

Bible Lessons for Children
Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word
By Tamarie Tigh

Beginner Lesson Thirty-four: Joseph's Brothers Return to Egypt

Overview	<u>Bible Songs</u> <u>Bible Reading & Discussion:</u> Genesis 43:1-34 <u>Memorization & Art Activity:</u> "Children's 'Prove It' Catechism" Question 22 & 23
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	<u>Materials:</u> Song visuals &/or props as needed <u>Strategies:</u> Sing It with Hand &/or Body Motions as appropriate <u>Instructions:</u> 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	<u>Materials:</u> Bibles for students to use <u>Strategies:</u> Character Voices <u>Scripture:</u> Genesis 43:1-34 <u>Instructions:</u> Have students sit at tables. Leader reads passage aloud using different voices for the different characters – like a dramatic reading. (Characters: Jacob/Israel, Judah, Joseph, Steward, Narrator)
Bible Discussion 10 minutes	<u>Materials:</u> Word poster <u>Strategy:</u> Hand Action <u>Instructions:</u> Have students sit in a fellowship circle. Instead of students raising their hands to share, they perform another pre-determined action. Example: Touch your nose. Pat your head. Pull your right ear. Etc. <u>Questions:</u> When Jacob ran out of food again, he sent his sons back to Egypt. Did he send Benjamin with them? (Yes) Who took responsibility for Benjamin? (Judah) What did the brothers take with them? (Double the money and gifts of honey, gum, myrrh, nuts, etc.) When they left Jacob said, "May God grant you _____. What? (Mercy) Mercy means freedom from deserved punishment. Why would the brothers think they might be punished? (The money that was found in their bags – as though they did not pay) When Joseph saw his brothers with Benjamin what did he plan? (To have them dine with him) His brothers were afraid. What did they do? (Spoke to the steward about the money) What was the steward's explanation about the money? (Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks.) When Joseph was introduced to Benjamin, what did he do? (Went to his bedroom and wept) What happened at the meal that amazed the brothers? (They were seated in birth order.) How was Benjamin treated? (He was given five times the portion of the others.) Did Joseph reveal himself to his brothers? (No, not yet)
	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),

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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, word cards, tape
Strategy: Clap-a-word, Hum-a-word, Sound-a-word
Instructions: Have students sit in a semi-circle or rows facing a white board with the following passage written on word cards & taped to it:
Question 24: "Did Adam obey God?"
Answer: "No, he sinned against God"
Verse: "...she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate." Genesis 3:6
Students read the passage in unison a few times. Replace the word "God" with a clap. Replace the word "ate" with a hum. Replace other words with other sounds. Practice repeating the passage using the sounds instead of the words.

Bible Art Activity
As time allows

Materials: Large colorful paper, markers, scissors, sample project
Activity: Placemat
Instructions: Have students sit at tables. Have students draw a large piece of fruit and cut it out. Have students cut a bite out of the fruit. Have students glue the fruit to a large piece of paper and write in black letters "The first sin – Adam disobeyed God." Adults may need to write words for very young children. Clear contact paper or lamination can be used as protection for a long-lasting placemat.

Closing
Have students assist with clean-up.
Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.
Close in prayer & dismiss.