

**God Protects His People
in Egypt and the Exodus**

OLD TESTAMENT 2

DIRECTOR HANDBOOK



Contents

Exploring Cross Explorations	1
Leading Cross Explorations	4
Rethinking Classroom Management	7
Lesson Scope and Sequence	9
Preparing the Lesson	11



Copyright © 2015 Concordia Publishing House
3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968
1-800-325-3040 • www.cph.org

All rights reserved. Unless specifically noted, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of Concordia Publishing House.

The purchaser of this publication is allowed to reproduce the marked portions contained herein for use with this curriculum. The resources may not be transferred or copied to another user.

Edited by Mark S. Sengele

Portions originally published in *Teachers Interaction*, copyright © 2011 Concordia Publishing House.

Scripture quotations are from the ESV Bible® (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

The quotations from Luther's Works in this publication (marked AE) are from the American Edition: vol. 45 ©1962 Muhlenberg Press. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress.

Manufactured in the United States of America

Cross Explorations® is published quarterly by Concordia Publishing House. Your comments and suggestions concerning this material are appreciated. Email us at sundayschool@cph.org.

Welcome to Cross Explorations

Cross Explorations is the Sunday School with the biblical integrity you've come to expect from Concordia Publishing House. The Bible accounts in Cross Explorations follow the same sequence as Concordia's traditional Sunday School curriculum, *Growing in Christ*.

Cross Explorations combines the best of large-group/small-group instruction and site rotation. Leaders will love the easy-to-use leader guides as well as the options available for each lesson. Above all, Cross Explorations puts Christ at the center of each and every lesson.

Exploring Cross Explorations

Cross Explorations at a Glance

Engage

Cross Explorations starts with Engage. During Engage, all students take part in an opening activity together, singing and preparing for the rest of their exploration.

Explore

The Explore site divides kids by two age levels. Level 1 includes kids in grades 1–3, while Level 2 covers kids in grades 4–6. During Explore, students dig into the day's Bible story, guided by their Explore Leaders Leaflets and the Explore Student Leaflets. We recommend having eight to ten kids in a group with one leader. So, depending on the number of kids you have, you may have multiple Level 1 and Level 2 groups.

Express

During Express, kids apply the Bible learning from the Explore session to their lives as they create, experiment, sing, serve, and more. Options depend on the time you have available and the talents of your volunteers. The Express leader materials provide numerous options for each week:

- **Express Crafts Booklet**—thirteen pull-apart cards provide creative projects for each lesson, complete with supply lists, directions, talking points, and pictures of the completed craft.
- **Express Music CD**—includes recorded music, music activities for each lesson, and PowerPoint slides with linked music. Reinforce the lesson with new songs, old favorites, and familiar hymns.
- **Express Skit CD**—brief skits allow students to review each Bible lesson. Ideas for costumes and visual props are included.
- **Express Activities & More CD**—includes creative snack ideas and group activities for each week. Additional activity ideas, including service projects, are suggested for some weeks. Activities include:
 - Group activities
 - Science demonstrations
 - Service projects

Leaders have the option to access materials by week, by topic, or by type of activity.

The amount of time available determines if students will rotate through one, two, or more Express options each week. If time is limited, vary Express activities from week to week so students get a chance to experience different types of learning.

The Cross Explorations Schedule

Cross Explorations offers flexibility for a variety of settings. Here is a suggested schedule for a traditional 60-minute Sunday morning setting:

- All students at Engage for 15 minutes.
- Students break into Explore Levels 1 & 2 for 20 minutes.
- Students move through two or more Express rotations for 25 minutes.

If you are using Cross Explorations in a Midweek setting, your schedule probably offers more time. In this setting, the Engage and Explore times remain the same, but extra time may be used to include additional small-group Express options.

Flexibility

The flexible Cross Explorations materials allow you to customize the program to fit your specific needs. Here's how one congregation customized Cross Explorations to meet the specific needs in their Sunday School. They have a lot of students in grades 1–3, with smaller numbers in each of the older grades. Their solution:

- Everyone in grades 1–6 starts together in Engage.
- With a smaller number of students in grades 4–6, they move as one group into Explore. Following Explore, the older students split into two groups and rotate through two Express stations.
- Meanwhile, the younger students in grades 1–3 stay in single-grade groups and rotate through three stations. Explore becomes one of the three rotations, and leaders choose the other two stations from the Express materials.

