Lesson #3-3

Joseph: The Promise Threatened

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21



Key Verse:

"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today." Genesis 50:20

The Point:

Even when we try to harm each other, God can turn our work towards good.

Making Connections:

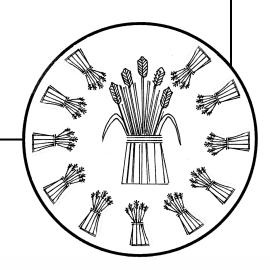
Promises Made, Promises Broken

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Old Testament and Divisions

Spiritual Practice:

Fellowship



Activities a la Carte

AGGIVIGIGS		Supplies
Story Genters (PK-K)	15 min.	
Dress Up Dress up in colors like Joseph.		† Colorful clothes
Getting Along Share toys to get along with others.		† Toys
Family Play house.		† None
Into the Story (1 st -2 nd)		
Beautiful Goat Only one child gets to wear a colorful robe.	10 min.	† Colorful robe or scarf
Bible Nuts and Bolts (1 st -2 nd)		
Old Testament and Divisions Use a finger play to learn the Old Testament Divisions.	10 min.	† Activity Sheet #3-3.A
Learning the Story (PK-2 nd)		
From Bad to Good Imagine being a character in today's story.	15 min.	† Bibles † Activity Sheet #3-3.B
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Activities a la Carte

Living the Story (PK-2 nd)		
Hands are traced.	15 mîn.	† Paper † Crayons
Singing the Story (PK-2 nd)		
Cood from Bod To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."	5 ක ි ක.	† Nothing
Additional Activities		
Whom K is Not Fair (PK-2 nd) Play the Not Fair game.	15 min.	† Activity Sheet #3-3.C
Joseph and Mis Brothers (PK-2 nd) Watch a video of Joseph forgiving his brothers.	15 min.	† Video player
Serve One Another (PK-2 nd) Children serve each other healthy snacks.	10 ක්ක.	† Healthy snacks † Napkins
Sending the Story (PK-2 nd)	5 mln.	† None

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Story Connections

After God's promise to Abram for an uncountable number of descendants (Genesis 15) God promised Hagar (Sarah's maid servant, pregnant by Abram) a future for her son, Ishmael. God promised Abram (renamed Abraham) would be a father of nations. Male children were to be circumcised as a sign of this covenant. God promised Abraham and Sarah a son and fulfilled that promise in the birth of Isaac. Abraham kept his promise to follow God when he was later asked to sacrifice his promised son Isaac. Instead, God kept the promise of continuing Abraham's family line by providing a sacrificial lamb. As God promised, Abraham's family grew. Family members broke promises to each other, but God kept God's promises. Abraham's son Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Today we see that Jacob's son Joseph—Abraham's great grandson was promised a role in the nation's future.

Story Summary: The Promise Threatened

Joseph's brothers were jealous of Jacob's love for him. God gave Joseph a dream about the future, and that dream upset Joseph's brothers even more. In the dream, Joseph was in charge over his brothers. Joseph's brothers decided to kill him and throw him in a pit. They would tell their father, Jacob, that a wild beast had attacked and eaten Joseph. Joseph's brother Reuben did not agree with this plan. When Reuben was not watching, the other brothers sold Joseph to some Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt to be a slave. Years later, Joseph worked for Pharaoh and was in charge of the land and supplies. During a famine, his brothers needed food and came to him as servants. Joseph forgave his brothers for the evil they did to him. They may have planned evil, but God worked that evil into something good for Joseph and for a nation.

The Point

Even when we try to harm each other, God can turn our work towards good. That does not give us the freedom to harm each other, but it offers hope to those who suffer harm. It offers hope to us when we realize the acts of injustice we have committed. Although it may take time for that "good" to be experienced, God's hand of love can exchange evil intent for a greater purpose.

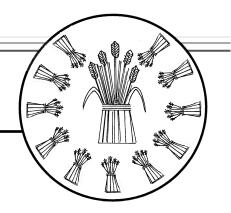
Bible Nuts and Bolts: *OT and Divisions*

The Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) is a collection of books organized by type of literature more so than by chronology. The Pentateuch, or Torah, tells of beginnings, promises, and law (Genesis through Deuteronomy). The Histories (Joshua through Esther) tell of a nation's struggle to keep its covenant with God. The Poetry books, or Wisdom Literature (Job through Song of Solomon), hold wise counsel, praise, and longing for God. The remaining books are the Prophets (Isaiah through Malachi). The Prophets contain messages from God that guided people through hard times, warned people to return to God, and proclaimed the hope of the coming Messiah.

Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

Acts of fellowship are any actions that build love and caring relationships. Fellowship is not always easy to maintain, as we see in Joseph's story today. Even in the family of God there are quarrels, jealousies, and divisions. When we experience conflict, we can offer God's love, with God's help, to restore fellowship. Is there anyone you can reach out to today to help keep the fellowship?

Lesson Plan



Story Genters (PK-K; 15 minutes)

Story Centers are mini-activities designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten students. Depending on the size of your class, you can set these up as centers for in-class rotations or do them as a whole class one after another. In most preschool and kindergarten classes, these centers along with a snack, the "Learning the Story" activity, and the "Living the Story" activity will fill the education time, but feel free to choose any activity you think would be fun and appropriate for your class.

Dress Up

Jacob made Joseph a coat of many colors. Preschoolers play dress up with colorful clothes.

Cotting Along

Joseph's brothers did not get along with him because their father had given a beautiful coat only to him. Preschoolers play together and share toys with one another.

Family

Jacob and his sons were a family that had conflict, but God worked it out in the end. Preschoolers play house.

Into the Story (1st-2nd; 10 minutes)

Beautiful Goat

One child gets to wear a beautiful coat.

You will need:

† Colorful robe or scarf

- 1. Choose one preschooler.
- 2. _____ (child's name) gets to wear this colorful robe (or scarf) for the next few minutes.
- 3. _____ (child's name), you look nice in your colorful robe (or scarf).
- 4. **Does anyone else want to wear the robe** (or scarf)?
- 5. I only have one robe (or scarf) so _____ (child's name) will be the only one who gets to wear it today.
- 6. How do you feel when I let one child wear this colorful robe (or scarf) but I do not have a robe for you? [Sad, angry, jealous]
- 7. Today we are going to hear a story about a man named Joseph. His father made a coat of many colors for him but not for his brothers. His brothers felt jealous and angry.

Bible Nute and Bolte (1st-2nd; 10 minutes)

Old Testament and Divisions

Use a finger play to learn the Old Testament divisions.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet #3-3.A

- 1. This activity can be completed sitting or standing.
- 2. Hold up a Bible.
- 3. The Bible is divided into two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Separate the pages to show how much of the Bible is the Old Testament and how much is the New Testament. The Old Testament tells us about life before Jesus was born. The New Testament tells us about life after Jesus was born. The whole Bible tells us about God's love and God's involvement in the lives of people.
- 4. The Old Testament is divided into four main parts. We are going to learn a finger play to help us count and learn the four parts.
- 5. Use Activity Sheet #3-3.A to lead and teach the finger play. Go through it several times, so the children can learn it.
- 6. After teaching the finger play say, the Bible tells us of God's love. We can understand the Bible better when we know what part of the Bible we are reading.

Learning the Story (PK-2nd; 15 minutes)

From Bad to Good

Imagine being a character in today's story.

You will need:

- † Bible
- † Activity Sheet #3-3.B

- 1. Even though you will use Activity Sheet #3-3.B, hold a Bible, so the children can tell that this story is from the Bible.
- 2. Divide the children into three groups (they do not have to sit near each other for this). One group will imagine themselves as Joseph, another will imagine themselves as the brothers, and another will imagine themselves as Jacob.
- 3. After each section in the story on Activity Sheet #3-3.B, one or more characters' names is listed in parentheses. Direct the following question to the group or groups representing that character or characters: What do you feel like now, ____ (character's name in parentheses on the Activity Sheet). How might you have acted if you were in this situation?
- 4. At the end, say that even when Joseph's brothers intended harm for Joseph and things looked pretty bad for Joseph, God was taking care of Joseph. Even when it looks like God's promises will not be fulfilled, God always keeps God's promises.

Living the Story (PK-2nd; 15 minutes)

Holding Hands in Fellowship

Hands are traced.

