
For Parents & Teachers

Lesson 5.10 · Joseph's Dreams · Age 5

Trusting God When Life Changes

Lesson overview

This week, your child will learn about Joseph, a young man who trusted and obeyed God even when life was unfair. Joseph's father, Jacob, loved him deeply and gave him a colorful coat, which made his brothers jealous. They sold him into slavery, but God was always with Joseph and used his faithfulness to save many people. This true story reminds us that God's plan is always good, even when we don't understand it, and that He blesses those who stay faithful and honest.

What your child will learn

- Joseph obeyed God.
- Joseph's father loved him most and gave him a colorful coat.
- Joseph's brothers were jealous and sold him into slavery.
- Joseph dreamed that his family would bow down to him.
- Pharaoh dreamed of seven years of plenty and seven years of famine.
- God helped Joseph understand the meaning of the dreams.
- Joseph forgave and was reconciled with his brothers.

Memory verse

Philippians 4:6 - Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.

How to use this guide: Read each short passage aloud, look at the scene description, and talk through the questions. The answers are prompts for parents; open discussion is welcome where noted.

2. Joseph and his family

Scene: Jacob stands with his twelve sons; Joseph wears the colorful coat that sets him apart.

Read in Scripture: Genesis 37:1-4

Read aloud

Jacob had twelve sons. Joseph was his favorite, and Jacob gave him a colorful coat. His brothers grew jealous and bitter toward him.

Talk about it

Who was Joseph's father?

Answer: Jacob

What special gift did Jacob give Joseph?

Answer: A colorful coat

Did you know?

- God changed Jacob's name to Israel.
- The twelve brothers are the family names for the twelve tribes of Israel.
- Joseph was seventeen when his brothers sold him into slavery.

3. Joseph's dreams

Scene: Joseph tells his family about sheaves of grain and the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowing in his dreams.

Read in Scripture: Genesis 37:5-11

Read aloud

Joseph had special dreams from God. In the dreams, his family bowed down to him. His father and brothers questioned what the dreams meant, and his brothers' jealousy grew.

Talk about it

What did Joseph dream about?

Answer: His father, mother, and brothers bowing down to him.

Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?

Answer: Their father loved him most.

Why did his brothers envy him when he told them his dreams?

Answer: They did not like his special dreams from God or the thought of bowing down to him.

4. Joseph is sold into Egypt

Scene: Joseph's brothers stand near the empty pit as traders take him toward Egypt.

Read in Scripture: Genesis 37:16-28

Read aloud

Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers. They planned to kill him, but Reuben stopped them. They took his colorful coat, put him in a pit, and sold him to traders going to Egypt. God was with Joseph.

Talk about it

What did Joseph's brothers do to him?

Answer: They sold him to traders.

How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers sold him?

Answer: Open discussion. The source suggests he may have felt scared, confused, angry, sad, and lonely.

5. God is with Joseph in Egypt

Scene: Joseph serves in Potiphar's household, then works under the prison keeper after being falsely accused.

Read in Scripture: Genesis 39:1-6; Genesis 39:20-23

Read aloud

In Egypt, Joseph worked hard for Potiphar and was honest and trustworthy. After a false accusation, he was sent to prison. God never left Joseph and gave him favor with the prison keeper.

Talk about it

What did Joseph do when he was treated unfairly?

Answer: He trusted God and kept working hard.

Who was the man Joseph was sold to?

Answer: Potiphar

What did God do to help Joseph?

Answer: God blessed what Joseph did and gave him favor with Potiphar and the prison keeper.

What kind of man was Joseph?

Answer: Honest, trustworthy, and hardworking.

6. Pharaoh's dreams

Scene: Joseph speaks with Pharaoh about the dreams of seven cows and seven heads of grain, explaining the coming years of plenty and famine.

Read in Scripture: Genesis 41:1; Genesis 41:14-31

Read aloud

Pharaoh had dreams he did not understand. Joseph told him that God would give the answer. God showed Joseph that seven years of plenty would be followed by seven years of famine.

Talk about it

Who helped Joseph understand dreams?

Answer: God

What did Pharaoh's dreams mean?

Answer: Seven years of plenty, then seven years of famine.

Why do you think God gave Pharaoh dreams?

Answer: Open discussion. The source notes that dreams are one way God shared His plans in the Bible.

Did you know?

- The source says Joseph was in prison for more than two years.
- The lesson describes prophecy as God sharing what He plans to do.
- Famine means food becomes hard to find because crops cannot grow well.

Prophecy discussion

What is prophecy?

Answer: God sharing what He plans to do.

How did God share His plans with Joseph?

Answer: Dreams.

How else did God share His plans in the Old Testament?

Answer: Prophets.

How did God share His plans in the New Testament?

Answer: Apostles.

What is a vision?

Answer: A picture God shows inside someone's mind of His plans to come.

What gift does God give to help us understand His plans?

Answer: The Holy Spirit.

Did God want some prophets to share His plans by acting them out?

Answer: Yes. The source names Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Jonah, and others.

What does prophecy teach us?

Answer: To trust God's promises.

7. Joseph prepares for the famine

Scene: Joseph oversees grain being stored during the good harvests so people can eat during the famine.

