until later. Next chop one cup of walnuts in the blender. Add the package of figs to the walnuts and continue blending. Add a little water to help the mixture blend. Next add a pinch of cinnamon and a pinch of nutmeg. Blend to combine these ingredients. Roll the fig mixture into one inch sized balls. Dip them in honey. Then roll them in the crushed almonds.

Hummus

225 g chickpeas
2 tbs. of wine vinegar
3 cloves of garlic
5 tbs. sesame seed oil
1 tsp. salt

Cook and mash the chickpeas, add lemon juice, chopped garlic and sesame seed oil to make this tasty paste to spread on bread, as popular in Egypt today as it was thousands of years ago.

Resource Page, cont.

Ful Medames

1.5 lb. dried ful or fava beans (can substitute with broad beans if unable to obtain)

2-4 crushed cloves of garlic

Soak beans for 12 hours, put in pan, cover with fresh water, boil, simmer until tender. (Time depends on dryness of beans.) Drain and add crushed garlic. Season and serve hot. Nice served with eggs.

Egyptian Rice

1 lb. lean ground chuck

1 small onion, chopped

2 cn. beef consomme

2 to 3 tb. soy sauce

1 ts Worcestershire sauce

1 jar sliced mushrooms, drained

1 c. raw rice

Salt and pepper to taste

Brown hamburger and onion. Add remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer until rice is done, about 20 minutes. Divide into individual serving dishes, add a dollop of sour cream and sprinkle with toasted slivered almonds.

Asbusa

2 lbs. cream of wheat

2.5 cups sugar

3/4 lb. butter

16 oz. plain yogurt

Slivered almond halves

Bring all ingredients to room temperature. In a large bowl mix sugar and cream of wheat. Add butter, mix by hand, rubbing the butter, sugar and cream of wheat between your palms for 10 minutes or more until the mixture is very well blended.

Add the yogurt and mix with your hands until the dough feels smooth in your hand. If it feels dry add one tablespoon at a time of water so when you hold it in your hands it feels like pie dough.

Butter a 13x9x2 pan and pat the dough into the pan with your hand. With a sharp knife slice the dough in 2 x 2 inch squares or into diamond shapes.

Press one almond half onto the surface of each piece. Bake at 350 degrees for 30-40 minutes or until golden brown.

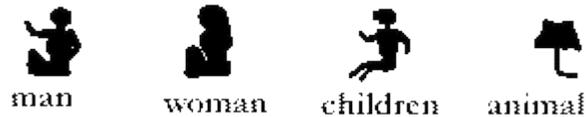
Resource Page

The written Egyptian language, hieroglyphics, is made up of three types of symbols. Alphabetic signs correspond to a letter or sound produced by that sign. Syllabic symbols stand for sounds produced by a group of letters, a syllable. Determinative signs relate to a specific object or idea, such as man, woman, and water. Hieroglyphics can be read from left to right, right to left, or top to bottom. The direction depends on the direction the symbols are facing.

SYLLABIC SYMBOLS



DETERMINATIVE SYMBOLS



Resource Page

Symbol	Meaning	Sound
	vulture	short A, as in asp
	forearm	long A, as in table
	leg	hard B, as in barge
	basket	hard C (K), as in cat
	hobble rope	CH, as in children
	hand	hard D, as in dog
	two reed leaves	long E, as in reed
	vulture	short E, as in set
	horned viper	F, as in furniture
	pot stand	hard G, as in gold
	cobra	soft G, as in generous
	shelter, rope	aspirated H, as in heart
	reed leaf	short and long I, as in him, sigh
	cobra	J, as in jelly
	basket, hillside	hard C or K, as in kind, lack
	mouth	L, as in lip
	owl	M, as in milk
	water	N, as in Nile
	quail chick	long O, as in moon

Resource Page

Symbol

Meaning

Sound



folded linen

S (soft C), as in sane, peace



lake

SH, as in shadow



loaf of bread

T, as in talk



cow belly

soft TH, as in mother



(not known)

hard TH, as in thistle



quail chick

short U, as in lull



reed + quail

long U, as in ruler



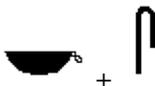
horned viper

V, as in viper



quail chick

W, as in willow



basket + linen

X, as in fox



reed leaf

short Y, as in yellow



two reed leaves

long Y, as in tardy



door fastening

Z, as in zany

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

_____ !

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>