

A Life of Resilience

Joseph

Unit 3

Mega Theme: God's People

OVERVIEW

Children sometimes encounter difficult situations that are beyond their control. The story of Joseph can help them cope as they hear how he endured traumatic changes honourably, and fulfilled his part in God's plan. The Bible account of Joseph's life is action-packed, dramatic and exciting. It will be told as a serial story over 4 lessons. There is a revision lesson on the Power Tools that gives the big picture and what we learn from it. Joseph was the first son of Jacob, one of the Old Testament patriarchs, and his second wife, Rachel. He had ten older half-brothers, one half-sister and a younger brother Benjamin. They lived in Canaan, an ancient term for a region encompassing present-day Israel, the Palestinian Territories, Lebanon, plus adjoining coastal lands and parts of Jordan, Egypt and Syria. The challenges Joseph faced first in his family, in which he felt different and misunderstood, and then in a foreign country where life had its ups and downs, culminated in him being given a position of responsibility that saved not only his own family, but nations.

From Canaan to Egypt, from prisoner to governor, Joseph shows great resilience and perseverance as he trusts God to look after him, learning that God can bring good out of difficult and unfair situations. We can assure the children that God was there with Joseph, and he will be with them too as they face ongoing difficulties, helping them to keep on doing what's right and trusting God to work things out.

This Unit will make reference to a big section of Genesis 37-47, 50, so summaries of the chapters have been prepared and are available on the Power Tools.

UNIT VERSE

Short The Lord will not leave us.
Hebrews 13:5 (CEV)

Long The Lord has promised he will not leave or desert us.
Hebrews 13:5 (CEV)

AIMS

- To tell the story of Joseph who experienced tough times but worked with God to save his people.
- To introduce Joseph as an example of a person who trusted God.
- To assure children that God is always with them.

LESSON OUTLINES

Lesson 8	Life Isn't Easy	Genesis 37
Lesson 9	Trusting God in Tough Times	Genesis 39-40
Lesson 10	Perseverance Pays	Genesis 41
Lesson 11	God Brings Good Out of Tough Times	Genesis 42-47, 50

Unit 3 Revision Lesson on Power Tools



UNIT SONGS

Explorers **Day and Night**
Simone Richardson
© 2004 Emu Music

Adventurers **Always Around**
Kevin Fitzgerald and Peter Barnett
© 2006 The Shed

Navigators **God Is There**
Kevin Fitzgerald and Peter Barnett
© 2008 The Shed

Voyagers **Our God is Here**
Michael Frye
© 2008 Vineyard UK/Eire

Lesson 9

underlying VALUE

Integrity

HOT teaching tip

Kids Are Always Responding

There are many things that can side track a lesson. These distractions can come from both teachers and students alike. Teachers can get caught up in too much detail, or be side-tracked along a personal or special interest track, and lose hold of the big idea. On the other hand, children can distract the lesson and/or class from the aim of the lesson in a multitude of ways. Often you cannot prevent distractions, especially ones created by the children, however you can control how long it takes to deal with the distraction.

Tips for dealing promptly with distractions:

- Don't make too much out of small distractions. Rather, refocus the class by commenting on someone's positive behaviour.
- Refocus the class' attention to the lesson again by asking a comprehension or revision question.
- Keep the lesson moving along. If one activity is being disrupted, perhaps it is not working. Move on to the next activity as soon as possible.
- Be prepared. Distractions often occur if you are unsure as to the next step in a lesson.

Teacher's Notes

Trusting God in Tough Times

Genesis 39-40

the **BIG** idea

In Egypt God was with Joseph, though it was still tough. He continued to be honest and good and help others but life didn't seem fair when he found himself in jail.

lesson **AIM**

To tell the second episode of Joseph's life conveying that God was with Joseph in good times and bad.

learning **OUTCOME**

The children will be able to:

- Explorers** say that good and bad things happened to Joseph and God was with him through it all.
- Adventurers** state that God was looking after Joseph.
- Navigators** describe the circumstances of Joseph's life.
- Voyagers** discuss what it means to be a victim of circumstances.

INSIDE the story

This part of the Joseph story is based on Genesis chapters 39 and 40. Practise telling it aloud beforehand.

Even though Joseph was a slave in a foreign country it was obvious that God was with him. His Egyptian owner Potiphar realised that God was helping him be successful in all he did so he made Joseph his personal assistant. God blessed Potiphar's household because of Joseph, so Potiphar put him in charge of everything (Genesis 39:2-6).