Read in Scripture: Genesis 41:39-49; Genesis 41:53-57

Read aloud

Pharaoh saw the wisdom God had given Joseph and put him in charge of Egypt. Joseph was thirty years old. He stored extra grain during seven good years, so people had food when the famine came.

Talk about it

What does Joseph's story teach us about trusting God?

Answer: We can trust God even when life feels unfair.

How did God use Joseph's hard times for good?

Answer: God used Joseph to save many people from hunger.

Activity: Peek at Prophecy (10 minutes)

Materials: Printed two-page 8×10 template, Scissors, Double-sided tape or glue, Crayons (optional)

Steps: Cut along the dashed lines on the first page to make eight lift-the-flap windows. Align it over the answer page, tape or glue the pages together, then read each question and open its flap. Children may color the pictures.

Connection: A gentle introduction to the lesson's prophecy concepts.

Note: The two-page flap template is described in the lesson but is not included with this guide. Use the activity after obtaining or making the template.

8. Joseph forgives his brothers

Scene: Joseph meets his brothers in Egypt, reveals who he is, and weeps with them as the family is reunited.

Read in Scripture: Genesis 42:1-13; Genesis 42:25-26; Genesis 43:1-34; Genesis 45:1-15; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13; 1 Corinthians 13:4

Read aloud

When the famine came, Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt for food. Joseph recognized them and later told them who he was. He forgave them, provided food, and invited the family to live near him in Egypt.

Talk about it

What can you do when someone is mean or unfair to you?

Answer: Talk to a parent, pray, forgive, and stay kind.

How can you show honesty like Joseph did?

Answer: Tell the truth and do what is right.

When you have a problem, how can you remember that God has a plan?

Answer: Pray and trust Him.

Why do you think Joseph forgave his brothers?

Answer: Joseph saw that God had worked through what happened to preserve life.

9. Remember and reflect

Scene: A child decorates a paper coat with bright colors and the words 'God Has a Plan for Me.'

Read aloud

Draw or decorate a colorful coat and write, 'God Has a Plan for Me,' as a reminder of this lesson.

Activity: Coat of Many Colors Craft (15 minutes)

Materials: Paper, Scissors, Glue, Crayons or colored paper scraps

Steps: Cut out a coat shape and decorate it with bright colors. Write 'God Has a Plan for Me' across the top.

Connection: Reminds children of the lesson's message about God's plan.

Activity: Joseph's Playlist (15 minutes)

Steps: Choose a favorite hymn or Jelly song. Discuss its words, add a simple action for each line, practice through the week, and sing it for your family on the Sabbath.

Connection: The source presents singing praise as encouragement during hard times.

Bonus question

Who sang hymns while in prison in the New Testament?

Answer: Paul and Silas

Note: The lesson does not supply complete links or a materials list for the songs. Use a copy you already have.

10. Keep going

Scene: A family talks and prays together while remembering Joseph's trust in God through hard years.

Read in Scripture: Jeremiah 29:11; Ezra 8:23; Psalm 27:14; Psalm 31:24; Psalm 56:3; Philippians 4:6; Matthew 18:4; Romans 8:28

Read aloud

Joseph remained faithful to God. It took thirteen years before he could see what God was working out. We may not always see what God has planned, but we can pray and trust Him when things do not go our way.

Talk about it

What can you do this week to show kindness to your family, even when it is hard?

Answer: Help, share, speak kindly, and forgive quickly.

What can you remember when things do not go the way you planned?

Answer: God can work things out for good, and He does not leave me.

Keep the conversation going

For parents

You are your child's first and most important teacher of faith. When you model honesty, forgiveness, and trust in God—even by praying together or talking about Joseph—you help your child see what living God's way looks like.

Teachable moments

When your child feels left out or jealous: Joseph's brothers were jealous, and jealousy caused hurt. Talk about thankfulness for what we have.

When your child faces something unfair: Joseph stayed honest and trusted God when he was treated wrongly.

When your child succeeds or is praised: Give thanks to God, as Joseph did when God helped him understand dreams.

Prayer focus for the week

- A thankful heart, even when things are hard
- Courage to be honest, kind, and obedient
- Trust in God's plan when it is not clear
- Readiness to forgive others

Family prayer example

Dear God, thank You for always being with us, just like You were with Joseph. Help us to trust You when things are hard and to stay honest and kind. Thank You for having a good plan for our lives. Amen.

Family reading plan

- Matthew 6:25-33
- Psalm 23
- Psalm 46
- Psalm 91

Discussion starters for home

- What was your favorite part of Joseph's story?
- How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers sold him?
- Why do you think Joseph kept trusting God, even when things were hard?
- What can we do when someone is unkind or unfair to us?
- How did God use Joseph's dreams to help others?

Songs and resources

- UCG Hymn 165: All Things Work Together (Thomas Hammett)
- UCG Hymn 99: Consider the Lilies (Matthew 6:25-33; music by Mark Graham)
- UCG Hymn 168: Thank You, Lord (Ruth Myrick)
- Jelly and Friends: He'll Show the Way (Micah Gunn)
- Jelly and Friends: Courage and Faith (Mark Graham)

The lesson names these songs and credits but does not provide complete links. The read-aloud text is shortened from the child narrative in Lesson 5.10; scene descriptions summarize its intended visuals.