You will need:

- † Paper
- † Crayons

- 1. Demonstrate this activity by tracing your hand around each finger, using a crayon and paper.
- 2. Ask the children to trace one of their hands on the paper. Help the younger children. Some of the older children might help each other.
- 3. When hands are traced, ask the children to see that the fingers are each connected to the hand. People in the family of God are all connected together, too. We are not fingers connected to a hand, but we are people that are all held in God's loving hand.
- 4. After the story, ask **What can we do to be nice to others in God's family?** [Pray for each other, help each other, comfort each other]
- 5. Who can you give the hand drawing to ("give a hand") as a way to say we are glad to be connected to them as part of God's family?
- 6. Give the hand away as an act of your fellowship.

Singing the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

Good from the Bad

To the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

Joseph, your nice coat
Made your brothers mad
But God is good, Yes God is good
He made good from the bad.

Additional Activities

When it is Not Fair (PK-2nd; 15 minutes)

Play the Not Fair game.

You will need:

† Activity Sheet #3-3.C

During class:

- 1. In this game, certain things will come up that seem fair to a PK to 2nd grader and others that do not seem fair to a PK to 2nd grader. The players have to make choices for how to respond in the situations.
- 2. Read a choice and then ask: Is this fair or unfair? Why?
- 3. How do you feel when something seems unfair to you? [Answers will vary.]
- 4. Let us remember that God can make good out of the things that we think are unfair. Ask God to help you see the good.

Serve One Another (PK-2nd; 10 minutes)

Children serve each other healthy snacks.

You will need:

- † Healthy snacks
- † Small paper plates
- † Napkins

Before class:

- 1. Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.
- 2. Gather the snacks.

- 1. If snacks are not in individual wrappers, children will need to wash their hands before serving others.
- 2. When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt looking for food supplies, Joseph had a meal served for his brothers. It is fun to serve each other when we are getting along. It is harder to do that when we are fighting or not agreeing with each other.

- 3. Distribute paper plates and napkins.
- 4. Line up at the table and take a napkin and some snacks, but do not eat anything yet. Stand near your seat.
- 5. When the children are standing behind their seats, explain, you are going to serve snacks to each other. Give the plate and napkin to the person on your right (you may need to help them know who that is).
- 6. When all have been served, sit and eat the snacks.
- 7. It is a blessing to serve others. It is a blessing to be served. We can serve our friends and we can serve those we call our enemies.

Joseph and His Brothers (PK-2nd; 15 minutes)

Watch a video of Joseph forgiving his brothers.

You will need:

† Internet accessible video player.

Before class:

1. Cue https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IApuGQWlb-Y.

- 1. Show the video.
- 2. Lead a discussion where the children can talk about other possible endings for this story.
- 3. If God had not intervened and worked things out for Joseph, what do you think might have happened to Joseph? Your answer can take place anywhere along Joseph's journey, from when he had his dreams until he forgave his brothers. [Answers will vary.]
- 4. What might have happened if Joseph had not forgiven his brothers? How would that have affected Joseph? How might it have affected his brothers? [Answers will vary.]
- 5. I am glad that we can count on God to work things out for our good.

Sending the Story (PK-2nd; 5 minutes)

What from today's story will help you remember that even when we try to harm each other, God can turn our work toward good? [God worked things out for Joseph and God worked things out for his family, too].

Joseph forgave his brothers. He knew God would take care of him even when his brothers did not take care of him.

Think of a person you need to forgive, and pray for God to bless them and help you forgive. Maybe someone has yelled at you, broken one of your toys, or knocked you down on the playground and left you feeling hurt.

Prayer
Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.
When I pray the words, you will fill in the missing pieces quietly, in your mind, rather than speaking the words aloud.
God, (person's name) has hurt me by It is hard not to be mad. Help me to show love to (person's name) and to forgive. Please bless and help Amen.

Old Testament & Divisions

Use a finger play to learn the Old Testament divisions.

The Bible has old and new (close hands like a closed book)

The Old Testament has four parts (hold up four fingers)

The Pentateuch (one finger up)

Holds the law (shake the finger)

The Histories (two fingers)

Tell what happened (wave the two fingers back and forth in front of you)

The Poems (three fingers)

Praise and teach (hold three fingers overhead, and move arm forward three times)

The Prophets (hold up four fingers)

Tell what will be (touch four fingers to mouth and move them out away from mouth)

The Bible has old and new (close hands like a closed book)

The Old Testament has four parts (hold up four fingers)

Joseph: The Promise Threatened

The story is read and discussed.

