

Bible Discovery

God is good (*no matter what!*). Hold up a Bible. **Our story from the Bible is about a teenager named Joseph. Joseph was a younger brother. He had 10 older brothers! And he had one younger brother, too. Do this with me.**

- Count on your fingers to 10.
- Hold up one finger for Joseph's younger brother, Benjamin.
- Raise your hand if you have a brother.
- Raise your hand if you have a sister.
- Raise your hand if you have cousins.

Wow! That's a lot of kids. Joseph and his brothers had a job to do in their family. They took care of sheep! They had to watch them closely and keep them safe and out of trouble. Let's pretend we're shepherds and sheep in our Connect Crews.

- Have each Connect Crew choose a child to be the Shepherd. The other kids will be sheep.
- Have the Shepherds walk around their circles and count the sheep as they tap them gently on the head.
- Encourage sheep to baa when they're counted.

Thanks, shepherds. Looks like all your sheep are here and happy. You can sit down and rest with them now as I read about the job Joseph and his brothers had.



Read aloud Genesis 37:2.

Uh-oh! Joseph's brothers did some bad things. That's not good. So Joseph told his dad what they were doing. I wonder...

- **How do you feel when someone tells on you? Make faces to show me how you feel.** Pause as kids make faces.
- Comment on some of the faces you see, and add your own. You may notice sad, mad, or worried faces.

Getting in trouble doesn't feel very good. But **God is good (*no matter what!*). God's good when we aren't. And he always loves us no matter what we do. It's too bad that Joseph's older brothers didn't seem to know that. They didn't like Joseph. But let's read and see how Joseph's dad, Jacob, felt about Joseph.**



Read aloud Genesis 37:3-4.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Joseph Annoys His Brothers" Bible Story poster
- leader's coat

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!



Read the verses from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. And don't worry; we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.

Welcome a few responses. Be sure to summarize what kids say so everyone can hear.

Show the Bible Story poster. **Joseph's dad loved Joseph and gave him a beautiful coat. Maybe it was colorful! If you could have a coat in any color, what color would you choose? Go ahead and shout out the color you'd choose.**

- Welcome kids' responses from the whole group, and comment on the beautiful colors you hear.
- Show kids your coat, tell why you like it, and put it on.

Joseph's coat was beautiful, like this one. This special gift from his father must have made him very happy. He went to sleep with happy thoughts and dreams. Do what I do!

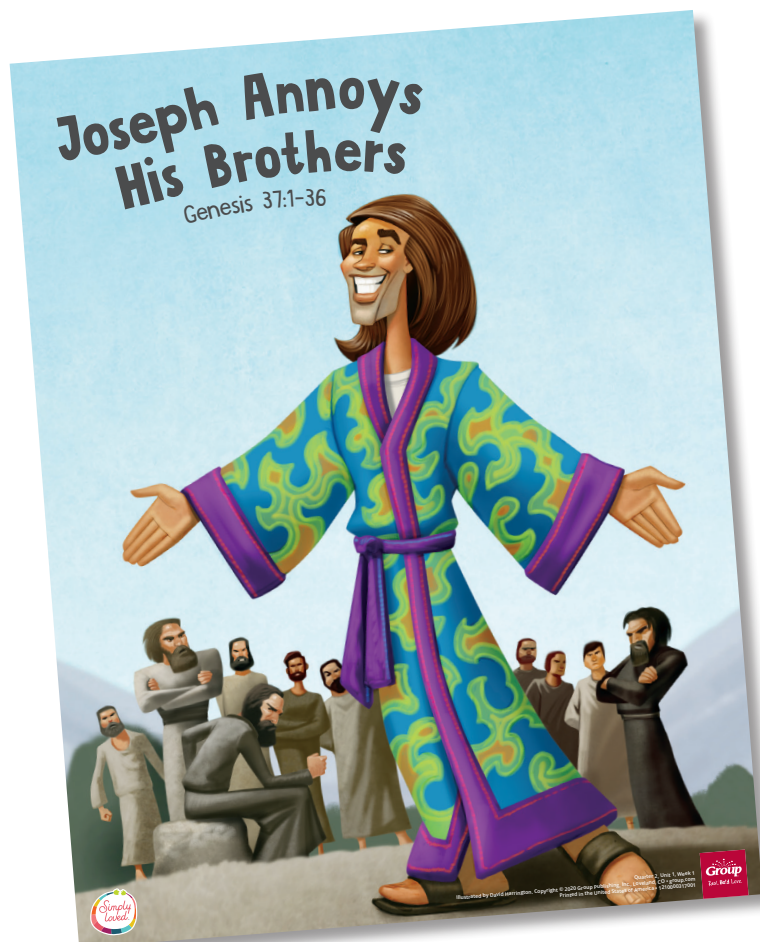
- Rest your head on your hands, smile, and pretend to sleep.
- Keep "sleeping" for about 10 seconds, then wake up suddenly.