Joseph would not betray his master by giving in to Potiphar's wife, who found him very attractive. But Potiphar believed his wife's lies about Joseph attacking her and had Joseph thrown in jail. Life is not fair. People who go out of their way to do the right thing are not always rewarded with good, and those who are bad like Potiphar's wife sometimes get away with it, at least for a while.

There were two other prisoners in jail and one night they both had disturbing dreams. Joseph said God knew what the dreams meant and asked them to tell him (Genesis 40:8). He told each the meaning and three days later the dreams came true just as Joseph had described with one prisoner being set free and the other being killed.

Let the children know that most dreams don't point to the future as these did and if they have dreams that worry them, they can ask an adult they trust to talk about it and if appropriate, to pray to God to keep them safe and well.

The prisoner who was freed had been asked by Joseph to tell the king that Joseph was in prison unjustly, but as soon as he got out he forgot about Joseph. Joseph was still in jail and he could do nothing about it. At times, in those tough times, when we feel powerless and forgotten, God is always with us.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

start

- Review (3-4min)**
Review the story from the last lesson, with 5-6 prepared questions.
See Adventurers Lesson 9.
- Song (3-4min)**
Sing the song 'Day and Night'.

get into

- Fuzzie Has a Tough Time (2-3min)**
See Adventurers Lesson 9.
- Joseph in Egypt (7-9min)**
Use story telling pictures (see *Required Resources*) or Power Point L9 and outline to illustrate.
Say: Joseph's new owners took him all the way to the far away country of Egypt. When they arrived in Egypt, the traders sold Joseph again. "Come on slave," a rough voice said. "You're going to work for Potiphar, the captain of the king's palace guard."
Joseph had to work hard for no money at Potiphar's house. But Joseph let God help him do everything extra well. Instead of hating Potiphar, Joseph did his very best for him. It was tough but he trusted God.
One day Potiphar said, "Joseph, things have gone well here ever since you came. I can see that God is helping you. I'm going to make you the boss of my house - and of all my things." At last things had got better for Joseph!
But one day, something bad happened. Potiphar's wife told lies about Joseph and Potiphar believed her. Joseph ended up in jail. These were very tough times.
Jail was horrible, but God was still with Joseph and things started to go well for him again. God made the jailer like him and he got put in charge of the jail.
Two of the other prisoners were from the king's palace – the king's cook and the king's own servant. One night they both had dreams. Often dreams mean nothing at all but they knew these dreams had a meaning. The trouble was, they couldn't work out what the meaning was.
But someone in the jail knew all about dreams. Who was it? (*Joseph*) "God knows all about dreams," he told them. "Tell me what you dreamed." So they told him.
And God helped Joseph understand their dreams and told them the meanings. And it all came true, exactly as Joseph had said it would.
You'd think he'd be famous for doing that, wouldn't you? But it didn't happen like that.
"When you get out of jail," he said to the king's own servant, "Let the king know I was taken away from my country and I haven't done anything wrong to deserve being thrown into jail. Please ask the king to let me out."
But when the man got out of jail he completely forgot about Joseph and Joseph ended up staying in jail. Poor Joseph. He hadn't been bad, but things were going bad for him. Sometimes that happens, but God knew Joseph was there and God hadn't forgotten him. In fact, God was right there with him. But Joseph had to be patient. He had to wait.
And we'll have to be patient and wait till the next lesson to find out what happened next.
Discuss: How do you think Joseph felt being in jail? How do you feel when you're blamed for something you didn't do?

go for

- Memory Verse Game: 'Words in the Jail?' (5-8min)**
Choose one child to turn around/close their eyes. Choose another to select one word from the memory verse words and place under the sheet/towel as if it was in 'jail'. The first child turns back and tries to work out which word is missing. When the correct word is worked out 'free' it from jail and all read.
- Explorers Magazines (7-10min)**
Complete the activities.

LESSON 9

Explorers

Foundation – Kindergarten

Ages 4 to 6

Trusting God in Tough Times

REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- 5-6 prepared revision questions about lesson 8 (Get into it)
- Story telling pictures B3-4; U2,11-12,14-17; T80 (Get into it)
- Power Point L9 and outline (Power Tools) (Get into it)
- Technical/Media resources eg: data projector, computer, interactive board (Get into it)
- A sheet or large towel, words of the memory verse (Lesson Tools U3 MV Short) (Go for it)

LESSON 9

Adventurers

Infants – Ages 6 to 8

Trusting God in Tough Times

REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Story telling pictures B3-4; G12; U2,11,14-17,35; T80 (Get into it)
- Power Point L9 and outline (Power Tools) (Get into it)
- Technical/Media resources eg: data projector, computer, interactive board (Get into it)
- Weekly Bible passage print out (Get into it)
- Memory verse written on A4 Sheets and cut in two (Go for it)



start up

✓ Review (3-5min)

Revise Lesson 9 briefly, and ask some of the following questions (*could be done in teams*).

