

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

God is always good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that life has ups and downs, but God always remains good.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-35, Joseph Sold By His Brothers

MEMORY VERSE:

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Romans 8:28a (NirV)

SUMMARY:

Joseph's life was filled with ups and downs. Up: His father loved him very much. Down: His brothers did not. Even when Joseph found himself down in a well, he never lost faith in God.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for always being someone we can count on.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Romans 8:28a (NirV)

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Romans 8:28a (NIV)

"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God." Romans 8:28a (NLT)

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God." Romans 8:28a (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

Divide the room into girls and boys. Have the girls and boys read the verse aloud together, alternating every other word, so girls say the first word, boys say the second word, girls third, etc.

SMALL GROUP:

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SKIT

DOWNWARD

ITEMS NEEDED:

Rags for Joseph

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

3M

CHARACTERS:

Narrator - A movie trailer announcer

Joseph - A boy heading downward

Dave - An Ishmaelite

Joseph is sitting at center stage wearing rags. The Narrator enters.

NARRATOR: Long ago, the world was full of wonder.

JOSEPH: It was?

NARRATOR: It was adventurous and filled with magic.

JOSEPH: Really?

NARRATOR: It was a time when a young man received a magical gift from his father.

JOSEPH: What gift?

NARRATOR: A magical coat of many colors.

JOSEPH: Yeah, I don't think that coat had any magic in it.

NARRATOR: Say, where is that coat of yours?

JOSEPH: I lost it.

NARRATOR: You lost the magic coat?

SKIT

JOSEPH: Well, I wouldn't say lost it. More it was stolen.

NARRATOR: By whom?

JOSEPH: My brothers.

NARRATOR: Your brothers stole your coat of many colors? Why?

JOSEPH: Well, we don't exactly get along.

NARRATOR: You mean to tell me none of your brothers get along?

JOSEPH: Not really, no. Though the eleven of them put up a pretty strong front today.

NARRATOR: Why would your brothers steal your coat?

JOSEPH: I think they're jealous of me.

NARRATOR: Maybe because your dad gave you a magical coat?

JOSEPH: Or maybe because God gave me a vision that one day, they would all bow down to me.

NARRATOR: Wow! Sounds like you're in for some adventure!

JOSEPH: Hey, I'd be happy to find a way out of this pit they tossed me in.

NARRATOR: Yeah. It looks to me like right now you're heading downward.

JOSEPH: Sure does. But there's one good thing about going downward. Sooner or later, there's nowhere to go but up.

Dave enters.

DAVE: Excuse me, which one of you is Joseph?

JOSEPH: I am.

DAVE: Okay, pal, let's get moving.

JOSEPH: Moving where? Onward? Upward?

SKIT

DAVE: Downward. Down south that is. I'm a slave trader, and I've got a client looking for a strong young man just like you.

JOSEPH: Slave trader? Who said I'm a slave?

DAVE: The eleven guys who just sold you to me. Come on, pal.

NARRATOR: Joseph, I'm so sorry. It doesn't look like you're going upward yet.

JOSEPH: Downward, upward, I know God is still good. I might not have any magic coat, but I still have God.

DAVE: And we have an appointment in Egypt. Move along.

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

A basketball

Ask one of the kids to come up and dribble the basketball. Ask if anyone can do any trick dribbling, and let them demonstrate.

Basketball is a game of ups and downs. It's a game of running up and down the floor, and it's a game where the ball is constantly moving up and down. When you dribble, you push the ball downward to the floor, but as soon as it hits the floor, it rebounds upward back into your hand.

Life is full of ups and downs. Sometimes we have more up times. Sometimes we have more down times. No matter which direction your life is headed at any given time, God is still there. God has us in His mighty hand, and God is always, always good. When we trust our lives to God, God will work all things out for good. He will keep us moving forward, onward, and more important - upward.

God is good, and God can be trusted in good times and bad. When you feel down, trust God to keep you moving onward.

LARGE GROUP GAME

DRIBBLE RELAY

ITEMS NEEDED:

Four Basketballs
Orange cones

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose four teams of four and have them all stand at a starting line. Set four cones twenty feet away from the starting line. Each player on the team will dribble their ball down to the cone, around the cone, and back to the start. The first team to get all four players back and forth wins.

VARIATION:

If you have enough cones, create some obstacles in the course for the kids to dribble around.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Through our ups and downs, God is always there.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

God is always good.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that life has ups and downs, but God always remains good.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 37:3-4, 12-35, Joseph Sold By His Brothers

INTRO:

Without a doubt, Pixar is one of the most successful movie studios of all time. Every movie studio, going back to the very beginning, has had its ups and downs. But not Pixar. Since releasing Toy Story in 1995, Pixar has churned out one hit after another. A Bug's Life. Cars. The Incredibles. Ratatouille. Finding Nemo. Even their sequels, including Finding Dory, The Incredibles 2, and all the Toy Story movies, have been big hits.

