

JOSEPH: FROM SLAVE TO DEPUTY PHARAOH

TEACHER INSIGHT

Personal Preparation for the Study:

The most effective way to prepare is to experience the study first as a participant. Each of the studies centers on Bible stories that have rich meaning and can impact your life in deep ways.

Take at least an hour to go through the exercises as a participant. Make sure you spend time watching the videos, doing the reading, and engaging in the response activities. Write down your answers to the discussion questions. Try hard not to let your mind wander to how you will teach this lesson! This will be an important time for you to discover your own insights, and it will also help you anticipate your group's responses.

Leading This Study:

After you go through the study for your own growth, go through it from a teacher's perspective. Note activities and options that you feel will work well with your group and ones that you want to change or omit.

Since this is only the third lesson, there may be teens for whom this is still a very new and challenging experience. Continue to encourage your teens to be open to learning and experiencing new things.

This lesson moves fairly quickly through several episodes in Joseph's life. While you could spend time unpacking each trial he faced (e.g., temptation from Potiphar's wife) and what each means in our lives, it might be more advantageous to encourage your teens to see the whole narrative of Joseph's life and struggles in light of God's attitude toward those who are afflicted—the "underdogs," in a sense. The element of forgiveness will also play a large role in rounding out this narrative.

Continue to encourage your teens to give their full attention while engaging with this story. Remind them that discussion outside of the parameters of this story is for another time. Encourage teens that if they engage the story like a movie, allowing themselves to enter it, they will learn new things.

Chapter 3: "Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh" can be found in Genesis 37; 39; 41–48; and 50.

ASK THE RIGHT QUESTIONS!

Sometimes using the right probing questions can unlock great discussion.

Until a group gets to know each other and becomes familiar with a new style of interaction, you won't be able to rely on canned questions to get your discussion started. (The questions will help, but you will need a little more.) Remember to keep your questions open-ended. When appropriate, ask "What do you think?" questions, rather than questions that seek a concrete answer. These will, by nature, foster more discussion amongst your group. Similarly, stay away from questions that could have a yes or no answer, and opt for "Why...?" questions. (For example, instead of "Did you like the story?" use "What did you think about the story? Why?")

As your teens begin to respond, don't be afraid to use probing questions to dig a bit deeper. When you sense there could be more to a teen's answer that is beneficial to the rest of the group, ask them to elaborate or explain their response further. (Of course, be careful not to pry into something that is too personal.)

TEACHER PLANNING

SUPPLIES:

- Copies for every participant of the **Chapter 3 Handout: Joseph** (on curriculum DVD)
- Provide 11 to 13 copies of the **StoryReader** for your storytellers (on curriculum DVD). See the StoryReader Assignment section below for details. Make extra copies for teens who'd like to read along. (Save paper by letting teens share the scripts, also.)
- Copies of the JOIN the Story section of this guide for **Small Group Leaders**
- Show the **God Builds a Nation Recap video** and the **Chapter 3: Joseph video** from the curriculum DVD.
- **JOIN the Story Activity:** Extra paper, pens, markers, paints, and clay for participants to create an imaginative response.
- **Creative Option:** Sheets of paper, pens and pencils; OPTIONAL: Tape or voice recorders, musical instruments (tambourines, drums, keyboard, etc.)
- **Optional:** *The Story: Teen Edition*—a Bible that corresponds with this study (published by Zondervan)

STORYREADER ASSIGNMENT:

Give out StoryReader scripts (from curriculum DVD) to teen and adult volunteers as far in advance as you can. Ask for volunteers who are comfortable with and skilled at reading aloud. **Never force a teen to read!** Mix this up and use different people each week. Often the best storytellers are those who have some dramatic training.

The StoryReader scripts are segments of Scripture taken directly from Zondervan's *The Story: Teen Edition* (NIV). Each script takes about 10 minutes to be read aloud. These segments have been formatted into a *Readers' Theater*. A Readers' Theater is an activity in which a few participants are asked to read directly from a script, with the intent of telling a story in a lively manner. Readers are **not expected to memorize or improvise** from the script, but use voice inflection and some gestures appropriate to their characters' actions and words in order to bring the story to life.