- Who had 12 sons? (*Jacob*)
- Who was the favourite one? (*Joseph*)
- Why did Joseph's brothers get angry at him? (*He told them about his dreams where they were bowing down to him*)
- What did Joseph's older brothers do to him? (*First threw him in a pit, then sold him as a slave*)
- What did the brothers tell their father? (*That they found Joseph's coat all messed up*)
- What do you think happened to Joseph next? (*Accept responses*)

○ Song (3-5min)

Say: Joseph was sad and scared. He didn't know if he would ever see his brothers or his father again. Fortunately, God is always there, even in bad times!

Teach the song 'Always Around'.

get into

✓ Fuzzie Has a Tough Time (2-3min)

F = Fuzzie T = Teacher

F: (*Muffled*) I'm in here.

T: Fuzzie, Fuzzie, where are you?

F: (*Muffled*) I'm in here.

T: What are you doing? Come out.

F: (*Tearful*) No, I don't want to.

T: Why not?

F: 'Cause I'll get into trouble.

T: Why? What have you done?

F: Nothing. I do the wrong thing sometimes, but this time I didn't! Max told Mum that I made the dirty footprints on the carpet but I didn't. It's not fair! (*Cries*).

T: It sounds like you have had some problems like Joseph's.

F: (*Coming out of the bag*) Joseph? The guy whose brothers sold him and told their dad he was dead. What else can go wrong with Joseph?

T: A lot more. Joseph's problems had just started. Why don't you go and ask your Mum if she can read it to you?

F: OK, is it an exciting story?

T: It sure is! Bye Fuzzie.

✓ Joseph in Egypt (6-8min)

Use story telling pictures (*see Required Resources*) or Power Point L9 and outline to illustrate.

See Explorers Lesson 9 or read from a quality Children's Bible or the L9 weekly Bible print out.

Give the children the opportunity to put the pictures onto the background and help tell the story.

go for

○ God Knows and Cares (1-2min)

Ask: What unfair things happened to Joseph? (*Accept responses*).

Say: God helped Joseph to do the best he could, even when things were unfair. God understands when things get tough. God wants us to remember that he is still with us. He wants us to keep on doing our best, and he will help us.

○ Pray (1-2min)

Pray together, asking God to help us do our best, even when things seem unfair. Ask God for his help to not be discouraged.

○ Memory Verse Game (4-5min)

Using A4 sheets of paper write the verse out, one word per sheet.

Prepare each piece by cutting it in 'half' (*loosely*); some vertical, horizontal, diagonal, zigzag, etc.

Mix up the half sheets, hand them out randomly, and everyone has to find their other half! Stand in a circle so everyone can see the words.

Read it out together. Remove half the words this time!

○ Adventurers Magazines (7-10min)

Complete the activities.

start up

✓ Song (3-4min)

Teach the song 'God Is There'.

✓ Tough Situations (3-5min)

Say: Sometimes, through no fault of our own, everything seems to go wrong. Maybe we miss out on something and feel it's really unfair. Or maybe we try our best to do the right thing, but everything goes wrong and we end up in trouble. Life feels real tough.

Ask: Can you think of a time when something like that has happened to you? (*Allow responses*).

Say: Joseph would know exactly how you felt! What had happened to him?

○ Review (3-5min)

See Adventurers Lesson 9.

get into

✓ Narrate The Story (6-8min)

Use story telling pictures (*see Required Resources*) or Power Point L9 and outline to illustrate.

Alternatively, read the story from the weekly Bible passage print out (*Power Tools*).

- Joseph was sold as a household slave to Potiphar, the captain of the king's palace guard. (*Gen 39:1*).
- He worked hard at Potiphar's house. God blessed everything Joseph did. Potiphar saw this and he put him in charge of the whole house (*Genesis 39:2-6*).
- Potiphar's wife told lies about Joseph and said he attacked her. Potiphar believed the lie and had Joseph put into prison, even though he could have had him killed (*Genesis 39:11-20*).

Ask: Had Joseph done anything wrong? (*No*) Was it fair that he was put in prison? (*No*)

Say: Joseph could have been very angry about being put into prison. He could have been rude to the guards and refused to cooperate with them, but he didn't.