Pixar has had a lot of ups over the years as a company, but the people who run Pixar have experienced their share of downs. So have the characters in their movies. A good movie takes viewers on a roller coaster of ups and downs. Toy Story had them. So did The Incredibles. So did Nemo. Their new movie Onward is no exception.

Onward is set in a world that was once magical and full of adventure. It's the story of two boys who find a way to cast a spell to bring back their deceased father for one day. The boys mess up the spell, and they set out on a quest to complete the spell. It's a story filled with surprises, with highs and lows, with obstacles and with victories. It's a tale that... well, let's be honest. It's a lot like real life.

Pixar does an exceptional job creating movies that connect with us. Whether the characters are magical creatures, tropical fish, or toys, their stories remind us of the ups and downs we face in real life. Onward in particular reminds us that life is an adventure, a quest, a journey.

Life is not a journey meant to be taken alone. God made us to have a relationship with Him, and when we take life's road with God, we know He will be with us through the ups and downs.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

We're going to spend the next few weeks reliving the life journey of Joseph. Joseph was his father's favorite son. Joseph had the gift of dreams, and at a young age, he had two dreams that his whole family would one day bow before him. That dream didn't go over well with his eleven jealous brothers, but it became the launching pad for a life that led Joseph downward, forward, onward, and upward.

READ GENESIS 37:3-4, 12-35

MAIN POINT:

Joseph believed God had a plan for his life. He believed he would become someone so important, his family would bow before him. He believed he was headed upward! Instead, Joseph went down. He fell down in the bottom of a pit, thanks to a push from his brothers, and then he fell into slavery.

Joseph's life took a major turn downward, but God never left his side. God is good, and He is with us in the downs as well as the ups. In the coming weeks, we will see that God is always there for those who love Him. He is there in the ups and downs, and He is always moving us onward!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Joseph's life was a complete roller coaster. It was all ups and downs. Joseph's father loved him. That's an up. His brothers hated him. That's a down. His father gave him a coat of many colors. That's an up. His brothers tried to kill him. That's a major down.

Joseph spent a lot of time heading downward. He became a slave, and just when the slave life was starting to treat him well, he wound up in jail. God was with him the whole way, even in jail, and God never left his side.

Joseph wasn't the only person in the story to go through ups and downs. If you read on you'll see that there's a butler and a baker who had some ups and downs of their own, ending up in jail along with Joseph. What's more, Joseph's brothers will find themselves moving downward when a famine strikes the land. Where do they go when they need food? Down to Egypt. Who is there, lifted high above them to help? Joseph!

I'm getting ahead of myself, but I think you get the idea. Life has ups and downs. We have sunny days and rainy days. We have snow days with no school and bad days with pop quizzes. We have days that bring good news and days that bring sadness. No matter what each day brings, God is with us. We can trust our lives to God knowing He is good.

I don't know what direction your life is headed, but I know God loves you. Trust him, and He will lead you onward and upward.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for always being someone we can count on.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

If you could meet any sort of mythic or magical creature, what would it be?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Romans 8:28a

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Pass a yo-yo or two around the group. See if anyone can get the yo-yo to go down and come back up.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 37:3-4, 12-35

Who was Joseph?

What ups did Joseph have in this story?

What downs did Joseph have in this story?

How do we know God was still with Joseph, even when he was down?

Why should we trust God when our life is headed downward?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Lift us up when we are down and let us see your love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

If you could meet any sort of mythic or magical creature, what would it be?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Romans 8:28a

Give all the kids a Bible. Then after you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Pass a yo-yo or two around the group. See if anyone can get the yo-yo to go down and come back up.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 37:3-4, 12-35

Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?

How did Joseph's life go from up to down?

How do we know God was still with Joseph, even when he was sold into slavery?

How do we know God is good when bad things happen?

Why should we trust God when our life is headed downward?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Lift us up when we are down and let us see your love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Joseph was the son of _____.

- A. Abraham
- B. Isaac
- C. Jacob*

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him because he _____.

- A. was bigger than them
- B. was their father's favorite*
- C. had more money than them

When the brothers grabbed Joseph, their original plan was to _____.

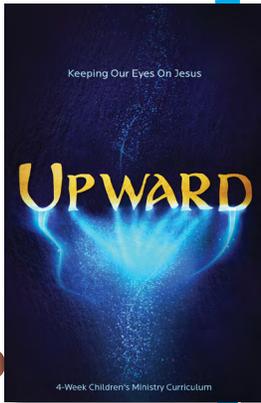
- A. kill him*
- B. beat him up
- C. chase him away

God is with us in _____.

- A. up times
- B. down times
- C. up times and down times*

God will always lead us onward because He loves us.

