

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

Beginner Lesson Twenty-eight: Joseph's Dreams

Overview

Bible Songs

Bible Reading & Discussion: Genesis 37:1-11; Hebrews 1:1; II Timothy 3:16

Memorization & Art Activity: "A Baptist Catechism: A Catechism for Boys & Girls" *Question #19*

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: Impromptu Retelling

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11; Hebrews 1:1; II Timothy 3:16

Instructions: Have students sit at tables. After Scripture has been read, students perform roles by pantomiming actions and repeating lines. Leader prompts students as needed.

Bible Discussion

10 minutes

Materials: Word poster (no new word)

Strategy: Popcorn

Instructions: Have students sit in a fellowship circle. The leader asks a question and students that want to answer the question "pop" up, share their answer, and then sit down.

Questions: From past lessons, we learned that Jacob had twelve sons, so how many brothers did Joseph have? (Eleven) What did Jacob/Israel do that showed that he loved Joseph more than he loved Joseph's brothers? (He made a special robe for Joseph.) How did Joseph's brothers feel about Joseph? (They hated him.) In Joseph's first dream he and his brothers were binding sheaves in the field and the brothers' sheaves did what? (Bowed down to Joseph's sheaf) In Joseph's second dream the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were doing what? (Bowing down to Joseph) What did Joseph's brothers and father ask after they heard about the dreams? (Are you to rule and reign over us? Are we going to bow to you?) The Scripture says that Jacob/Israel kept the sayings about Joseph's dreams in his mind. Since Jacob had past experiences with God communicating through dreams, he may have realized that God was communicating through Joseph's dreams. In future lessons we will learn what God was communicating. At the time when Jacob was alive the Scripture was not written yet, so God sometimes spoke to people through dreams. How does God communicate with us today? (Through His written Word, the Holy Scripture)

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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)

Group Prayer Through prayer, praise God for Who He Is.

Bible Memory
10-15 minutes

Materials: White board with markers and eraser

Strategy: Erase-a-Word

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

Question 19: "Have you a soul as well as a body?"

Answer: "Yes. I have a soul that can never die"

Verse: "And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." Matthew 10:28

Point to each word as the students read in unison. Have students cover their eyes. Erase random words from the board. Ask students to open their eyes and tell you what words were erased. Point and read again, saying the missing words from memory. Repeat several times until quoting rather than reading. (Note: Although some students cannot read yet, children will associate the word with the location on the board.)

Bible Art Activity
As time allows

Materials: Paper plate, yarn, tape, markers, sample project

Activity: Paper plate hanging

Instructions: Share with students that a circle has no end, just as their soul has no end. Write "My soul has no end." and decorate the paper plate with colorful circles. Tape yarn to the plate for hanging. If appropriate, explain to students that their soul will live forever in heaven or hell, depending upon whether or not they believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Closing

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