- God helped Joseph in prison and again the prison guard noticed him and knew he could be trusted. He soon put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners (*Genesis 39:21-23*).
- Joseph got to know two of the prisoners well. One was the king's personal servant, the other a cook. Both were servants from the Pharaoh's palace.
- These two prisoners told Joseph about some dreams that they had one night. God told Joseph what the dreams meant.
- Later, everything happened just as Joseph had explained (*Genesis 40: 5-22*).
- When Pharaoh's personal servant was set free, Joseph said 'Tell the pharaoh about me so I can be set free too.' But he forgot and Joseph stayed in prison for many years (*Genesis 40: 14-15, 23*).

○ 'Joseph's Jail Tale' (3-4min)

Use the first person narrative (*LT L9 Joseph's Jail Tale*) to retell today's story.

You might like to invite a friend to come dressed as a 'guest'.

go for

○ Speed Verse Activity (3-4min)

Show the memory verse (*LT U3 MV Long*) and say it together.

Hand out some scrap pieces of paper and instruct the group that they will have 1 minute to write the verse as many times as they can. Have a stop watch, say 'Go' and time them.

○ Prayer Time (5-6min)

Write on the board the word 'STOP'.

Explain that the STOP prayer is an acrostic prayer where each letter represents different things that you can pray about. i.e.

S = God I am sorry that..., **T** = Thank you God for..., **O** = I ♥ you God because ..., **P** = Praise you God for...

Say: This is a good prayer to keep in mind to help keep you going when you have both good and tough times in your life.

○ Navigators Magazines (7-8min)

Complete the activities. Play 'Hail to the Lord' as they work.

LESSON 9

Navigators

Lower Primary – Ages 8 to 10

Trusting God in Tough Times

REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Story telling pictures B3-4; G12; U2,11,14-17; T80 (Get into it)
- Power Point L9 and outline (Power Tools) (Get into it)
- Technical/Media resources eg: data projector, computer, interactive board (Get into it)
- Lesson Tools L9 Joseph's Jail Tale and a costume (Get into it)
- Blank (scrap) paper, pencils, stop watch (Go for it)

LESSON 9

Voyagers

Upper Primary – Ages 10 to 12

Trusting God in Tough Times

REQUIRED RESOURCES

(DEPENDING ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Create a simple and safe obstacle course, blindfold (Start up)
- Copies of Lesson 9 Bible passage (Power Tools) (Get into it)
- 'Joseph's Jail Tale' (Lesson Tools L9 Joseph's Jail Tale) and a costume (Get into it)
- Technical/Media resources eg: data projector, computer, interactive board (Go for it)

start up

- Game - Obstacles to Be Overcome (8-10min)**
Create a simple, safe obstacle course using available things - chairs, a table, bins, books, 'bodies', etc. Can be done with eyes open, closed or blindfold.
Explain someone needs to get from point 'A' to 'B' by manoeuvring themselves around the obstacles.
Discuss how that feels to not be able to go in a straight uneventful, unobstructed way. What would have helped to make the activity easier? (*Accept responses*)
Say: Joseph's life was full of tough situations, with many obstacles to be overcome. And he trusted God and faced each obstacle with humility.
- Joseph Review Mime (5-6min)**
Play a game of charades to review the content of last lesson.
Choose one volunteer to come up to you. You whisper the first words in the following list here to the volunteer. They mime the word to the class who then guess what the mime artist is doing.
 Words for game: Looking after sheep, colourful coat, jealous brothers, dream, Joseph thrown into a dry well, slave, Joseph's dad in mourning (*sad*).
- What Could Be Worse? (3-4min)**
Ask: How do you think Joseph might have felt on his way to Egypt? (*Allow responses*)
Say: Today's lesson is called 'Trusting God in Tough Times' - what could be worse than being sold by your brothers into slavery? (*This a hypothetical - not personal. Allow responses but don't give the answer to this*)

get into it

- Group Reading (10-12min)**
Create groups of 4-5 children and have them read the abridged weekly Bible passage (*Power Tools*).
Instruct the children to discuss and then, using two different coloured pens, have them underline the things God was doing for Joseph in one colour and underline the bad things that happened to Joseph with the other colour.
Continue: On the bottom of the Bible passage sheet have the children respond to the question: is Joseph better or worse off than when the passage started, and why?
Give the groups 7-8 minutes to complete the task, then share their answers as a whole group.
NB: If your group struggles with reading or group work, put the passage onto a Power Point slide and do the exercise as a whole group.
- 'Joseph's Jail Tale' (4-5min)**
Select a child or (*an approved*) adult to dress up and read / act out the drama LT L9 Joseph's Jail Tale.

