

Joseph Helps His Family

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference

Genesis 45:1-15, 50:15-21

Church Season

Pentecost

Lesson Focus

God can make all things good.



Tear here for easy use!

If you are using the Semi-Continuous version of the Revised Common Lectionary (ELCIC, Episcopal Church USA, Anglican Church of Canada, PCUSA, United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ), the lesson for Lectionary 24 is The Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-30). The leader material for this lesson is found on page 115. The leaflet for this lesson is included with all other leaflets for this quarter.

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Arrival Time Kids use a map to talk about where families live and do an Activity Page.</p>	<p>Activity Pages </p>	<p>World map, markers or pencils</p>
<p>Circle Time Kids gather in a circle to greet each other, hear about the lectionary season, and point on the map to a place where their family lives.</p>	<p>Leaflet</p>	<p>World map from Arrival Time</p>
<p>Prayer Time Kids use motions to help them pray.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Joseph Helps His Family Storytelling Leader or kid reads aloud from the Spark Story Bible and kids pretend to be Joseph and his brothers.</p>	<p>Spark Story Bibles</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Joseph's Rap Kids do a rhythmic rap together to reinforce the main points in the story.</p>	<p>Leaflets, Lesson Stickers</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>My Helper Kids write about someone who has helped them.</p>	<p>Leaflets</p>	<p>Pencils</p>

Lesson At-A-Glance

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
God Is Amazing! Kids solve a picture puzzle.	Leaflets	Pencils
Kids Around the World Kids learn about similarities between themselves and kids from around the world.	Leaflets	None
Brothers and Sisters Thank You Game Kids play a game about being thankful for their brothers and sisters in Christ.	None	None

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids select what they will do at home this week, say the lesson focus statement, and gather to say good-bye.	Leaflets	Pencils, scissors
Prayer Time Kids share petitions.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Time

Set out copies of the Activity Page for this lesson and other supplies on a table.

Spread the world map on a table so kids can touch it. Show the kids where to find Egypt. **Today's story takes place here, in Egypt. Joseph met his brothers in Egypt even though they came from another place. Our families came from many places, too. Do you have family members that come from or live in a different city, state or country? Let's see if we can find those places on the map. Later we'll share what we found.**

Invite kids to do the Activity Page.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

World map
Markers or pencils

Circle Time

Invite the kids to stand in a circle facing out. Hold each other's hands up high. One at a time, turn 180 degrees to the left, crossing your arms but still holding hands so that you are facing into the circle, your right arm over your left. Each person says, **"My name is [Name] and I'm in God's family!"** Invite the next kid to your left to turn in to the circle in the same manner. Go around the circle until everyone is facing in. If you do this each week, make sure the kids stand in a different order so that no one is last every week.

Gather kids to sit in a circle, in a small group on the floor, or at tables.

Hold up the leaflet and point to the road to tree on the green background. **What church season is it? (Pentecost) What kind of tree do you see in the symbol?** Affirm responses. **This is a tree that will lose its leaves in the fall. Do you think that trees like this grow in Egypt, where our Bible story takes place? In Egypt it's warm all year long. Many of the trees in Egypt are palm trees, like the ones that grow where Jesus lived.** Pause. **During Pentecost we grow in our love for God and learn more about God's love for us. And that's what our Bible story is all about today!**

When we gathered today we looked for the land of Egypt on the world map. Some people in our story today lived in Egypt. Where are your family members from? Wait for answers. **Do you know anyone in your family who lives in a different country or state? Did you find that place on the map? Who will share where their family is from?** Affirm the kids for their heritage and help them find other states and countries on the map.

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

World map from Arrival Time

Tear here for easy use!

Prayer Time

Invite kids to do the motions as you pray this prayer.

Dear God, (hands folded)

When I am sad, (curl fists under eyes like you're crying)

You bring me joy! (point to smile on your face)

When I am scared, (pretend to bite fingernails)

You give me strength! (put hands on hips like a superhero)

When I am angry, (make a mad face)

You give me peace! (put palms of hands together)

When things are bad, (curl hands in fists)

You make them good! (hold hands up and arms open)

Amen. (hands folded)

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Joseph Helps His Family Storytelling

Let's listen to the Bible story about how Joseph helped his family. God turned things around for Joseph and his brothers, from bad to good.