Cross Explorations in a Self-Contained Classroom

Some congregations, by preference or due to limited space or number of students, use Cross Explorations in self-contained classrooms. The flexible Cross Explorations resources easily allow for use in this setting. If needed, divide students into two groups, Lower Grades (1–3) and Upper Grades (4–6), and plan on a leader for each group. If most of your students are younger, you could use just the Level 1 materials; likewise, use the Level 2 materials if most of your students are older.

Introduce the lesson to all students, using the Engage leader leaflets and optional PowerPoint slide shows. (Or provide an *Engage CD* to each teacher to use in the classroom.)

Then, divide students into two or more groups for the Explore Bible study. Have them meet with their leader in their classroom or an assigned area of a larger space to dig into the Bible account and work through the student leaflets.

Following Explore, have students continue with Express activities in their classroom or rotate through Express activities with other classes. They can stay in the Explore groups, combine with other groups, or form new groups. Select the Express options that work best for your setting. These options can vary from week to week to keep students excited and engaged in what might happen next week.

Assembling Small Groups

Small groups form the core of Cross Explorations. Groups may be assigned by traditional grade levels or by combining students from the three grades comprising each of the two levels for Explore. For instance, you could have two or more groups of students from grades 1–3. Likewise, you could have groups with a mix of students from grades 4–6. Ideally, groups will have eight to ten students in them. If you have more than ten students at either level, plan on two Explore sites for that level. Depending on the age range of your students and their level of maturity, you might also include students in third grade in your Level 2 groups.

What About Other Sunday School Levels?

Preschool

We recommend letting preschoolers learn in their own settings and groups. The Growing in Christ *Early Childhood Teacher Guide* has age-appropriate material for preschoolers that follows the same lesson sequence as Cross Explorations.

Keeping preschoolers separate from your elementary program is beneficial for several reasons. Sunday School is often a preschooler's first group experience. A young child needs a safe environment with predictable routines and the same caring teacher each week to feel secure. Parents and children may feel anxious, timid, or afraid in the midst of the larger Sunday School setting. If you can, give preschoolers separate learning spaces so that they can do age-appropriate activities in an environment suitable to their needs. Preschoolers can get lost among older kids, but in their own space, they can relax, play, and feel more secure. This kind of atmosphere maximizes their ability to learn and remember.

Junior High and High School

Since Cross Explorations is a complementary program to Growing in Christ, you can use Growing in Christ for junior high and high school levels. The two programs share a common Bible story, so the whole family is studying the same story each week.

Adults

The Cross Explorations *Explore Adult Bible Study Guide* provides weekly lessons for adult learners. Parents and other adults join children for the large-group Engage session, then continue learning in their own Explore group for thirty minutes. Families continue learning at home through the *Explore More Cards*. These talking points help families take the lesson home each week and engage kids and parents in talking about the faith.

Leading Cross Explorations

Staffing for Cross Explorations lets volunteers work from their strengths. Each Cross Explorations leader works in a role designed to let him or her be most effective. It is beneficial when groups of children have two adults present with them at all times.

Large-Group Leader

The large-group leader begins each week's Cross Explorations adventure during the Engage session. This leader needs the energy and confidence to work with a large group of children. The Engage leader should also have the ability to get kids excited about learning. Since this large-group leader sets the tone for the day, choose this leader—or leadership team—carefully. Because of the variety of ages involved, it is important to select a large-group leader who communicates well with students.

Site Leaders

Your Cross Explorations site leaders do what they do best—crafts, music, science, teaching the lesson, and more. Volunteers who feel comfortable teaching students would be ideal leaders for the Explore Level 1 and Explore Level 2 sites. For the most effective learning environment, Explore leaders should be consistent from week to week. If teaching volunteers like to work in teams, enlist three teachers for each Explore team and encourage at least two of them to be present each week. Those volunteers with a love for crafts, music, drama, or other ways to apply the lesson truths to kids' lives would be excellent leaders for the Express sites you choose. Since Express sites may vary each week, volunteers may take turns serving.

