

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We can help others on good days and bad.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that whether life is up or down, we can still help others for God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 40:1-8, Joseph in Prison, Genesis 41:1-41, Joseph Before Pharaoh

MEMORY VERSE:

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

SUMMARY:

Even though Joseph was in prison, he kept moving onward. In jail, Joseph helped his fellow pris-oners, serving them and interpreting their dreams. Eventually, he had a chance to help the Pharaoh, which changed Joseph's life forever.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us eyes to see people who need our help this week.

*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:

Pick out some kids at random from the crowd and see who can recite the memory verse. Then re-peat it all together.

SMALL GROUP:

Challenge a nearby small group to a memory verse contest. Which group can say it the fastest without looking at it? Which group can say it the loudest?

SKIT

ONWARD

ITEMS NEEDED:

Rags for Joseph, a tuxedo for Jeffrey

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

3M

CHARACTERS:

Narrator - A movie trailer announcer

Joseph - A prisoner

Jeffrey - Pharaoh's cupbearer

Joseph is sitting at center stage. The Narrator enters.

NARRATOR: When we last left Joseph, he was about as low as you can get.

JOSEPH: No I wasn't.

NARRATOR: He had gone from bad to worse. From slavery to the dungeon. It doesn't get any lower.

JOSEPH: Sure it does. There are three levels to the dungeon. I'm on the top floor.

NARRATOR: Come on, Joseph. Your family thinks you're dead.

JOSEPH: True.

NARRATOR: Potiphar tossed you in jail for a crime you didn't commit.

JOSEPH: Also true.

NARRATOR: And what about Pharaoh's cupbearer?

JOSEPH: What about him?

NARRATOR: Remember when he was tossed in jail?

SKIT

JOSEPH: Oh sure.

NARRATOR: Remember when you interpreted the strange dream he had?

JOSEPH: Oh yes. That was a wild one.

NARRATOR: Remember when you asked him, “Hey, please tell the Pharaoh about me?”

JOSEPH: Yeah, I remember.

NARRATOR: He forgot all about you.

JOSEPH: I know.

NARRATOR: Face it, Joseph. You wasted your time with that guy.

JOSEPH: No I didn't. I helped him out.

NARRATOR: You helped Potiphar, and that got you tossed in jail. You helped the cupbearer, and that got you nowhere! Why would you waste your time like that?

JOSEPH: Because even in bad times, we can help people. We can move onward and be a blessing to others.

NARRATOR: Onward? Face it, Joseph. You're going nowhere.

JOSEPH: If that's true, why are you still here?

NARRATOR: That's a good question! Why am I still here? I should pack my bags and move on-ward to a better story. In fact, that's what I'm gonna do.

JOSEPH: Okay.

NARRATOR: I don't need this job. I'm going to go narrate another story!

Jeffrey enters.

JEFFREY: Joseph! Thank goodness I found you still here.

JOSEPH: Hey, Jeff! How's the Pharaoh?

SKIT

JEFFREY: Oh, he's in a terrible state. He had a nightmare about some corn and some cows that really messed him up. When he told me about it, I told him I knew this guy who interpreted my dream and I completely forgot about.

JOSEPH: It's okay.

JEFFREY: Joseph, Pharaoh wants to meet you. Do you think you could help him?

JOSEPH: It would be my honor.

JEFFREY: Oh thank you! Thank you, Joseph! Come on, let's go!

Joseph and Jeffrey exit. The Narrator is left stunned.

NARRATOR: Wow. I can't believe I did that. Just when the story got good, I quit.

Joseph enters.

JOSEPH: Hey, you wanna come along and meet the Pharaoh?

NARRATOR: You don't wanna help me. Not after all the things I just said.

JOSEPH: Sure I do. Come on. Let's go. Onward!

