

## **Bible Lessons for Children**

Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

By Tamarie Tigh

### **Primary Lesson Thirty-five: Joseph Tests His Brothers**

#### **Overview**

Bible Facts: The books of the Bible Genesis – Revelation

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 Facts**

5-10 minutes

Materials: Bibles for students to use

Strategies: Bible Drill

Instructions: Review the books Genesis–Revelation by repeating them together. Remind students how to locate chapters and verses within the books of the Old and New Testaments. Students hold closed Bibles up over head. The leader then calls out a Scripture reference – first the book, then the chapter, finally the verse. When the leader says, "Charge," the students look for the reference in their Bibles. When the reference is found, students stand and begin reading the verse. (Leader should choose verses that relate to the lesson's Bible reading and/or Bible memory.)

#### **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.) When the brothers saw Joseph, what did they do? (Fell before him on the ground.) Who was the spokesman for the brothers? (Judah) Who had promised Israel/Jacob that he would bring Benjamin back safely? (Judah) 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. What do you think Joseph was trying to find out when he tested his brothers in this way? (Whether or not they would treat Benjamin as they had Joseph) Did the brothers abandon Benjamin? (No, they tried to protect him.)

## Bible Lessons for Children

### Learning to Know the Triune God through His Holy Word

By Tamarie Tigh

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 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, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Life-source, Just, Merciful, Righteous, Life-sustainer, Creator of Nations, In control, Long-suffering, Glory, Providence, Deliverer, Savior, All-seeing, Faithful, Freer from law, Judge, 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 (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: "Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned." 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. Students then read the passage leaving out the words that have hand motions. Next students repeat the passage using hand motions and words from memory, without looking at the words. Finally, students repeat the passage from memory using words only, without hand motions.

#### 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.

Remind students to practice their memory work throughout the week.

Close in prayer & dismiss.