

Bible Lessons for Children

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

By Tamarie Tigh

Beginner Lesson Thirty-five: Joseph Tests His Brothers

Overview

Bible Reading & Discussion: Genesis 44:1-34; 45:1-5

Memorization & Art Activity: "A Baptist Catechism: A Catechism for Boys & Girls" Question 27

Opening

Get students' attention by using a pre-planned silence signal.
Have students sit in rows or a semi-circle facing you.
Open in prayer asking God's blessing upon the time.

Bible Songs

5-10 minutes

Materials: Song visuals &/or props as needed

Strategies: Sing It with Hand &/or Body Motions as appropriate

Instructions: Lead students to sing songs about the Bible. Spend some time discussing the meaning of new songs. Encourage students to think about what they are singing. Be very careful to choose songs that only speak truth about the Word of God.

Bible Reading

15 minutes

Materials: Bibles for students to use

Strategies: Emotion Motions

Scripture: Genesis 44:1-34; 45:1-5

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Students make motions that portray the emotions depicted in the passage (Anger, distress, fear, sadness, joy...).

Bible Discussion

10 minutes

Materials: Cut lengths of string, word poster

Strategy: String Wrap

Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. A length of string is given to each student. The student wraps the string loosely around one finger while answering questions. When the string is all wrapped, the student is done answering questions.

Questions: What did Joseph tell his steward to put into Benjamin's sack? (Joseph's silver cup) After the brothers left, Joseph sent his steward after them to ask why they had stolen the cup. When the cup was found in Benjamin's sack, how did the brothers react? (They were so upset that they ripped their clothes and then all went back to the city.) Did the brothers leave Benjamin when he was in trouble? (No, they tried to protect him.) When the brothers saw Joseph, what did they do? (Fell before him on the ground.) Judah was the spokesman for the brothers. He had promised Israel/Jacob that he would bring Benjamin back safely. Judah told Joseph the story of Benjamin and his father. What did Judah say would happen if Benjamin did not return home? (Their father would die.) What did Judah offer to do instead of leaving Benjamin? (Judah offered to become the servant instead.) When Joseph was sold into slavery it was because his brothers were jealous of their father's love for Joseph. By the way the brothers acted, does it seem like they were jealous of Benjamin like they had been jealous of Joseph? (No) Joseph revealed himself to his brothers and told them not to be angry with themselves for selling him. Why? (God had sent Joseph ahead to preserve life.) So, did Joseph believe that God had been in control of his life even though he had been sold, worked as a slave, and went to prison? (Yes) Did Joseph believe that

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God had a purpose for his life as well as being in control of it? (Yes, to prepare for the famine so there would be food to eat)

Show students the word poster and have them act out the words: Creator = maker (use hands to make a ball), Omnipotent = all powerful (make a muscle), Omniscient = all knowing (tap head), Merciful = doesn't punish as deserved (make "safe on base" sign with two arms), Righteous = perfect (with right hand make circular motion), Just = right (thumbs up), Creator of Nations (sweep arm from left to right), God is in control (salute with hand to head) Long-suffering = patient (fold hands together as though waiting patiently), Glory = shining light (spread fingers of both hands like light rays), Deliverer (move wrists as though breaking rope), Savior (spread arms wide then draw together), All-seeing (put hand above eyes as though looking around), Faithful (shake hands with another person), Judge (drop fist as though striking with a gavel), Provider (cup hands and move arms from self as though giving to someone), Prayer Answerer (fold hands and bow head), Sovereign = Ultimate Authority (hold out fist as though holding a king's scepter), Grace = unearned favor (thumbs down then rotate to thumbs up), Way to Heaven (walk in place), Protector (raise hands as though shielding head), Promise Keeper (with fore-finger cross heart), Success maker (raise arms as though winning a race), King of kings (place hands on head like a crown)

Group Prayer

Through prayer, praise God for Who He Is.

Bible Memory 10-15 minutes

Materials: White board with markers and eraser

Strategy: Hand Motions

Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following written on it:

Question 25: "What happened to our first parents when they had sinned?"

Answer: "Instead of being holy and happy, they became sinful and miserable."

Verse: "...sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin..." Romans 5:12

Students read the passage in unison a few times. Simple hand motions are chosen to represent most words in the passage. Students read the passage a few times using words and hand motions. Next students repeat the passage using hand motions and words from memory. Finally, students repeat the passage from memory using words only.

Bible Art Activity As time allows

Materials: Paper plates, markers, popsicle sticks, tape, sample project

Activity: Paper plate puppet

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students draw a happy face on one side of the paper plate and a sad face on the other side. Tape the popsicle stick to the bottom of the paper plate as a handle. On the happy face side of the popsicle stick write the word "holy." On the sad face side of the popsicle stick write the word "sinful."

Closing

Have students assist with clean-up.

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Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.
Close in prayer & dismiss.