NARRATOR: You said it, Joseph. Onward!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Jumper cables

How many of your parents have a set of jumper cables in the car? Have any of you ever seen your parents use jumper cables? Jumper cables allow us to start up a car with a dead battery. You connect the red and black clamps on one end to the dead battery and hook the other clamps up to a good battery. The driver with the good battery starts their car, and then after a few minutes, the driver with the dead battery should be able to start theirs.

Jumper cables are a way we can help others in need. It might take a few moments of our time, but if we have jumper cables, or a few minutes to help someone who has them, we can make someone's day better. You can't jump a car with just one car. It takes two to get a dead car moving again. It's a great way to help someone in need.

There are many small ways we can help others in need, even when we're having a bad day. When we pause our busy schedule to help someone in need, we can make their day better. We also might make our own day better in the process. Serving God and helping others doesn't have to stop for our bad days. Let's ask God to give us giving hearts so that even on our bad days, we can help others to keep moving onward.

LARGE GROUP GAME

BEACH BOUNCE

ITEMS NEEDED:

Two large beach balls

INSTRUCTIONS:

Split the room in half, and give each side a beach ball. Play some music, and when the music starts, the kids must begin batting their beach ball in the air. See which team can keep their ball bouncing up in the air the longest.

VARIATION:

You can split the room into more than two groups if you have the spare room and the beach balls.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Just as we helped the ball stay afloat, we can help others, even when we are having tough times.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We can help others on good days and bad.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that whether life is up or down, we can still help others for God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Genesis 40:1-8, Joseph in Prison, Genesis 41:1-41, Joseph Before Pharaoh

INTRO:

One of the common themes you see in epic stories like Onward is about helping people along the way. While fulfilling their quest, seeking to solve their own problems, the hero will come across someone else who has a problem of their own. Even though the timing is bad, the hero will stop to lend a hand to that person. It's not something they have to do, and often, it's not something they really want to do. But in the end, that act of kindness comes back to benefit them. The person they helped may come riding in at the end of the story to lend assistance to the hero!

Moments like these are a reminder that even in our hard times, we can be a blessing to others. Even though we're down in the dumps, struggling to get by, we can take a moment to be a friend, to do an act of kindness, and show someone the love of God with our actions. It's not easy. It's almost never convenient, especially when we're struggling ourselves. But even when helping them brings us nothing in return, it's the right thing to do.

When we last left our pal Joseph, he was sitting in a prison cell. He was a trusted steward in the prison who helped to look after the other prisoners, but he was still a prisoner. Joseph still did his duty, working as hard in jail as he ever did for his former master Potiphar. Then one day, two men with very important jobs were put in Joseph's care.

READ GENESIS 40:1-8

Joseph could have kept quiet about his talent for interpreting dreams. He had enough problems of his own! But Joseph saw an opportunity to help, and he did so. As it turns out, Joseph's interpretations of the dreams came true. Joseph predicted the baker would be killed, and he was.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Joseph predicted the cupbearer would get his old job back, and he did. Sadly, it seems that the cup-bearer completely forgot about Joseph, but then one day, the Pharaoh himself had a bad dream.

READ GENESIS 41:1-41

MAIN POINT:

In good times and bad, Joseph helped people in need. He worked hard for Potiphar, for the jailers, and for the other prisoners. He had no way of knowing his kind actions would ever benefit him. He just knew it was the right thing to do. It turns out one of those acts of kindness o-pened the door for him to truly move onward. One day Joseph woke up a prisoner. He went to bed the second in command of all Egypt!

It isn't easy to serve others when we're having a bad day, but serving others can lift our spirits as well as someone else's. When we serve others, we are sharing God's love. We become the blessing someone else needs in their hard times. And sometimes, our service to others can help lead us onward to better things.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Imagine how things might have gone for Pharaoh had Joseph kept quiet around the cupbearer and the baker. The cupbearer would have got his old job back, but he'd have no way of helping his master. What's more, no one would have any idea there was a man in prison who could interpret dreams. The Pharaoh would never have learned the meaning of his dreams, and he would never have prepared his country for famine. Many people would have starved to death, including Joseph's family and probably Joseph as well.