Rotation Small-Group Leaders

Cross Explorations small-group leaders serve a very important role. You will need one small-group leader for every eight to ten kids. The small-group leaders may not have to teach; rather, they lead their small group of students from one site to another. Groups may be assigned by age or grade level, or they may be multi-graded. Strive for groups no larger than ten students. Encourage students to select a name for their group in order to develop a sense of group identity. Small-group leaders

- are leaders and encouragers, not bosses;
- develop friendships with every child in their group;
- help and encourage kids to participate, cooperate, and try new things;
- ask questions and lead kids to discover Bible answers;
- keep kids focused on tasks and challenges;
- participate in activities;
- get to know their group members well; and
- are patient and do not yell or express anger.

Older adults and older youth often make ideal small-group leaders. In some situations, you may want to have your small-group leaders actually be the teachers for the Explore or Express sites. For the balance of the time at Cross Explorations, these teachers simply lead their small group. The choice is yours!

Cross Explorations Resources

The Cross Explorations leader materials provide all of the resources your volunteers need to effectively share God's Word with children.

■ Engage

Leader Leaflet includes opening activities and music suggestions.

Engage Music CD provides selected music for use in Cross Explorations.

■ Explore

Level 1 Teacher Leaflets include resources for teaching the Bible story to children in grades 1–3.

Level 1 Student Leaflets include full-color Bible art and activities for children in grades 1–3.

Level 2 Teacher Leaflets include resources for teaching the Bible story to children in grades 4–6.

Level 2 Student Leaflets include full-color Bible art, activities, and discussion questions for children in grades 4–6.

Explore More Cards provide family-centered questions and activities to extend the lesson to the home each week.

Explore Adult Bible Study Guide allows parents and other adults to explore the same lesson that kids do each week.

■ Express

Express Craft Booklet uses visuals to guide students as they express the lesson creatively. (Craft activity patterns, when required, are found on the *Express Activities & More CD*.)

Express Music CD allows kids to express the lesson through song.

Express Skit CD lets students express the lesson through drama and role play.

Express Activities & More CD has ideas and activities that vary from week to week. These include science demonstrations, games, snacks, service projects, and more. Each one provides students with unique ways to express their learning. (This CD may also contain craft-activity patterns.)

■ Director CD

Director Handbook with planning materials for the Sunday School Leader.

Preparing the Lesson leaflets for each week. Provide all your volunteer leaders with copies of these devotions as they prepare for each week's lesson.

Planning Pages are designed to help teachers and leaders plan the lessons each week. The planning pages outline the activities available for each section of the lesson.

Suggested Use Chart helps leaders plan the dates for each lesson.

Bulletin Notes are designed to help connect your congregation and Sunday School by providing a brief lesson highlight and suggested questions for parents and others to discuss with students.

Pronunciation Guide helps teachers and students correctly pronounce more difficult names of people and places in the Bible.

Arch Book List helps teachers reinforce the Bible account by providing another method of sharing the story with students.

The Perfect Setting: Environment Matters

Stress, mess, and chaos hinder learning. Open a door to effective learning by providing a relaxed, comfortable environment.

- Make sure your facility is clean and safe. Eliminate unneeded furniture and supplies.
- Use child-size furniture so kids feel comfortable.
- Decorate to capture curiosity. Nearly 75 percent of people are visual learners who learn best with visual prompts. Thematic decorating helps them understand and remember well.
- Use words and pictures on signs for sites, restrooms, and offices.

Where to Meet

Deciding where to meet for Cross Explorations will depend on the space available in your building.

Engage requires a space large enough for all students to be seated and equipped so the leader can be heard clearly. If you plan to use the recording on the *Engage CD*, you will need a CD player. If you plan to use the PowerPoint presentation on the *Engage CD*, you will need a computer and a projector. The church sanctuary, a fellowship hall, or even a gymnasium can work for this session.

Explore requires separate spaces for the two levels. Classrooms equipped with chairs or desks or a section of a larger room that can be screened off will both work for this session. Preschool students, youth, and adults should have their own meeting locations apart from the Explore session.

Express sessions offer the greatest flexibility as far as meeting locations. You could offer multiple Express sites in one large space, provided you can screen off areas to prevent distractions. Rolling dividers, movable walls, or even fabric panels help block the view from one area to another. In other situations, separate classrooms might offer the best setting for the Express sessions.