(The major parts in this week's story are read by the Narrators. Make sure to pick teens or leaders who won't mind reading large portions of the story.)

LESSON OUTLINE

Outline for a session that is approximately 75 minutes long:

PART ONE: REWIND THE STORY *(large or small group)*

5 minutes

Introduction and Prayer

1 minute

God Builds a Nation Recap Video

2 minutes

Brief Responses to Video

2 minutes

PART TWO: SEE THE STORY *(large or small group)*

10 minutes

Explanation and Handouts

1 minute

Chapter 3: Joseph Video

3 minutes

Create Symbols for the Story

2 minutes

Share about Our Symbols

4 minutes

PART THREE: HEAR THE STORY *(large or small group)*

25 minutes

Explanation

1 minute

StoryReader Scripture Telling

10 minutes

Response to Scripture

9 minutes

BREAK: Teens move to small groups

5 minutes

PART FOUR: JOIN THE STORY *(small group)*

35 minutes

Discussion

15 minutes

Create Responses to the Story

12 minutes

Share Responses to the Story

7 minutes

Closing Prayer

1 minute

TEACHER LESSON SCRIPT

PART ONE: REWIND THE STORY

(LARGE OR SMALL GROUP)

5 MINUTES

Teacher Script: (please personalize this)

Welcome back! I am so excited to be back together as we continue to move through God's Story. Let's take a moment and pray before we begin:

God, we thank you for the opportunity to dive into this amazing Story together once again. We ask you to inspire us, to move us, and to allow us to find our own story within this one. Please show us and teach us how this story about Joseph can intersect with our own stories. Amen.

This week we are in the THIRD chapter of our Story. I hope you're excited to see what's coming up next. I thought it would be good for us to take a look back at what happened in the Story and see what we remember from last week. It will go by fast, so watch and listen carefully.

[CUE: Play *God Builds a Nation Recap* video from the curriculum DVD (2 minutes).]

Teacher Script: (please personalize this)

So what did you think of that video? Is there anything that stood out to you differently from the last time we heard it? What stood out to you the most from this part of the Story?

[CUE: **SHARE**—Get a few quick responses to these questions; don't spend more than a minute or two discussing.]

Just as a reminder, in every Bible story that we go through together, we're looking for TWO story lines: An **Upper Story** and a **Lower Story**. The Upper Story tells the big picture, the grand narrative of God seeking relationship with human beings as it unfolds throughout history. The Lower Story consists of the smaller stories we'll look at each week, which tell the details of particular people and the events that happen in their lives.

[CUE: It may be helpful to call on teens to briefly define the Upper Story and Lower Story to ensure that teens are starting to remember these from week to week.]

PART TWO: SEE THE STORY

(LARGE OR SMALL GROUP)

10 MINUTES

Teacher Script: (please personalize this)

Hopefully, that video refreshed your memory of where we've been in the last week. I have another video that will give us a quick look at where our new story will take us today. After the video we'll take a moment to respond using these handouts.

Let's watch this week's video, *Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh*. Remember to pay careful attention so you don't miss anything. Ready?

[CUE: Play *Joseph: From Slave to Deputy Pharaoh* video from the curriculum DVD (3 minutes).]

[CUE: Give each teen the *Chapter 3: Joseph* handout found on the curriculum DVD.]

Teacher Script: (please personalize this)

Get with a partner. The SEE the Story area in the upper left corner with the EYE on it is where you and a partner will now create an **image or symbol** for this story. It can be something simple, but put some thought into how it represents the story. In a couple of minutes, we'll share our creations.

[CUE: **DISCUSS**—After two minutes, ask a few teens to share briefly about the symbol they created. Ask them to explain the thoughts behind their drawings. After 3 or 4 minutes of sharing, go to the next part.]