Joseph didn't wait for life to get better before he helped others. He did what he could, as a slave and as a prisoner. His acts of kindness were a blessing to others, from the cupbearer to Pharaoh, and in the end, Joseph saved countless lives. Joseph's faith and his willingness to always perform acts of kindness led him onward, and he finally fulfilled the dream God had given him as a boy.

God wants us to have a heart to serve just like Joseph. He wants us willing to serve any time and any place we are needed. When we are willing to be a friend to someone in need, even on our down days, we are sharing the love of Christ with that person. Our sacrifices are an outward sign of the love and sacrifice of Jesus. God can bless us by making us a blessing to other people.

If we wait for a time when life is good and we have all the resources in the world to help others, we may never get to that point where we feel like we can help. Don't put off doing good deeds and service. Serve others on good days and bad. Serve whenever and wherever it is needed.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

Let your life be a blessing to others, even on the days when you don't feel so blessed. God can use us on our bad days as well as the good. He will show you the way. He will lead you onward!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for all your blessings.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one crazy dream that you remember having?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Romans 8:28a

Challenge a nearby small group to a memory verse contest. Which group can say it the fastest without looking at it? Which group can say it the loudest?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids play a few rounds of Charades.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 40:1-8, Genesis 41:1-41

Whom did Joseph meet in prison?

What did Joseph do to help these men?

What happened when the king of Egypt had a bad dream?

What happened after Joseph interpreted Pharaoh's dream?

Why does God want us to help others in hard times?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Use us to bless others who are in need.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What is one crazy dream that you remember having?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Romans 8:28a

Challenge a nearby small group to a memory verse contest. Which group can say it the fastest without looking at it? Which group can say it the loudest?

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Have the kids play a few rounds of Charades.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Genesis 40:1-8, Genesis 41:1-41

Why did Joseph help the cupbearer and the baker?

How did Joseph's act of kindness for the cupbearer come back to bless him?

What do you think would have happened if Joseph refused to help the cupbearer?

Why does God want us to help others, even in hard times?

How can God bless us and others when we help them?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Use us to bless others who are in need.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

The Pharaoh was thrown in jail along with Joseph.

FALSE

Joseph refused to interpret dreams for the baker and the cupbearer.

FALSE

The cupbearer told Pharaoh about Joseph after Pharaoh had a bad dream.

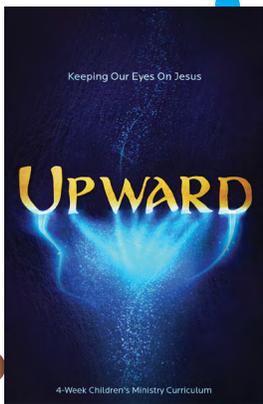
TRUE

Because Joseph helped the cupbearer, he was able to help Pharaoh and finally move himself onward.

TRUE

God doesn't want us to help people in need when we need help ourselves.

FALSE



MAKE IT STICK

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

Upward Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: ONWARD



IN THE CAR:

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

Even though Joseph was in prison, he kept moving onward. In jail, Joseph helped his fellow prisoners, serving them and interpreting their dreams. Eventually, he had a chance to help the Pharaoh, which changed Joseph's life forever. Genesis 40:1-8, Joseph in Prison, Genesis 41:1-41, Joseph Before Pharaoh



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Ask your kids if they've done something at school to help someone in need. Then share with them whether or not you've helped someone yourself.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Joseph interpret the dreams for the cupbearer and the baker?
- How did Joseph's act of kindness help him to move forward and finally get out of jail?
- Why is it important to always help people in need, even in bad times?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