- A. True*
- B. False



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Upward Lesson 1

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: DOWNWARD



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Joseph's life was filled with ups and downs. Up: His father loved him very much. Down: His brothers did not. Even when Joseph found himself down in a well, he never lost faith in God. Genesis 37:3-4, 12-35, Joseph Sold By His Brothers



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Tell your kids about a time in your life when you were down. How did things take a down turn? How did God help you move onward during that time?



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What were some "ups" in Joseph's life?
- What were the "downs" in Joseph's life?
- How do we know that God is still with us in bad times?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

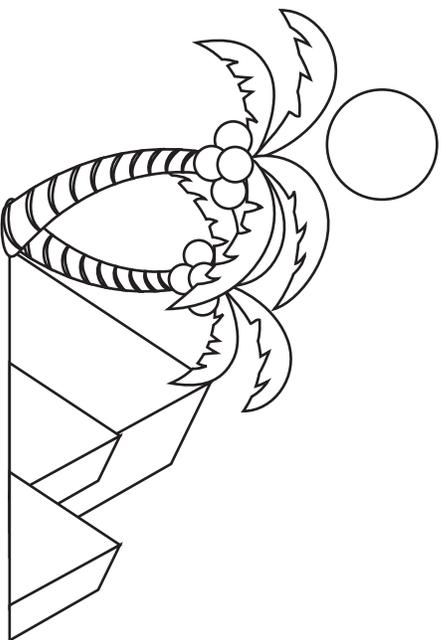
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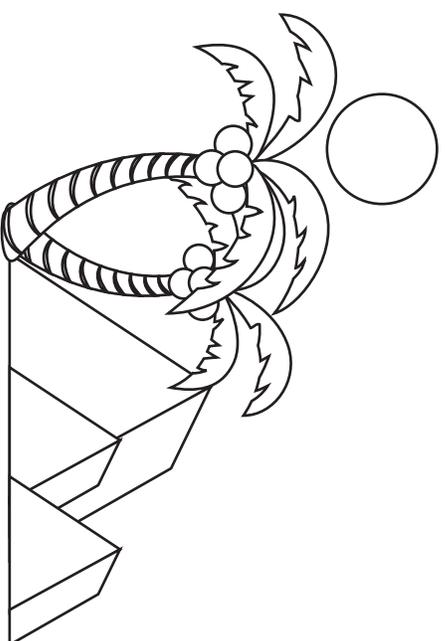
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

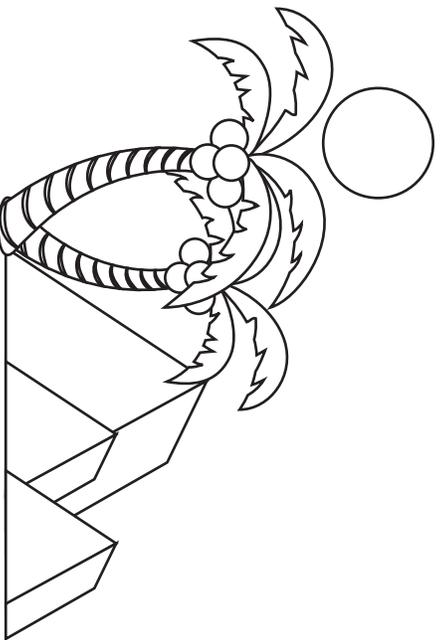
We tend to pray more in bad times than in good times, yet God is with us no matter what direction we are headed. We also tend to blame God for bad times, but God is always good and always working things out for the best. Ask God to help our kids in bad times and good. Ask Him to help them and you to keep moving onward in the down times.



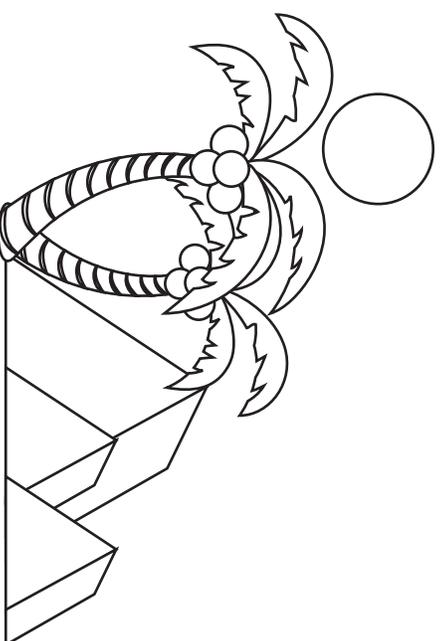
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids draw and color Joseph wearing his coat of many colors. Then have them cut out Joseph. Give each kid a styrofoam cup or paper bag, and have them drop Joseph DOWN inside as a reminder of today's story.