Pass out the Spark Story Bibles and invite everyone to find Joseph Helps His Family on pages 60–65. Wait until all kids have found the story, assisting those who may need help. Encourage kids to follow along as you read.

Our story told us of how Joseph's brothers came to Egypt in search of food and when they got there, they found Joseph alive. They were afraid Joseph would be angry with them for having sold him to traders. But Joseph was excited to see his family. Let's make ourselves as small as possible. We'll pretend we're Joseph's brothers hiding from Joseph. Now let's pretend we're Joseph and stretch our arms as wide as possible to hug and forgive our brothers. Finally, let's pretend we're Joseph's brothers jumping up and down with excitement. We are so happy Joseph forgave us! We are so happy to be together again!

Read the story once again, encouraging kids to move their bodies the way that Joseph and his brothers may have done to show how they felt.

Have a brief conversation about the story. Ask the kids these questions:

- 1. Who came to Egypt looking for food?** (*Joseph's brothers*)
- 2. Why were Joseph's brothers worried?** (*They thought Joseph would be angry with them.*)
- 3. How would you feel if your brothers or sisters did something mean to you? Would you forgive them?** Affirm responses.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

Joseph's Rap

If kids are not already seated at a table, move to one for this activity. Give each kid a leaflet.

The first page of our leaflet is called "God's Story." It's always about the Bible story we read. Look at the Bible story picture on the first page. Something is missing. Can you guess what or who isn't there today? (*basket of food*) Hand out large stickers to kids, so they can complete the picture. **Use the sticker to finish the picture, then we'll learn a rap that retells the story of Joseph and his brothers.** Pause to give kids time to place their large stickers.

Let's start a rhythm for our "Joseph Rap." Follow me! Tap hands twice on legs, and clap once. Keep the rhythm going until kids feel very sure of it. **Now let's add the words. I'll say a line and you can repeat it after me.**

Joseph came to Egypt.

Ohhhh, yes!

The brothers came to Egypt.

Ohhhh, no!

Joseph saw his brothers.

Ohhhh, yes!

The brothers saw Joseph.

Ohhhh, no!

Joseph loved his brothers.

Ohhhh, yes!

The brothers loved Joseph.

Yes, yes, yes!

Extend this activity by having the leader say the lines and the kids say "Oh yes" and "Oh no" where appropriate. Ask the kids if they see a pattern in the rap.

Let's look at the bottom of this page and read about where we can find this story in the Bible. Today's Bible story, Joseph Helps His Family, comes from the book of Genesis. Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament. There are 39 books in the Old Testament.

Give kids the three word stickers. **Now look at the bottom of the third page in your leaflet. It has the same words that we just read, but it's missing some important words. Use the word stickers to fill in the blanks. Which word do you think goes where?** (*Joseph, family, 39*) After attaching the stickers, read the statements together.

If you are interested in teaching your kids a Bible Memory Verse from this story, use this one. Teach it to them by inviting them to echo what you say, one phrase at a time.

And [Joseph] kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him. Genesis 45:15

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

My Helper

Invite kids to open to the second page of their leaflets. **This page is called "My Story." On this page you can write or draw things about you.** Ask for a volunteer to read the sentences. Help with the words as needed. **Joseph helped the people of Israel when he stored food for the famine. Joseph helped his brothers when they came to Egypt to get food.**

Who has helped you? Write down that person's name on the blank line. Give kids time to write. **What did that person do for you? How did he or she help you? Write or draw a picture of what happened.**

As kids work, ask these questions:

What can you do to help someone? I'd love to hear how you feel when you help someone. How about when someone helps you?

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Tear here for easy use!

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

God is Amazing!