PART THREE: HEAR THE STORY

(LARGE OR SMALL GROUP)

25 MINUTES

Teacher Script: (please personalize this)

As you have noticed, this is a really interesting story—it almost seems like it could be a movie, doesn't it? Once again, we want to spend some hearing this story in a different way, and I've asked a few of you to help us as *StoryReaders*.

While the story is being read, draw or write down key events that stand out to you in the HEAR the Story section on your handout.

[CUE: Have preassigned teen and adult volunteers read the StoryReader script all the way through without stopping (10 minutes).]

Teacher Script: (please personalize this)

Take the next minute to answer the questions in the HEAR section on your handout.

[CUE: **DISCUSS**—After 2 minutes, ask a few teens to share their responses with the entire group. Allow 5 to 7 minutes for sharing. Use these questions from the handout as a guide:]

- What were some of the most memorable moments from the story?
- Overall, how did this story make you feel? Why?

Teacher Script: (please personalize this)

Right now we're going to explore the story a bit further in small groups.

[CUE: Send teens into small groups. Make sure the discussion leaders have copies of the JOIN the Story segment of this study.]

PART FOUR: JOIN THE STORY**35 MINUTES**

[CUE: DISCUSS—*Adjust questions as needed and don't feel like your group must answer all of them.***]**

- Not all of you got to share your responses from the HEAR the Story section of the handout. Would anyone like to share what you came up with?
- Why do you think Joseph's brothers wanted to get rid of him?
- Have you ever been betrayed by a family member or close friend? How did you (or do you) feel toward that person?
- In the story, Joseph was accused of something he didn't do. Have you ever been treated unfairly for doing the right thing? What did you learn from it?
- At one point in the story, Joseph says, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." What does this tell you about God?
- Has there ever been a difficult time in your life when you felt that God was with you? How did you know?
- What are some ways that you sense God is with you?

Teacher Script:

Pick ONE of the following questions and create a response: *(These questions are also on the handout.)*

- Which character(s) in the story are you most like? How?
- What events or memories from your own life did the story evoke?
- How did this story challenge or inspire you to live differently?

Create a sketch, collage, poem, prayer, journal entry, song, or whatever you can come up with in the next 10 minutes!

I love how you're all continuing to interact more and more with these stories, and I love seeing the words and images you come up with. So create or write something that honestly represents what you're wrestling with or wondering about in this story. I know we can really learn from each other. In a few minutes, we'll talk about your responses. I'm really excited to see what you come up with!

CREATIVE OPTION:

Have your teens gather into groups of anywhere from 2 to 4 people. Tell them that since Joseph's story is a classic underdog story about rising from the bottom to the top, it needs a proper soundtrack to go along with it, just like a great underdog movie.

Give them two options to create in the next 10 to 15 minutes: (a) Make a list of 10 to 12 popular songs that help tell different parts of Joseph's story (e.g., "Stayin' Alive" by the Bee Gees). Have each group share their playlist with the rest of the teens, explaining why they picked each song; OR (b) Write and perform (if they are comfortable doing so) their own rap song or pop song about the themes from Joseph's story. Tell them they may rewrite new lyrics to the tune of a popular song, if that helps to get them started.

OPTIONAL: Allow volunteers to perform and/or record their songs. Be sure not to force anyone who is shy about sharing.

(To save time, you could have the groups who choose to make soundtrack lists share their "Top 3" songs.)

(While teens are working on their responses, walk around and encourage them. Also ask adult leaders to participate in this activity.)

[CUE: SHARE—*Ask a few willing teens to share their response to the story. After 9 or 10 minutes of sharing, move to the closing prayer.]*

Teacher Script: *(please personalize this)*

Thank you for using your imaginations and being willing to share some very important and personal parts of your own stories. I wish we had more time to continue our sharing, but I encourage you to continue to reflect on these questions until the next time we meet. You can journal about your thoughts, create more art, or share them with friends or family.

Let's pray as we end our time together:

God, we are so amazed and grateful that you stand by us no matter what—even when people betray us—and when it seems like things can't get any worse. We know you are a good God who cares about us and wants the absolute best for us. Thank you for showing us your love in our lives and through this story. Amen.