Genesis 37:3-8

Jacob, who God called Israel, had twelve sons. His favorite son was Joseph because Joseph was born to him when he was older. When Joseph was seventeen years old, Jacob made a coat of many colors for Joseph. Joseph's brothers could tell that Jacob loved Joseph the most. (Joseph; the other sons)

It made the brothers angry that Joseph was their father's favorite son. They started to hate Joseph. They did not speak kindly to Joseph. One day Joseph had a dream. The meaning of the dream was that someday Joseph would be a powerful leader over his brothers. (Joseph; the other sons)

When Joseph told his brothers about the dream, they hated him even more.

Genesis 37:17b-22

One day Joseph's brothers were feeding the flocks out in a field. Israel sent Joseph to check on his brothers. (Joseph; the brothers)

His brothers did not like it when they saw the dreaming Joseph on his way to meet them. They were so jealous that they decided to kill Joseph. They planned to kill him and put his body in a pit. They would tell Jacob that a beast attacked and ate Joseph. (Joseph)

Joseph's brother Reuben did not like this plan. He suggested they put Joseph in a pit but leave him alive. (Reuben; Joseph; the other brothers)

Genesis 37:26-34

Joseph's brother Judah suggested they sell Joseph as a slave and make themselves some money. When Reuben wasn't looking, the brothers sold Joseph to the Ishmaelites for 27 pieces of silver. They kept Joseph's coat. (Reuben; Joseph)

The brothers killed a goat and put some goat's blood on Joseph's coat of many colors. They brought the coat to Jacob. Look what we found, Dad. (*The brothers; Jacob*)

Jacob was very sad.

Joseph: The Promise Threatened

The story is read and discussed.

Genesis 50:15-21

Although things looked bad for Joseph, and more bad things happened along the way, God took care of Joseph. The Pharaoh (leader) in Egypt liked Joseph so much that he put Joseph in charge of Egypt. (Joseph)

During a famine (no food or crops) Joseph's father and brothers needed food. Joseph's brothers went to Egypt looking for help. Joseph recognized his brothers. He forgave them and took care of them. (Jacob; the brothers; Joseph)

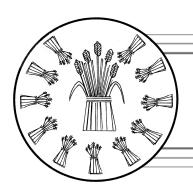
Later, when Jacob died, the brothers were afraid that Joseph would do harm to them like they did to him. Joseph was kind to them. He said that what they meant for bad, God turned around and used for good. (the brothers; Joseph)

When it is Not Fair

Play the Not Fair game.

- 1. Your brother gets to stay up past bedtime, but you have to go to bed at bed time.
- 2. Your friends can go out to play, but you have to stay inside to clean your room.
- 3. You have to eat everything on your plate before you are allowed to eat dessert.
- 4. Your friends get to watch television every night, but you can only watch television on the weekends.
- 5. You make a bad a choice and get punished for it.
- 6. Grandma buys everyone a milkshake.
- 7. Everyone gets a trophy for participating in a sporting event.
- 8. Everyone has an assigned time to walk the dog.
- 9. The school bus has to return to the school because two children were misbehaving.
- 10. The entire family took a trip to the zoo.
- 11. Mother made sure each of us got the same size piece of cake.
- 12. Daddy got a new job and you have to move away from your friends.
- 13. It rained on the day you were planning to go to the beach.
- 14. The entire class has to stay in for recess because two children were talking.
- 15. Mommy let you and your brother stay late if you agreed to get up on time in the morning.





The Story @ Home

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2016-2017) Lesson #3-3 Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21



Even when we try to harm each other, God can turn our action toward good. Today's story offers hope to those who have been harmed and to those who feel bad about unkind acts they have committed. God can turn the bad into something good.

