

LESSON 1

JOSEPH'S STORY

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Saves**SCRIPTURE:** [Genesis 37; 39–50](#)**GOD'S BIG STORY:** Jacob's son, Joseph, is sold into slavery and wrongfully imprisoned. Yet God is with him, and Joseph rises to influence in Egypt, where, through him, God saves His people from famine**WORD OF WONDER:** Nothing is too hard for God. —from [Jeremiah 32:17](#)

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Joseph was Jacob's second youngest and favorite son. Joseph had a lot of very difficult and emotional experiences. He was hated by his brothers, thrown into a hole, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and sent to prison. Yet, God remained faithful to Joseph.

WHAT?

The coat of many colors Jacob gave Joseph signified that Jacob preferred Joseph over his other sons. Typically, this type of coat showed honor and was given to the son who had the birthright. This contributed to the hatred Joseph's brothers had for him.

WHERE?

Joseph traveled from Hebron to Shechem in search of his brothers, then headed approximately 65 miles north to Dothan. There Joseph was taken by Ishmaelite traders about 250 miles southwest, to Egypt, where they sold him as a slave to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials.

WHEN?

Joseph was 17 years old when his brothers sold him into slavery. Two years after Joseph was put in prison by Potiphar, he interpreted Pharaoh's dream. He was 30 years old. Approximately 23 years passed between Joseph's being sold into slavery and his family seeing him again.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Joseph had a big part in God's plan to save His people. God worked through Joseph's slavery in Egypt and his eventual leadership role to preserve and grow Jacob's family into a nation, as He had promised. One day, Jesus would be born in that family!

Activity: Color-FULL Coat

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Hello, and welcome to church! We're going to talk today about a man from the Bible named Joseph. Joseph got a special gift from his dad. It was a colorful coat. The coat had lots and lots of colors on it. What colors do you think might have been on the coat? Encourage the kids to name the colors, if they can. Not all toddlers will know all the colors, and that's OK.

Show the kids an item of each color. As you hold up each item, invite the kids to name the color. Then encourage them to find something else of that color in the room. For older kids, invite them to think of something else not in the room that is that color. You can also call out a color and invite the kids to point to (or bring you) things that are that color.

We'll learn in today's story about how God used Joseph to save lots of people. God was always with Joseph. We'll learn how God saves!

Activity: Save the Stuffed Animal

We're learning today about how God saves. God worked through someone named Joseph to help a lot of people. Let's take turns saving a stuffed animal when I toss it. I'm going to toss it up, and I'll call on someone to save it. Take turns calling out each child to come catch the stuffed animal as you gently toss it up in the air. Many toddlers won't be able to catch very well, and that's OK—encourage them to save it from the floor and take it to another spot in the room that is a “safe” spot. Repeat until every toddler has had a turn to save the stuffed animal.

You did a great job saving the stuffed animal. We'll learn today about how God saves us! God is powerful, and there's nothing He can't do.

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD SAVES.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—*Point up.*

SAVES—*Make a superhero pose (right fist to the sky and left fist on hip).*

Prayer and Blessing

Let's pray and talk to God. When I say, "save," make a big superhero pose (hold your arms straight up over your head, like you're flying) to remind us that God saves us. The greatest gift God gives us to save us is Jesus, who forgives us.

God, thank You for being powerful and loving. We thank You that You save (superhero pose) us. Thank You for sending Jesus so we can be forgiven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: Our God, who loves you, is with you! He is mighty to save and will never leave you. May you always trust Him.

Activity: Gathering Food

In God's big story today, Joseph helped save his people by gathering lots of food to give them when they were hungry. God used Joseph to help save the people. Let's pretend to gather food like Joseph!

Spread colored soft balls or pom-poms on the floor. Set out a basket or bucket nearby. Encourage kids to find specific colors of balls they can pretend is food to gather and put in the basket.

Let's help Joseph gather all the yellow food to give to the people. Repeat "yellow" several times, and encourage the kids to gather yellow balls or pom-poms and put them in the basket. Repeat with different colors until all of the pom-poms are in the basket or bucket.