Joseph had a dream—a good dream! He told his dad and his brothers all about it. Let's read what Joseph's dream was about.

 Read aloud Genesis 37:6-8.

The dream was good, but the brothers didn't like it. Joseph went to sleep again. Let's all sleep again.

- Rest your head on your hands, smile, and pretend to sleep.
- Keep "sleeping" for about 10 seconds, then wake up suddenly.



Joseph had another dream. This time he dreamed that the sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him like he was the most special person ever! Joseph's brothers didn't like that dream either. Neither did his dad, Jacob. Do this with me.

- Pretend to be Joseph's brothers, scowl, and shake your finger "no."
- Pretend to be Joseph's dad, put your hands out as if asking a question and say, "What kind of dream is that?"

Oh, dear. Joseph was excited about his dreams, but they made his family mad. That's not good. But **God is good (*no matter what!*). He knew what was happening in Joseph's family, and he still loved them.**

Well, one day, Joseph's brothers were taking care of sheep. This time they were watching sheep farther away from home. Joseph went to look for them, and he couldn't find them right away. It was like they were playing hide-and-seek! Do this with me.

- Cover your eyes and count to 10 as if playing hide-and-seek.
- Say "Ready or not, here I come!" and then take your hands away from your eyes.
- Unsuccessfully look around the room for sheep.
- Repeat a few times.

Finally, Joseph found his brothers and the sheep. He thought they'd be happy to see him. After all, he had super-special dreams and a very beautiful coat. Once again, show off the coat you're wearing.

But Joseph's brothers weren't happy to see him. They came up with a mean plan to hurt him. They put him in an empty well, which is a place in the ground that holds a lot of water. There wasn't any water in the well, so Joseph's brothers took his coat and put Joseph down in the well. I think my coat has to go, too. Help me take it off!

- Gather some kids around you and let them playfully pull off your coat.
- Put the coat on the floor.

Joseph's brothers were so mad. You might stomp when you're mad.

- Allow everyone to stomp.
- Pick up the coat and crumple it up a bit.

Well, the anger Joseph's brothers were feeling made them hurt Joseph. It wasn't good. They took him out of the well, but he didn't go home. Joseph's brothers made him go far, far away and live in a new place. Sigh. Joseph must have felt so lonely, sad, and scared. It's no fun when people are mad at you. But God wasn't mad at Joseph. **God is good (*no matter what!*).**

Joseph's life went from really good to not-so-good. But God was with Joseph and took care of him. Even when times are bad and people are mad, **God is good** (*no matter what!*). God will help us smooth things out with the people we love.

- Carefully shake out your crumpled coat, then hang it up on a hook or over a chair.
- **Let's talk in our Connect Crews.** Invite Crews to get cozy in knee-to-knee circles.
- **? Tell about a time God helped you smooth things out with someone who was mad at you.** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

God is good (*no matter what!*). He takes care of us in good times and in not-so-good times.

- Have everyone turn to a friend and say, **"God is good."** The friend will reply *"...no matter what!"*
- Have kids switch so the other friend starts by saying, **"God is good"** and the first friend replies, *"...no matter what!"*

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one or more that fit your time frame to support today's Bible discoveries before the closing Goodbye Circle.

