

## start up

### ✓ **Going on a Trip (3-4min)**

**Discuss** with the children about places they have been for holidays or lived elsewhere.

**Link:** We're going to hear about a person who was sent on a trip, a trip he did not ask to go on.

### ○ **Families (3-5min)**

**Say:** God's plan is that families love each other and care for each other, but that doesn't always happen.

**Ask** who has brothers or sisters. Find out who has the most brothers.

**Show** a photo of your own family (*as a younger person in the past or your current family*).

**Say:** Listen for how many brothers and sisters Joseph had in today's story and how they treated each other.

### ○ **Game: Family Get Together (3-5 min)**

**Play** a song (*use one of Songs 14-17*) while everyone walks in a circle. When the music stops they have to form "families" of (2,3,4,5 people).

## get into

### ✓ **Joseph's Story Begins (8-10min)**

**Use** story telling pictures U1-13 or Power Point L8 and outline (*Power Tools*) to help tell the story.

Joseph was part of a very big family. There were twelve brothers and a sister too. (*See Genesis 34:1*).

Joseph was one of the youngest and he was his dad's favourite. He also told stories to his dad about his brothers. The others didn't like him at all. Joseph wasn't always nice to his brothers either. His dad had given him a fancy coat and his brothers hated him and wouldn't be friendly to him.

Joseph had dreams and he used to tell his brothers. "I dreamt that we were all in the paddock/field tying up bundles of wheat. My bundle stood up tall, and your bundles all bowed down to it," he said.

"Do you think we're going to bow down and serve you?" his brothers said. They really hated Joseph.

"Let me tell you what else I dreamed," Joseph told them. "The sun, the moon and eleven stars all bowed down to me!"

Now his father, Jacob, was angry. "What's that supposed to mean? Are we all going to bow down to you? Are you going to be boss of us all?"

One day nearly all the brothers had taken the family's sheep far away but Joseph had stayed behind.

After a while Joseph's dad said, "Go and find out how your brothers are, then come back and tell me."

It was a long trip but eventually Joseph saw them far away. They saw him too in his fancy coat and felt annoyed. "Here comes the dreamer!" they said, "it's time we fixed him, then we'll see what happens to those dreams!" And they grabbed Joseph, pulled off his coat and threw him down a dry well.

Soon after, the brothers saw some people coming, traders from far away lands. "How would you like to buy a slave to do all your work for you?" the brothers asked the traders. The brothers pulled Joseph out of the well and he was taken far, far away to the country of Egypt, sold by his own brothers.

**Ask:** How were they going to explain that to their father?

**Say:** "I know! Let's pretend a wild animal got him," they said. So they took Joseph's beautiful coat, put some blood on it and took it home.

"Oh no!" said their dad when he saw it. "A wild animal must have got him! Joseph is gone! Now I'll be upset forever."

That's the end of the story for today but it doesn't end there. We'll find out more next week.

## go for

### ○ **Unit Song (3-4min)**

**Sing** the unit song 'Day and Night' (*Song 14*).

### ○ **Prayer for Families (1-2min)**

**Ask** everyone to close their eyes and think of each person in their family.

**Invite** them to say together "God bless our families." (*Remember no one has to pray*)

### ○ **Explorers Magazines (7-9min)**

**Complete** the activities.

## LESSON 8

### Explorers

Foundation – Kindergarten

Ages 4 to 6

## Life Isn't Easy

### REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- (Optional) Photo of your family – current or of your family when growing up (Start up)
- Story telling pictures U1-13 & Backgrounds 2 (inside) & 4 (desert) (Get into it)
- Power Point L8 and outline (Power Tools) (Get into it)
- Interactive White Board/Data Projector and computer (Get into it)

# LESSON 8

## Adventurers

Infants – Ages 6 to 8

# Life Isn't Easy

## REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Photos of you on a holiday (Start up)
- Map of Egypt/North Africa or globe (Start up)
- Story telling pictures U1-13 & Backgrounds 2 (inside) & 4 (desert) (Get into it)
- Power Point L8 and outline (Power Tools) (Get into it)
- Data Projector and computer, interactive whiteboard or TV (Get into it)
- Reuben Remembers (Lesson Tools L8 and a costume) (Get into it)
- Coat (Go for it)
- Prepared quiz, small prizes (Go for it)