Story Summery: Joseph: The Promise Threatened

Joseph's brothers were jealous of Jacob's love for him. God gave Joseph a dream about the future, and that dream upset Joseph's brothers even more. In the dream, Joseph was in charge over his brothers. Joseph's brothers decided to kill him and throw him in a pit. They would tell Jacob that a wild beast had attacked and eaten Joseph. Joseph's brother Reuben

Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

Fellowship is not always easy. Even in the family of God there are quarrels, jealousies, and divisions. With God's help, we can offer God's love to restore fellowship with those we have experienced conflict. Joseph's brothers broke fellowship with Joseph, but there was forgiveness and restored fellowship in the end. As a family, bake cookies (or make cards) for someone in your congregation to reach beyond differences and build fellowship.

did not agree with this plan. When Reuben was not watching, the other brothers sold Joseph to some Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt to be a slave. Years later, Joseph worked for Pharaoh and was in charge of the land and supplies. During a famine, his brothers needed food and came to him as servants. Joseph forgave his brothers for the evil they did to him. They may have planned evil, but God worked that evil into something good for Joseph and for a nation.

Lost Week/Next Week

Last week we saw the promise God made to Abraham. This week, we see that promise begin to become a reality. God gave children to Abraham's grandson Jacob, and God also preserved Abraham's descendants in the midst of family tension and jealousy. Next week we see how God plans to deliver the Israelites from slavery to take them to the land that God promised to Abraham.

Bible Nute and Boltes Old Testament and Divisions

The Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) is a collection of 39 books divided into four types of literature. The first five books of the Old Testament--The Pentateuch or Torah--tell of beginnings, promises, and law (Genesis through Deuteronomy). The next twelve books are the Histories (Joshua through Esther) that tell the stories of a nation's struggle to keep its covenant with God. These are followed by five Poetry books or Wisdom Literature (Job through Song of Solomon) which hold wise counsel, praise, and love for God. The remaining seventeen books are the Prophets (Isaiah through Malachi) with messages from God that guided, warned, and offered hope. God's love prevails in all 39 books.

Lesson #3-3

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22,

26-34; 50:15-21

Family Discussions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. Help your children to imagine what it would have been like to be the people contained in the stories. What is God's message to them—and to us?

- What does this passage tell you about God's strength?
- What does this passage tell you about humanity's weakness?
- What does this passage tell you about the importance of following God?

Family Devotions

Pick a time each day to gather together and read the following excerpts that share stories from a variety of geographical locations. It would be a great opportunity to find a map in the back of a Bible to further explore the world during biblical times. Engage in a few activities that help you better understand God's message of love to people living in those places as well as where you live today.

Sunday—Read Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21 —Joseph: The Promise Threatened

Joseph's brothers were jealous because they knew God was going to make Joseph their leader. Serve a favorite treat to one family member while the others watch that person eat it. How can we be gracious and not give in to jealousy? (Later, give the rest a treat.)

Monday—Read Exodus 1:8-22—The Israelites are Oppressed

The Egyptians treated the Israelites like slaves. They were very hard on them while they worked. Do chores while one family member keeps saying things like "hurry up," "move faster," or "do that over." Imagine being treated like that all day long. Thank God for freedom.

Tuesday—Read Exodus 2:1-10—The Birth and Youth of Moses

To keep her baby alive, the mother put baby Moses in a basket by the river bank. Pharaoh's daughter allowed the mother to nurse her baby. Look through the children's baby pictures if you have them. Share what you went through the first time you left your baby to go to work or elsewhere.

Wednesday—Read Exodus 3:1-12—Moses at the Burning Bush

God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. God told Moses he was going to be the one to lead the people out of Egypt. Where we meet God is holy ground. Take off your shoes. Take turns talking to God, telling of your love for God.

Thursday—Read Exodus 4:1-17—Moses' Miraculous Power

Moses was afraid he could not do what God asked of him. God gave Moses miraculous power to help him lead the Israelites. Help each other do things like reaching for something, lifting something, making a bed, etc.

Friday—Read Exodus 7:14-17; 8:5-6, 16-17, 20-21; 9:1-3, 7—Plagues on Egypt

God sent plagues to Egypt to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelites. Identify the five plagues in the reading. Use the counting numbers to remember and repeat them in order. After each one, say "Let my people go!" (i.e. "One: Water to blood, let my people go!" "Two: Frogs," etc.)

Saturday—Read Exodus 9:8-9, 22-23, 10:1-2, 22-24; 11:9-10—More Plagues

God sent more plagues. Identify the five additional plagues in the reading. Use the counting numbers, beginning with six, to remember and repeat them in order. After each one, say "Let my people go!" (i.e. "Six: Boils, let my people go!" etc.) Extra: Can you count out all ten plagues?