Decorating Ideas

Help students experience Cross Explorations by setting the scene for learning. Your decorations may be as simple as Concordia's realistic Bible Story Poster Sets. These sets contain pictures of each Bible story for the quarter. Use posters to decorate Explore learning areas so teachers can refer to the appropriate picture for that week's lesson. You can view the posters in each set at www.cph.org/sundayschool.

If you have a dedicated area for Sunday School, consider more extensive decorating to help set the stage for learning. Furnish Explore and Express areas with Bible-times decorations. Piles of brightly striped pillows can double as seating for storytelling time. Use baskets and ceramic vessels to hold craft supplies and student materials for each Express location. You might even set up a Bible-times marketplace to keep students engaged in the learning process.

Rethinking Classroom Management

by Jasmine Duerr

Inspired by this morning's sermon, the Sunday School teacher enters the classroom eager to allow these redeemed children to demonstrate that they are made perfect in Christ. Or it could be that these students' Lutheran Day School teacher arrives with the same attitude on Monday morning. Yet, each teacher confronts an interesting dilemma: how to display true Gospel love without losing complete control of the classroom. Teachers may believe the only way to "love" children is to let them make their own decisions and to minimize the importance of authority figures. Therefore, the teachers allow the students to sit wherever they'd like and to talk whenever they choose. While expecting the children to respectfully honor their "loving" teacher by displaying good behavior, the teachers soon find that there is no order in the classroom.

Wolf in the Sheep Pen

Eradicating the Law from classroom management does not work. This is not a new quandary. Luther himself realized the folly of trying to govern with the Gospel. Although he was commenting on ruling a country, this quote is quite applicable to a classroom setting:

Hence, a man who would venture to govern an entire country or the world with the gospel would be like a shepherd who would place into one fold wolves, lions, eagles, and sheep, and let them mingle freely with one another, saying, "Help yourselves, and be good and peaceful toward one another. The fold [stable] is open, there is plenty of food. You need have no fear of dogs and clubs." The sheep would doubtless keep the peace and allow themselves to be fed and governed peacefully, but they would not live long, nor would one beast survive another. (AE 45:91–92)

How perfectly this fits with students today! The quiet, obedient sheep do everything in their power to maintain peace for themselves while the wolf decides to stir up a little trouble, often causing the sheep to cry out. The lions consult together, deciding what bold adventure they should undertake, while the free-spirited eagle does everything except what he should be doing. And without fear of punishment, these behaviors continue.

Classroom Reality

In our world today, many believe children are inherently good and that, when given the choice, they will choose the noble, proper, and constructive thing. However, anyone who has spent time in a room full of children knows that sinful tendencies don't take long to surface; the quietly attentive pupils morph into talkative, disobedient, and willfully stubborn creatures.

How can a teacher convey Gospel love while maintaining order? A teacher who tries to manage with pure Gospel might simply tell the class to act as Jesus would like them to act, which is actually a Law statement! Once the wolves, lions, and eagles are given this leeway, there is no turning back. The Gospel alone cannot manage the classroom!

Thus, a proper understanding of Law and Gospel allows a teacher to utilize the Law to manage a classroom and to provide protection from the infiltrating power of sin, which continues to be present even in a Lutheran setting. Both Law and Gospel are necessary. It is up to the teacher to properly apply both. What follows should serve to make the application of both a little more practical.

Listen again to Martin Luther's observations. "Both [Law and Gospel] must be permitted to remain; the one to produce righteousness, the other to bring about external peace and prevent evil deeds" (AE 45:92). The Law is preserved to produce good behavior because, as shown earlier, a classroom full of different sorts of children (sheep, wolves, lions, and eagles) cannot be controlled by the Gospel. The Gospel does not demand proper behavior from children. Rules must be established. Guidelines must be created. Above all, this order must be maintained with daily instruction and discipline, or God's Law.

However, a solely Law-filled classroom would be a cold, rigid environment. Pure Law will leave students lacking the warmth and forgiveness of the Gospel. Thus, the Gospel must indeed be present in the classroom, but not for classroom management. The Gospel needs to be shared daily to keep the children living in a good understanding of forgiveness and to provide the encouragement that can come only from the Gospel. A repentant child who confesses needs to hear that she is forgiven. A child whose guilty conscience has been bothering him must be assured of God's unconditional love. A child facing heartache from a situation beyond her control must be reminded of her status as God's precious child.