## start up

- Going on a Trip (3-5min)**  
**Question** the children about trips/holidays they have been on. Discuss what they might take.  
**Show** a picture of you on a holiday.  
**Link:** We're going to hear about a person who was sent on a trip. It was a trip that he did not ask to go on.
- Where Are We? (2-3min)**  
**Show** a map or point on a globe where Egypt is.  
**Discuss** where that is in relation to where we are now.  
**Link:** Egypt plays an important part in our story.
- Favourites (3-4min)**  
**Ask:** Who has a favourite toy? How about a favourite pet? How do you decide if something is your favourite? (Accept responses) Have you ever been given something special from a friend or family member? How did you feel? (Accept responses)  
**Link:** Joseph, the person in our story today, received something very special. Though was not easy.

## get into it

- Introducing Joseph (2-3min)**  
**Show** Joseph (pic U2).  
**Say:** Joseph was a young man who lived a long time ago. He never saw a computer, phone, plane and there were no spaceships. His family farmed sheep and lived in tents.  
**Ask:** How do you think Joseph lived? (Accept responses) Do you think he had any brothers or sisters? (Accept responses)
- Joseph's Story Begins (8-10min)**  
**See** Explorers Lesson 8.  
**Use** story telling pictures U1-13 or Power Point L8 and outline (Power Tools) to help tell the story.
- 'Reuben Remembers' (3-4min)**  
**Use** the first person narrative (LT L8 Reuben Remembers) to retell today's story from Reuben's viewpoint.  
**Invite** a 'guest' to come dressed appropriately.

## go for it

- Bad Things (1-2min)**  
**Ask:** Did Joseph do anything wrong? (No)  
**Say:** Sometimes unhappy things happen to people even when they are doing the right thing. God knows how we feel when unhappy things happen. He wants us to know that he is there with us, and we can always talk to him.
- Prayer (2-3min)**  
**Ask** the children if there are any particular things they would like to pray for.  
**Pray** for the things children mentioned (you might like to invite some of the children to pray for each other.)  
**Conclude:** Give thanks to God - that just like he knew all about Joseph a long time ago, he knows all about us today.
- Unit Song (3-4min)**  
**Sing** the unit song 'Always Around' (Song 15) or 'Hail to the Lord' (Song 22).
- Under Cover Memory Verse (4-5min)**  
**Using** your coat (or a child's one) wrap up (or in pockets) the memory verse (LT U3) so it's all mixed up. Have some children find the 'hidden' words and put the verse in order and say it together.
- Adventurers Magazines (7-10min)**  
**Complete** the activities.

## start up

### Praise Time (5-8min)

**Write** 'THANKS GOD' on the board, and ask the children about some fun things that they do when on holidays. Write these things on the board, and pray a praise prayer for all the good times we can have. Sing 1 or 2 of the unit songs from Units 1 and 2 of GodSpace as a reminder that God is great.

### Joseph's Life And Ours (2-3min)

**Ask:** What do you think life will be like 50 years from now, in 2068? How old will you be? What do you think transport will be like? (*Encourage the children to use their imaginations*)

**Say:** When we think about what life will be like in the future, we are only guessing. But when we look at the past, there is a lot of information about what life was like. One book that tells us about some of the people who lived in the past is the Bible. Today's story in the Bible is from 4000 years ago. It comes from the first book of the Bible called Genesis. (*Show where Genesis is in the Bible*)

## get into it

### Introducing Joseph (2-3min)

**Say:** The story we are going to be reading together over the next few weeks is about a young man named Joseph.

**Ask:** What things do we have that he wouldn't have had living 4000 years ago? (*Allow responses*) Joseph's family farmed sheep and lived in tents. Today we are going to be hearing about Joseph's family and the trouble he got into with his brothers.

### Whole Group Reading (7-8min)

**Hand** out Bibles (*or weekly Bible passage print out*), and help them find Genesis 37.

**Ask** for volunteers to read the story while everyone else follows on.

**Inform** them before you start that you will be asking questions at the end (*this will help with concentration*).

### Joseph's Story Begins (8-10min)

**See** Explorers Lesson L8.

**Use** story telling pictures U1-13 or Power Point L8 and outline (*Power Tools*) to help tell the story.

### 'Reuben Remembers' (3-4min)

**Use** the first person narrative (*LT p. L8 Reuben Remembers*) to retell today's story from Reuben's viewpoint.

**Invite** a 'guest' to come dressed appropriately.

## go for it

### Story Quiz (5-6min)

**Prepare** a set of review questions to ask from the story. E.g. Name of Joseph's Dad? (*Jacob*) Joseph's special gift from his Dad? (*Fancy coat*) How did the brothers feel about Joseph? (*Jealous, annoyed, . . .*). What was Joseph's dream about? (*Others bowing to him*)

### Bad Things To Good People (2-3min)

**Ask:** Was Joseph treated fairly? (*No*) Did Joseph do anything wrong? (*No*) Did he deserve this? (*No*)

**Say:** Sometimes bad things happen to good people. God doesn't stop bad things from happening, but he wants us to know that he is there with us in the bad times. We can talk with him anytime in prayer.

