



Use Week of:

## Unit 4 • Session 3

# Joseph Saved His Family

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Genesis 42–46; 50

**STORY POINT:** God can do anything.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Hosea 13:4b

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus suffered to save anyone who trusts in Him.

### Bible Story for Toddlers

For many years, no food would grow, but Jacob heard that Egypt had plenty of food. Jacob sent his 10 older sons to Egypt to buy grain—from Joseph! The brothers did not know it was Joseph, but Joseph knew who they were! Joseph sent them to bring his youngest brother Benjamin to Egypt. When they returned to Egypt, the brothers bowed down before him, just as Joseph had dreamed years before. Joseph said, “I am Joseph. You made a wrong choice to hurt me, but God had a better plan. God sent me here to rescue many people.” Joseph moved Jacob’s whole family to Egypt and took care of them.

### Babies Gospel Gems

- \* Joseph’s brothers hurt him, but God had a good plan.
- \* God took care of Joseph’s family.
- \* God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us.

Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com).

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

# BABIES Activities

## Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Genesis 42. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

**SAY:** Joseph's brothers hurt him, but God had a good plan. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Jesus was hurt to save anyone who trusts in Him. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING.** [*Pray for the babies.*]

## Sing a Bible story song

Sing to the tune of "London Bridge Is Falling Down":

"Is there anything God can't do\*, God can't do, God can't do?  
Is there anything God can't do?  
God can do anything!"

\*Substitute *God can help my family* in the next round. Finish each stanza with the Story Point.

**SAY:** God took care of Joseph's family. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us.  
**GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!**

## Squeeze and toss a beanbag

Provide beanbags for babies to grasp, squeeze, or toss. Inspect the bags before class to make sure there are no holes where the filling could leak.

**SAY:** Can you feel the "grains" inside the beanbag? God took care of Joseph's family. Joseph gave them bags of grain. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!**

## Play in taste-safe kinetic sand

Combine 8 cups all-purpose flour and 1 cup vegetable oil in a large, shallow container and mix well. Post an allergy alert. Provide measuring cups or spoons. Invite babies to play in the "sand." Keep towels or wipes handy for cleanup.

**SAY:** Joseph's brothers traveled across the sand. Joseph's brothers hurt him, but God had a good plan. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!**

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church's security guidelines. Give parents today's big picture card. Repeat the Gospel Gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

# TODDLER Activities

## Circle time (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Genesis 42. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the Story Point and Gospel Gems. Pray for the toddlers.

## Make grain art

Print an extra copy of the Bible story picture for each child. Cut out a bag shape from brown construction paper for each child. Help toddlers glue the grain sack to the picture and then glue O-shaped cereal to the bag. Write the Story Point on each child's artwork.

**SAY:** Joseph's brothers hurt him, but God had a good plan. God took care of Joseph's family. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING.** God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us.

## Practice the key passage

Print the key passage card in the translation of your choice. Place the key passage card in a Bible storybook. Invite toddlers to open the Bible. Say that every story shows God's power to save. Read the key passage card. Invite toddlers to repeat it.

**SAY:** The Bible says God is our Savior. That means He is our Rescuer. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING.** God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us.

## Look for Benjamin

Provide a person figure (Bible times clothing or plain clothing) to represent Benjamin and hide it somewhere in the room in plain sight. Invite toddlers to look for Benjamin and bring him to you.

**SAY:** Joseph asked his brothers to bring his youngest brother, Benjamin, to Egypt. God took care of Joseph's family. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING.**

## Sort fruits, veggies, and grains

Before class, cut out pictures of fruits, vegetables, and grains from magazines. Invite toddlers to sort the pictures into three piles. Assist as needed.

**SAY:** God took care of Joseph's family. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING.**

# BONUS Teaching Hour

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**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus suffered to save anyone who trusts in Him.

## Transition activity: Paint with wheat

Gather artificial wheat stalks before class. Provide painting smocks, foam plates, washable paint, and paper for toddlers. As toddlers paint, briefly retell the story. Write the Story Point or Christ Connection on the artwork and set it aside to dry.

**SAY:** Joseph's brothers hurt him, but God had a good plan. God took care of Joseph's family, and He brought them together again. God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us. Jesus was hurt to save anyone who trusts in Him. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!**

## Pass a beanbag

Encourage toddlers to sit in a circle with you. Play music and invite toddlers to pass a beanbag to the right. After a few seconds, stop the music. Guide the toddlers to shout the Story Point with you. Continue playing as time allows.

**SAY:** God took care of Joseph's family. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING.** God sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue us.

## Play "Who Am I?"

Tell the toddlers that you are thinking of a child who has certain characteristics (shirt color, straight or curly hair, a boy or a girl, and so forth). Invite toddlers to point to the toddler you describe. Give detailed hints as needed.

**SAY:** Joseph's brothers did not know it was him! Joseph told his brothers that they hurt him, but God had a good plan. God took care of Joseph's family. **GOD CAN DO ANYTHING!**

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, Story Point, or Gospel Gems throughout the week.