It is simple, then: establish order in the classroom using God's Law, and maintain a spirit of love with God's Gospel. Simple? Maybe. But maybe not as simple as that.

A Real-Life Situation

Perhaps this all makes perfect sense . . . until you are faced with your own situation in the classroom. On a regular basis, teachers are faced with the decision of whether to administer a strict dose of the Law to a willful sinner or to show mercy to an undeserving recipient.

Consider this Day School scenario: you have a student who is bright, witty, and well liked. He meets all classroom requirements and is the first to answer any question. Yet, he often finds himself in trouble for bad language and rude comments. This student is quick to recognize his error and to apologize. While you have often forgiven him and moved on, you have also called home to alert his parents of his behavior, since he has sometimes earned a stay after school for accumulating too many infractions in one day.

Having used both Law and Gospel with this student in the past, you are faced with a decision one day. As the star player, this particular student is anticipating a game that evening. However, with two large infractions already that day, one more would result in his losing his eligibility to play that night. You pull him aside, explain that he needs to be careful the rest of the day, and send him on his way.

Just before the end of the school day, the unfortunate child loudly casts a slur upon a classmate but almost instantly turns to look at you in shame, realizing what he has just done.

This is your test: do you uphold the Law, give him his third mark, and inform him that he is out of the game? Or do you accept his apology and promise that he will improve, allowing him to play that evening? It is your call. Knowing that you have made the wisest decision you can, pray that God will bless your decision and its outcome in the life of this student.

Lesson Scope and Sequence

The lessons for this quarter focus on Old Testament accounts, beginning with the life and work of Joseph in Egypt. The balance of the quarter includes the birth of Moses, the escape from Egypt, and the exodus in the wilderness.

Lesson	Suggested Use Date	Title	Text
1	9/6/2015	Joseph and His Brothers	Genesis 37
2	9/13/2015	Joseph's Troubles	Genesis 39
3	9/20/2015	Joseph Feeds Egypt	Genesis 40–41
4	9/27/2015	Joseph Forgives	Genesis 42–45; 50:15–21
5	10/4/2015	The Birth of Moses	Exodus 1:1–2:10
6	10/11/2015	Moses and the Burning Bush	Exodus 2:11–4:31
7	10/18/2015	Moses and the Plagues	Exodus 5–10
8	10/25/2015	The Passover	Exodus 11–12
9	11/1/2015	Crossing the Red Sea	Exodus 13:17– 15:21
10	11/8/2015	God Provides Manna, Water, and Quail	Exodus 16–17
11	11/15/2015	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 19–20
12	11/22/2015	Worship in the Tabernacle	Exodus 40
13	11/29/2015	The Bronze Serpent	Numbers 21:4–9

Weekly Podcasts

For teachers using the Cross Explorations Sunday School material, there is a wonderful weekly podcast resource available at www.cph.org/sunday-school. Click on the "Seeds of Faith Podcast" icon at the bottom of the page. This weekly interview unpacks the richness of the Bible text. Teachers will gain practical, relevant, biblical information to inform their teaching of the lesson.

Preparing the Lesson

Joseph and His Brothers

Genesis 37

Date of Use

Key Point

Joseph was hated by his brothers, who threatened him with death and sold him into slavery, but he was rescued by God. God's Son, Jesus, was also hated and was killed for our sin. He is our deliverer from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

Law/Gospel

Hatred ruins relationships and separates me from others and from God. **Jesus' death and resurrection restores my relationships with God and others.**

Context

Rachel died as her second son, Benjamin, was born. The twelve tribes of Israel are complete, but Jacob's favored wife is dead. Now Jacob's favor rests with Joseph, Rachel's firstborn. Jacob saw his father, Isaac, before he died and now lives in his father's land, the land of Canaan. The sons of Israel are shepherds.

Commentary

The account of Jacob begins and ends with Joseph (Genesis 37:2; 46:4). God always provides a deliverer for His people. In the lifetime of Jacob, Joseph was the deliverer. Moses records the Christlike characteristics of Joseph in Genesis, his first book. Joseph is never depicted as sinning in his vocation. He was not sinless, of course, for there would be only one Sinless One, Jesus Christ. Instead we see Joseph fulfilling his God-given vocations faithfully, trusting in God's mercy.