### Play 'Hide The Memory Verse' (4-5min)

**Say:** Joseph was a good person. He followed God's ways but bad things still happened to him. Joseph didn't blame God, for he knew that God was with him even in the tough times. Our memory verse reminds us that God will never leave us. This would help develop Joseph's patience.

**Choose** 6 volunteers to come to the front of the room, face the wall, and cover their eyes.

**Choose** other volunteers to hide the pieces of the memory verse puzzle (*LT U3*). The volunteers out the front now open their eyes and find the verse.

**Select** other children to put the verse in order and say it together.

### Navigators Magazines (7-8min)

**Complete** the activities. Play 'Hail to the Lord' (*Song 22*) as they work.

## LESSON 8

### Navigators

Lower Primary – Ages 8 to 10

## Life Isn't Easy

### REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Quality Children's Bible (Start up)
- Story telling pictures U1-13 & Backgrounds 2 (inside) & 4 (desert) (Get into it)
- Power Point L8 and outline (Power Tools) (Get into it)
- Data Projector and computer, interactive whiteboard or TV (Get into it)
- Reuben Remembers (Lesson Tools L8) and a costume (Get into it)
- Prepared quiz, small prizes (Go for it)

# LESSON 8

## Voyagers

Upper Primary – Ages 10 to 12

# Life Isn't Easy

## REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDENT ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Prepare a personal story of a life experience. (Start up)
- A3 sheets (or similar large pieces) of paper and textas (markers) (Start up)
- Copies of Lesson 8 Bible Passage from Power Tools. (Get into it)
- 'Reuben Remembers' (Lesson Tools L8) and a costume (Get into it)
- 'Prepared review questions (Go for it)

## start up

- Bad Things Happen To Good People (3-5min)**  
Tell a short story of something bad that has happened to you. Alternatively, tell a story about someone else. (*Remember to be sensitive to the maturity of your group*).  
**Ask:** How do you think people feel when bad things happen to them that are not their fault? (*Allow responses*).  
**Ask:** What do you think God thinks when bad things happen to good people? (*Allow responses*).
- Good Day / Bad Day (6-8min)**  
**Explain:** In groups of 2 or 3 people, write two lists on large (A3) pieces of paper, one with the heading, 'A good day', the other, 'A bad day'. Include 10 things that make a good day and 10 that make a bad day.  
**Give** the groups 5 minutes to complete the task then share the ideas.  
**Ask:** Do you think God cares whether we have good or bad days or not, and why? (*Allow responses*).
- Joseph's Story (1-2min)**  
**Say:** Over the next few weeks we are going to be hearing Joseph's story. Joseph was a really good person, and yet many bad things happened to him. Joseph lived over 4000 years ago. His life is very different to ours - he never saw a computer, never went to the movies, never went to school in a building. His family farmed sheep and lived in tents. Yet we can learn lots from his life, especially how God was in control.

## get into it

- Group Reading (10-12min)**  
**Distribute** copies of the abridged weekly Bible passage (*Power Tools*) to groups of 4-5 children and give them time to read it.  
**Then** in those groups discuss the following questions (*write them on the board*): Who were the good people in the story? Who did bad things? Who won - the good or bad people? Rate Joseph's day on a scale of 1-10 (*1=good, 10=bad*): was this a good or bad day and why do you think this?  
**Bring** the group together to discuss the answers.
- Group Drama (10-15min)**  
**Using** the abridged weekly Bible passage (*Power Tools*), choose volunteers to play the parts of the story. You (*or one of the children*) can be the narrator.  
**Give** a copy of the passage to each character and have the group act out the events of Genesis 37.
- 'Reuben Remembers' (3-4min)**  
**Use** the first person narrative (*LT L8*) to retell today's story from Reuben's viewpoint.