Let's look at the third page of the leaflet. This page is the "Try It!" page. It has a puzzle or another fun activity to help us better understand the Bible story. Even though Joseph's brothers were mean to him, God was always with Joseph. God treated Joseph with kindness and love. Let's work through this spelling puzzle together to see what God can do! Work through each step carefully.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

What do you see in the first picture? (a dog) How do you spell that word? (D-O-G) Write those letters in the blanks next to the picture of the dog, D-O-G. What happens if you switch the "d" and the "g" to make a new word? (God) Write the new word in the blanks after the equal sign, G-O-D. What do you see in the next picture? (can) This word stays the same in our puzzle. Who can help us spell "can"? C-A-N. What about the third picture? (cake) Ask for another spelling volunteer and have kids write the word in the blanks. What word does "cake" become if we take away the "c" and add an "m" instead? (make) Write the word "make" after the equal sign.

Continue this pattern of identifying, spelling, changing letters and writing new words. **The fourth picture is a _____. (ball) If we take away the "b," what word does it become? (all) What's in the next picture? (wings) If we take away the "w" and add a "th" the word becomes _____. (things) The last picture is of _____. (wood) Take away the "w" and add a "g." What's the last word we make? (good) What's the answer to the whole puzzle? (God can make all things good.) Yes, God can! And you did a good job on this puzzle!**

Kids Around the World

Turn to the back page of your leaflets. This page is called "It's Real." It has interesting facts about the Bible, Bible times, Bible stories, and our world today.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Joseph spent most of his life in Egypt. His brothers lived far away from Egypt in a land called Caanan. But when Joseph's brothers came to Egypt looking for food, Joseph recognized them and loved them. Even though they grew up in different parts of the world, they were still brothers and still loved one another. Let's see how we are similar to, or different from, kids from other places in the world. Read the sentences on the leaflet. **We can love kids from around the world even though we are growing up far apart! Kids from around the world can love us, too.**

Supplies
None

If you could choose to live in a different land far away, where would you live? Why?

Brothers and Sisters Thank You Game

Invite kids to stand in a circle with you.

Spark Resources
None

Some of us have brothers and sisters in our families. At Sunday school we say that we are brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's play a game that helps us be thankful for our church friends!

Supplies
None

The first person will say, **"I'm thankful for my friend, [Name]!"**, After you've said someone's name, you will sit down. Then it will be their turn to say, **"I'm thankful for my friend, [Name]"** and they'll sit down, too. If someone calls your name and you're already sitting down, you will stand up after you say your friend's name. **You can name players more than once, but let's make sure that everyone gets at least one turn.** If a player is called upon while they are sitting down, they speak, and then stand up. Soon you will have kids standing, sitting, and giggling. Play as fast as you can.

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Thank you for coming to class! Today we learned about Joseph and his brothers and that God makes all things good. We are part of the good things that God does in the world! Isn't that great? We do good things, too. This week you can do or make something good for someone. What will you choose to do?

Direct attention to the back of the Faith on the Go! slip on the bottom of the back page, and have the kids fill-in the blanks with the name of someone they want to give this slip to, their own name, and today's date. Encourage them to mark one or more of the ideas or add their own. Cut the slip off on the line, ready to give to someone else.

After class give this slip to someone you want to do the activity with. It's like a coupon for time with you. Next week we can tell each other what we did to share God's love and remember our Bible story!

Invite the kids to stand in a circle facing in. Ask everyone to cross their arms, right over left, and hold hands with the person beside them. Squeeze your right hand, and then invite the kids to squeeze their right hands one at a time. (You will be going clockwise.) Say, **"God gives [Name] (name each kid as their hands are squeezed) a squeeze and a hug today!"** Then shout together, **"God can make all things good!"** Lift your arms up together, turn 180 degrees to the right, and now you will all be holding hands in a circle facing out.

Prayer Time

Invite the kids to turn back into the circle to say the prayer. **For our prayer today, you are invited to add a special idea of your own. Think of something good you can do for another person this week. That will be your special idea. We'll take turns adding our ideas in the middle of the prayer.**

**Holy God, all good things begin and end with you.
By your love, this week I will do good,
Just like Joseph,
And just like you.
Lead us to do good things like . . . (insert kids' ideas here)
Thank you, God, for all good things!
Amen.**

Be sure to send leaflets and Family Pages home with kids.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils
Scissors

Tear here for easy use!

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Family Pages



Supplies
None