

Day 1 - Bible Story

Leader - Read the following summary of the story of Joseph. Following the summary, there are a number of discussion questions for you to share with the children. You may need to make adjustments to the questions depending on the educational or age level of the children.

BIBLE STORY



Day 1 Bible Story - Joseph: God's Dreamer - Genesis Chapters 37, 39-47 The underdog from the Bible today is Joseph. Joseph did not start out in life feeling like he was an underdog. Joseph was one of the youngest in his family. Joseph's father, Jacob, treated Joseph very well. Jacob gave Joseph a very colorful robe to wear. None of Joseph's ten older brothers had ever been given something so nice. Over time, Joseph's brothers became more and more jealous of him.

One day Joseph had a dream that one day his brothers would bow down to him. When Joseph told his brothers about his dream, they became angry with him. One day Joseph's brothers decided to get rid of him. After they threw him into a pit, they decided to sell him as a slave. His brothers told their father that a wild animal had killed Joseph, and this made Joseph's father very sad.

Joseph was taken to Egypt, where he was sold to a man named Potiphar. Joseph was a very good worker, and Potiphar made him his top assistant. Potiphar's wife then accused Joseph of something that he had not done. When she told the lie to her husband Potiphar, he had Joseph placed in prison.

While Joseph was in prison, God helped him interpret the dreams of two men who had once worked for the Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. One of the two men whose dream God had helped Joseph interpret was able to be freed from prison. He was given back his old job in the Pharaoh's home, which is what God had helped Joseph see in the man's dream. But the man forgot about Joseph, and Joseph remained in prison for a long time.

Some time later, the Pharaoh himself had dreams that none of his advisors could interpret it. It was then that the man who had been in prison with Joseph remembered what Joseph had done for him. He told Pharaoh that a man named Joseph served a God who could interpret dreams.

God helped Joseph interpret Pharaoh's dreams. God showed Joseph through Pharaoh's dreams that the crops the Egyptians would plant would grow really well for seven years. But then there would be seven years when very little would grow.

Pharaoh was so happy with Joseph that he put him in charge of helping the people of Egypt store up their extra food of the next seven years. When the time came that very little would grow, the people would have food to eat.

Joseph helped the Egyptians store up so much food that people from nearby countries also traveled to Egypt to buy food. One group of men who came to buy food were the same brothers who had sold Joseph into slavery many years before. Instead of being angry with his brothers, Joseph forgave them.

BIBLE STORY



Joseph realized that through all the times when he felt like he was an underdog and nobody seem to care about him, God was really at work in his life. God had used the tough times in Joseph's life to save many people, including his own family, from starving.

Discussion Questions

Ask the Children - Have you ever been jealous of someone because that person had something that you did not have or because you felt that they were treated better than you? (Encourage the children to share their experiences, but ask them to avoid using names or making comments about someone else who may be in attendance at your VBS.)

Say to the Children - There will be times in your life when it may seem like you are not being treated as well as someone else. But remember that just because someone has nice things or seems to be treated better than you, God doesn't love them any more than He loves you.

Ask the Children - Has anyone ever accused you of doing something that you did not do? (Again, encourage the children to share their experience, but remind them to avoid using names or making comments about someone else who may be in attendance at your VBS.)

Say to the Children - It is very likely that this will happen to each of us at one time or another in our lives. When it happens, try not to get upset. Do your best to explain yourself to your accuser. In the end, remember that God knows your heart. He knows that you are innocent. Despite what consequences you may have to go through, He will never leave you or forget about you. He will honor those who love, trust, and stay true to Him.

Say to the Children - Joseph had to deal with some very difficult situations. His brothers did not like him. They threw him in a pit and they sold him as a slave. But God never forgot about Joseph. Instead, God continued to work through Joseph's life. And despite all that Joseph had to go through, both at the hands of his brothers and having to spend a long time in jail, God used Joseph to save the lives of many people. Joseph realized that he was not really an underdog at all. He saw that God had chosen Him for a very special job. Because of the love God had shown him, Joseph did not pay his brother back by punishing them for what they had done to him. Instead, he forgave them. He told them that what they had intended for evil, God used for good.