## go for it

- Review Game (5-7min)**  
**Play** a fun game like naughts and crosses, by dividing the class into two teams.  
**Use** the chalk/white board to play. Remember to not write on the interactive whiteboard!!  
**Ask** review questions. If a team gets the correct answer they can put an O or X on the game board.
- Does God Care? (5-6min)**  
**Ask:** If you were Joseph, being carried off by a slave trader to Egypt, how would you be feeling? (*Allow responses*) What thoughts might Joseph have been having about the dreams God had given him? Do you think that God cared for Joseph and why? (*Allow responses*). Why does life feel tough at times?  
**Explain:** In Joseph's case more bad things are going to happen to him, but he is still going to keep believing and trusting in God. What are your thoughts towards God when bad things happen to you?
- Unit Song (5-6min)**  
**Sing** the unit song 'Our God is Here' (*Song 17*) or 'Hail to the Lord' (*Song 22*).
- Praying For Each Other (4-5min)**  
**Ask:** What things would you like to talk with God about this week - the good and bad?  
**Write** responses on the board the ask for volunteers (*or yourself*) to pray for the things on the board.
- Voyagers Magazines (7-8min)**  
**Complete** the activities.

# LESSON 8

## Combined/Large Group

- **Welcome & Prayer (1-2min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Welcome** the children and invite someone to pray for our time together.
- **Praise Time (4-5min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sing** a unit song (*Songs 14-17, 22*) or another known song.
- **Where Are We? (2-3min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Show** a map or point to it on a globe where Egypt is.  
**Discuss** where that is in relation to where we are now.  
**Say:** Egypt plays an important part in our story.
- **Favourites (3-4min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ask:** Who has a favourite toy?  
**Show** your own favourite item.  
**Continue:** How about a favourite pet? How do you decide if something is your favourite? (*Accept responses*) Have you ever been given something special from a friend or family member? How did you feel? (*Accept responses*)  
**Say:** Joseph, the person in our story today, received something very special.
- **Joseph's Story Begins (8-10min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**See** Explorers Lesson 8.  
**Use** story telling pictures U1-13 or Power Point L8 and outline (*Power Tools*) to help tell the story.
- **Group Drama (10-15min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Using** the abridged weekly Bible passage (*Power Tools*), choose volunteers to play the parts of the story. You (*or one of the children*) can be the narrator.  
**Give** a copy of the passage to each character and have the group act out the events of Genesis 37.
- **Reuben Remembers (3-4min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Use** the first person narrative (*LT p. L8*) to retell today's story from Reuben's viewpoint.
- **Bad Things (2-3min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**See** Navigators Lesson 8.
- **Does God Care? (5-6min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ask:** If you were Joseph, being carried off by a slave trader to Egypt, how would you be feeling? (*Allow responses*) What thoughts might Joseph have been having about the dreams God had given him? Do you think that God cared for Joseph and why? (*Allow responses*)  
**Explain:** In Joseph's case more bad things are going to happen to him, but he is still going to keep believing and trusting in God. What are your thoughts towards God when bad things happen to you? (*Allow responses*)
- **Play 'Hide The Memory Verse' (4-5min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Say:** Joseph was a good person. He followed God's ways but bad things still happened to him. Joseph didn't blame God, for he knew that God was with him even in the tough times. Our memory verse reminds us that God will never leave us.  
**Choose** 6 volunteers to come to the front of the room, face the wall, and cover their eyes.  
**Choose** other volunteers to hide the pieces of the memory verse puzzle (*LT U3*). The volunteers out the front now open their eyes and find the verse.  
**Select** other children to put the verse in order and say it together.
- **Prayer for Families (1-2 min)**  
**Led by:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ask** everyone to close their eyes and think of each person in their family. Then say together "God bless our families."

## Life Isn't Easy

### REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Data Projector and computer, interactive whiteboard or TV
- Words of song/s (*Power Tools*)
- Map of the world or Globe
- A Favourite personal item (toy, ornament etc)
- Copy of weekly Bible print out
- Story telling pictures U1-13 & Backgrounds 2 (inside) & 4 (desert)
- Power Point L8 and outline (*Power Tools*)
- Reuben Remembers (*Lesson Tools L8*) and a costume
- Songs
  - Song 14 Day and Night
  - Song 15 Always Around
  - Song 16 God Is There
  - Song 17 Our God is Here
  - Song 22 Hail to the Lord