go for it

- Point of View (5-6min)**
Say: Joseph's life was terrible. He was sold into slavery, lied about, placed in jail and forgotten about. Joseph had every right to be angry at life, at God. The Bible is not clear about Joseph's feelings but it keeps saying, "The Lord helped him and was good to him."
Ask: How was God good to Joseph in each of these situations? (*Allow responses*). How could the Bible writer say that God was good to Joseph? (*Direct thoughts that the author of this account was looking back in time, and could see things from a different point of view*). How does changing our point of view make a difference to the way we see things? (*Gives us a new perspective, a new way of looking at things, changes our thoughts or feelings about a situation*) How do you think God saw Joseph's situation?
- Song (4-5min)**
Listen to the song 'Our God is Here'.
Talk about the concepts in the song and relate them to having God's perspective on things.
- Voyagers Magazines (7-8min)**
Complete the activities.

LESSON 9

Combined/Large Group

Trusting God
in Tough
TimesREQUIRED
RESOURCES

(DEPENDENT ON ACTIVITY CHOICES)



- Review Questions
- Technical/Media resources
eg: data projector, computer,
interactive board
- Song Words
- Story telling pictures B3-4; G12,
U2,11,14-17,35; T80
- Power Point L9 and outline
(Power Tools)
- Copy of weekly Bible print out or
on screen
- Lesson Tools L9 Joseph's Jail Tale
and a costume
- Prepared A4 sheets for the
memory verse.



- Songs
 - Day and Night
 - Always Around
 - God Is There
 - Our God is Here
 - Hail to the Lord

 Welcome & Prayer (1-2min)**Led by:****Welcome** the children and select a few of your older children to pray for our time together. **Review (3-4min)****Led by:****Revise** Lesson 8 briefly, and ask some of the following questions.

- Who had 12 sons? (*Jacob*)
- Who was the favourite one? (*Joseph*)
- Why did Joseph's brothers get angry at him? (*He told them about his dreams where they were bowing down to him*).
- What did Joseph's older brothers do to him? (*First threw him in a dry well, then sold him as a slave*)
- What did the brothers tell their father? (*That they found Joseph's coat messed up*)
- What do you think happened to Joseph next? (*Accept responses*)

 Praise Time (4-5min)**Led by:****Sing** a song (*see Required Resources*) or another known song and project the words. **Fuzzie Has Hard Times (2-3min)****Led by:****See** Adventurers Lesson 9. **Narrate The Story (6-8min)****Led by:****Use** this outline (*and story telling pictures - see Required Resources*) to narrate the story.**Alternatively**, read the story from the weekly Bible passage print out (*Power Tools*).

- Joseph was sold as a household slave to Potiphar, captain of the king's palace guard. (*Genesis 39:1*)
 - He worked hard at Potiphar's house. God blessed everything Joseph did. Potiphar saw this and he put him in charge of the whole house (*Genesis 39:2-6*).
 - Potiphar's wife told lies about Joseph and said he attacked her. Potiphar believed the lie and had Joseph put into prison, even though he could have had him killed (*Genesis 39:11-20*).
- Ask:** Had Joseph done anything wrong? (*No*) Was it fair that he was put in prison? (*No*)
- Say:** Joseph could have been very angry about being put into prison. He could have been rude to the guards and refused to cooperate with them, but he didn't.
- God helped Joseph in prison and again the prison guard noticed him and knew he could be trusted. He soon put Joseph in charge of the other prisoners (*Genesis 39:21-23*).
 - Joseph got to know two of the prisoners well. One was the king's personal servant, the other a cook. Both were servants from the Pharaoh's palace.
 - These two prisoners told Joseph about some dreams that they had one night. God told Joseph what the dreams meant.
 - Later, everything happened just as Joseph had explained (*Genesis 40: 5-22*).
 - When Pharaoh's personal servant was set free, Joseph said 'Tell the pharaoh about me so I can be set free too.' But he forgot and Joseph stayed in prison for many years (*Genesis 40: 14-15, 23*).

 Joseph in Egypt (6-8min)**Led by:****See** Explorers Lesson 9. **Joseph's Jail Tale (4-5min)****Led by:****Select** an older child or adult to dress up and read / act out the drama LT L9 Joseph's Jail Tale. **Memory Verse Game (4-5min)****Led by:****Using** A4 sheets of paper write the verse out, one word per sheet.**Prepare** each piece by cutting it in 'half' (*loosely*); some vertical, horizontal, diagonal, zigzag, etc.**Mix** up the half sheets, hand them out randomly, and everyone has to find their other half! Stand in a circle so everyone can see the words.**Read** it out together. Remove 'half' the words this time!