As a son, Joseph reports the misdeeds of his father's other sons. As a servant to Potiphar, Joseph becomes chief of all his master's possessions and remains chaste despite the advances of Potiphar's wife. In prison, he manages

the jail with diligence, becoming a leader among inmates. As the right hand of Pharaoh, Joseph rules with wisdom and mercy. Finally, as a brother, Joseph forgives all that his brothers meant for evil because he saw the hand of God working for good. In each vocation—son, worker, and brother—Joseph trusted God to provide him with all that he needed to support his body and life, to defend him against all danger, and to guard and protect him from all evil (Small Catechism, First Article).

Joseph bore the cross of being his father's well-beloved son. He incurred the wrath of his other brothers. God revealed to Joseph the future, yet his brothers, his father, and his mother refused to believe him. They even rebuked him. But just as Mary pondered strange and wonderful things in her heart (Luke 2:19, 51), so Jacob kept the matter of these dreams in mind (Genesis 37:11).

Joseph's cross was magnified by his brothers' betrayal into death. They cast him into a pit, while dreaming up a story of vindication. When greed overcame their desire for blood, they sold him into slavery. Reuben's weakhearted attempts were too little and too late. He valued favor with his brothers more than the life of his father's son. Good intentions do not produce good works. What humans mean for evil, God uses for good.

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.

God Protects His People in Egypt and the Exodus

Old Testament 2

Arch Book Connections

Children love the rhyming patterns found in Concordia Publishing House's beloved Arch Book series. Arch Books also offer lots of options for expanding and enriching your Cross Explorations lessons:

Read the Arch Book as a sort of "readers theater." Have students take turns reading stanzas, pages, or even the whole book. This would make a great Opening activity or lesson review.

Make a "book trailer"—sort of like a movie trailer—of the Arch Book with a narration that "plugs" the book. For example: He was small—his adversary, a giant! He had only five smooth stones, while his enemy had a spear as long as a weaver's beam. Thrill to the challenge! "Ha, ha, ha! Come out and fight, pip-squeak!" Tremble with fear! "King Saul, what shall we do?!" Read it for yourself and find out who comes out victorious! Available now at your Sunday School library! The story of David and . . . (bum, bum, baaa!) Goliath!

Do a dramatic presentation of an Arch Book, and share it with another class. If the upper grade students do one story as a drama or trailer, make sure the lower grades see the final results. Let the younger children perform for the upper grades as well.

Have students create their own rhyming book with illustrations. Take digital pictures of the illustrations, and make them into a PowerPoint slide "book." These could be performed in a chapel service or the Opening in Sunday School.

If your church provides "Worship Bags" to help keep young children focused during the worship service, consider inserting the Arch Books for the quarter in those bags. With each new quarter, change out the Arch Books to include the applicable stories.

These Arch Books correspond to the lessons for this quarter:

Lesson 1: *Joseph: Jacob's Favorite Son*, 592233

Lesson 2: *Joseph: Jacob's Favorite Son*, 592233

Lesson 3: *Joseph: Jacob's Favorite Son*, 592233

Lesson 4: *Joseph: Jacob's Favorite Son*, 592233

Lesson 5: *Tiny Baby Moses*, 591550

Lesson 7: *The Ten Plagues*, 591608

Lesson 9: *Moses' Dry Feet*, 591518

Lesson 10: *Moses and the Long Walk*, 591607

Lesson 11: *The Ten Commandments*, 591586

God Protects His People in Egypt and the Exodus

Old Testament 2

Weekly Bulletin Notes

Help parents and others stay connected to your Sunday School with these weekly bulletin summaries of the Bible lesson for the week. An electronic version for placement in your church bulletin is also available online: www.cph.org/sundayschool.

Lesson 1

For the next few weeks in Sunday School, the children will be studying true story of the life of Joseph. It begins today with the account of "Joseph and His Brothers." Though the brothers didn't know it, God would use their treachery to bring about His plan to deliver His people and ultimately to deliver us from sin and death through Jesus. *A family discussion might include, "How can hatred and unkind thoughts lead to hateful words and actions?"* On the cross, Jesus saved us from the hurt and harm of our own sins and the sins of others.