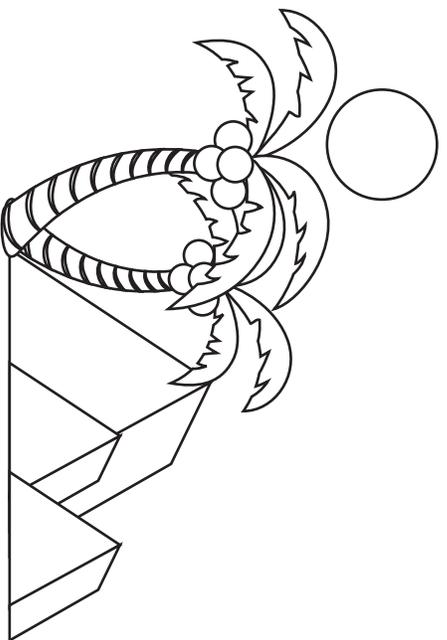
"We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." Romans 8:28a (NirV)



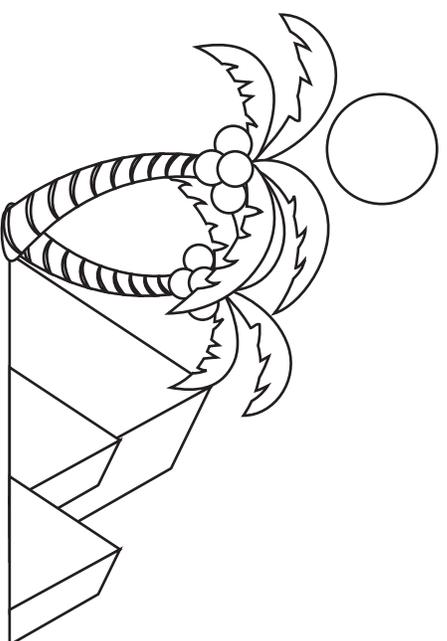
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

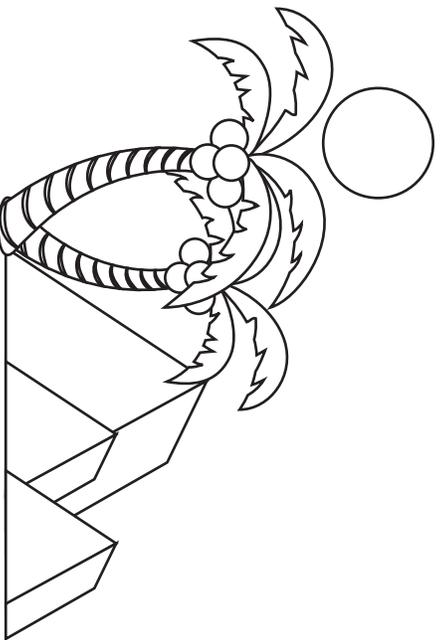
It's tempting to ignore people in need when we are down and out ourselves. We tell ourselves we will get back to helping people when we are in a better position to do so. God wants us to help others even in the down times. By doing so, we can not only be a blessing to others, but we can be blessed ourselves.



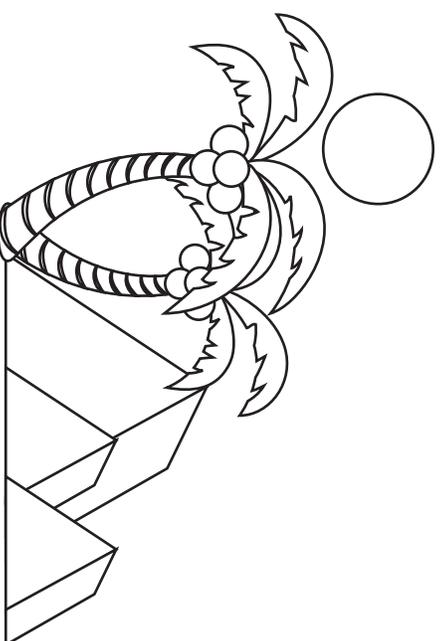
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CRAFT ACTIVITY

Give each of the kids a small plastic cup. Let them decorate the cups with stickers, markers, and other craft material to create a cup fit for the king of Egypt - and his cupbearer, of course.