

Joseph Is an Excellent Servant in Potiphar's House · Lesson 2

Bible Reference: Genesis 37:1-36

Bible Point: God helps us do our best

Bible Verse: "God is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20b)

Preparing for the Lesson: Prayer

- Read Philippians 4:13.
- How do you do your best when teaching your class?
- Pray: God, I want to do my best for you and the students you bring me. Help me to honor you by... Help me, Lord, to always do my best to your glory, and to be a model to these children so they'll want to do their best to honor you.

Introduce the Bible Point:

'Build It'...supplies: blocks

Have children build houses with blocks. As they build, encourage children to work together to build the best houses they can. Explain that when real builders work on a house, each person has a special job. Some people build the floor, some put in the windows, and some tap nails into the roof.

Let children choose special jobs as they build their block houses. One pair of children can lay out the first layer of blocks, other children can build each wall, another can say where the front door should be, and so on.

Say that in real life, God gives people special talents they can use to serve God.

Remind children that God helps us do our best with the talents he gives us.

Share the Story:

Check out the lesson video on dbKids.org. Below is a simplified version of the story found in Genesis. Depending on your children's ability to understand, you may lead them using the following poem or read directly from the Word of God. Other options would be to find a children's story bible to read from, watch a short video about Joseph, or act out the story with older family members.

- Begin by asking the children what they remember from last week's bible lesson. (Joseph got a special coat; Joseph was the favorite son; Joseph's brothers didn't like him.)

.Say: **You all remembered lots of important things from our story. Now we'll learn what happened to Joseph next.**

One night, Joseph had a dream (*put head on hands as if sleeping*); **His brothers all bowed down to him.**
The older boys had had enough (*shake head*), **So they decided to get rough.** (*Make two fists.*)

“This favorite son has got to go! Then maybe Dad will love us, too.”
The boys threw Joseph in a well (*look down*);
Then decided they would tell (*cup hands around mouth*)
Old Jacob that his son had died. (*Lay back of hand over your forehead dramatically.*)
That would fix young Joseph’s pride! (*Shake finger accusingly.*)
Then a caravan came by. (*Hold your hand over your eyes and look into the distance.*)
The boys said, “Hey—why don’t we try
To sell our brother for some money? (*Act as though you’re counting money.*)
Joseph a slave! Isn’t that funny?” (*Hold your stomach and laugh.*)
His brothers got him in
a mess, But Joseph
chose to try his best.
And all along he thought, “You’ll see (*point at children*)— **The Lord my God will set me free.”** (*Point upward.*)
Even when Joseph was a slave (*hold hands together as though handcuffed*),
He was kind (*hold one hand over your heart*) **and smart**
(*point to your head*) **and brave.** (*Hold arm up to show your muscle.*)
With God’s help, Joseph did his best.
He brought his master happiness. (*Smile.*)
So Joseph’s boss put him in charge
Of every job, both small (*hold up your thumb and forefinger*) **and large.** (*Spread your arms wide.*)
He did his best work every day (*pound your fists together as if you’re hammering*),
And with God’s help, things went OK. (*Give a thumbs up sign.*)

If you have time and children are interested, repeat the story and motions. Invite one or two children to stand up front and help you lead the motions. Then have the children sit down.

- **What do you think it was like for Joseph to work as a slave in someone else’s house?**
(He had to work hard; it might be scary; not very fun.)
- **Do you think it was easy or hard for Joseph to do his best work when he was a slave? Why?**
(It was hard, because he probably didn’t like it; easy, because all he had to do was clean the house and stuff.)
- **When is it easy for you to do your best?** (When I’m doing something I like; when I’m doing something I know how to do.)
- **When is it hard for you to do your best?** (When I’m doing something I don’t want to do like when I’m cleaning my room; when I’m doing something I’ve never done before.)

It’s not always easy to do our best, especially when we’re doing something hard or new. But God helps us do our best. In fact, God sent his very own Son, Jesus, to show us how much he loves us! God also sent His Spirit to teach us what we should do.

Do the Bible Story:

Joseph and His Brothers

Pick up a packet at DBCC with craft items prepared for each child. Remind children that God helps us do our best.

People Pattern

Photocopy this page and cut out the people patterns.