Lesson 2

The account of "Joseph's Troubles" continues the study of Joseph's life in the Sunday School lesson for today. God was with Joseph; and in Christ, God is with us in all the situations of life, providing, protecting, and forgiving us. *As a family, you might discuss, "How do we usually react when we are falsely accused of wrongdoing? How can we learn to trust Jesus to work out all things for our good?"*

Lesson 3

Today in Sunday School, the children will learn how "Joseph Feeds Egypt" during a great famine. *Ask your children, "How do our sins cause suffering for both ourselves and others?"* God sent His Son, Jesus, to save all humanity from sin, death, and the devil. Discuss the reality that in spite of how awful life seems, Jesus is with us through His Word and Sacraments, caring for us always.

Lesson 4

Today in Sunday School, the children will complete their study of how God worked in Joseph's life. "Joseph Forgives" and reveals himself to his brothers, telling them that though they meant evil, God used their acts for good. Our Lord Jesus Christ reveals Himself to us and forgives us in His Holy Word and Sacraments. *Families could discuss, "How was God with Joseph, blessing him through all that happened, the good and the bad? How has God turned bad or evil things in your life or world into blessings for your good?"*

Lesson 5

The Sunday School lesson today begins a series of lessons about Moses. Today's lesson is "The Birth of Moses." The children will learn that God was with Moses, caring for him and protecting him. God saved His people through Moses, who led them out of slavery. *Family discussions might include, "How does God show His love and cares for us? How does God deliver us from evil?"*

Lesson 6

Today in Sunday School, the lesson recalls the account of "Moses and the Burning Bush." Just as God had Moses remove the sandals from his feet, God in Christ removes our sins from us, making us fit to approach God and stand in His presence. *Discuss, "Who makes us holy before God? What did Moses have to do, and why, in order to be in God's presence?"*

Lesson 7

Today's Sunday School lesson is "Moses and the Plagues." Through a series of horrific plagues, God punished the Egyptians for their sinful treatment of His people and freed His people from bondage. Through

Lesson 1: Joseph and His Brothers

Text: Genesis 37

Date Used: _____

Key Point: Joseph was hated by his brothers, who threatened him with death and sold him into slavery, but he was rescued by God. God's Son, Jesus, was also hated and was killed for our sin. He is our deliverer from sin, death, and the power of the devil.

Law/Gospel: Hatred ruins relationships and separates me from others and from God. **Jesus' death and resurrection restores my relationships with God and others.**

To bring:

Engage

Approximate time: _____

Location: _____

Leader(s): _____

Suggested Songs: "Call Upon Me," Track 1. "Father Abraham," Track 2. "Child of God," Track 4.

Bible Challenge Question: How many sons did Jacob have? **Twelve**

Name one daughter of Jacob's identified in the Bible. **Dinah.**

Notes:

To bring:

Explore

Approximate time: _____

Level 1 (Grades 1–3)

Location: _____

Leader(s): _____

Notes:

Level 2 (Grades 4–6)

Location: _____

Leader(s): _____

Notes:

Adult Bible Study

Location: _____

Leader(s): _____

Notes:

To bring:

Express Options (Choose 2 or more!)

Approximate
times:

Slot 1:

Slot 2:

Slot 3*:

Slot 4*:

Slot 5*:

Slot 6*:

Music: Call upon Me (Psalm 50:15) (Track 2)

I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus (Track 9)

Rescued by the Son (Track 16)

Location: _____

Leader(s): _____

Notes:

☐ **Skit:** Joseph and His Brothers

Location: _____

Leader(s): _____

Notes:

☐ **Craft:** Clothespin People

Location: _____

Leader(s): _____

Notes:

☐ **Food Activity:** Not Ruined Anymore

Location: _____

Leader(s): _____

Notes:

☐ **Group Activity:** Out of the Pit

Location: _____

Leader(s): _____

Notes:

*If applicable

Old Testament 2

God Protects His People in Egypt and the Exodus

Lesson	Title	Date of Use
1	Joseph and His Brothers	_____
2	Joseph's Troubles	_____
3	Joseph Feeds Egypt	_____
4	Joseph Forgives	_____
5	The Birth of Moses	_____
6	Moses and the Burning Bush	_____
7	Moses and the Plagues	_____
8	The Passover	_____
9	Crossing the Red Sea	_____
10	God Provides Manna, Water, and Quail	_____
11	The Ten Commandments	_____
12	Worship in the Tabernacle	_____
13	The Bronze Serpent	_____