

Joseph's Dreams Came True

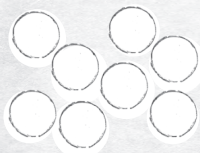
BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15–21

MAIN POINT: God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.

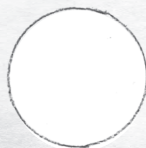
KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 26:24

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's plan.

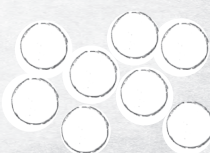
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SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES
(20–25 MINUTES)
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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jacob and his family lived in Canaan, but someone was missing. Jacob's favorite son, Joseph, was in Egypt. Unbeknownst to Jacob, Joseph had been elevated to a position of power. So when a famine came to Canaan and Jacob sent his sons to Egypt for grain, he had no idea that the journey would lead to a family reunion.

Ten of Jacob's sons went to Egypt to buy grain. They went to Joseph, who was in charge of distributing the food. Joseph recognized his brothers immediately, but they did not recognize him. Joseph put his brothers through a series of tests. He accused them of being spies and required them to return with their youngest brother, Benjamin.

Jacob was hesitant to let his sons return to Egypt for more grain, especially with Benjamin in tow. He reluctantly let Benjamin go with Judah's promise of protection for him. After the heartbreak of losing his favorite son, Jacob could not stand the thought of losing his youngest.

Finally, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers. They must have been in awe that the brother they assumed was dead was in fact alive! And a powerful leader in Egypt! Would Joseph use his power to rescue his family from the famine? Or would he avenge his brothers' evil against him?

Joseph explained why God allowed him to be taken to Egypt. Even though his brothers intended harm, God intended his good. Joseph told his family to come to Egypt where they could thrive. Little did Joseph know, his brothers and their families would be enslaved in Egypt for the next 400 years.

Before he died, Joseph reminded his brothers of God's promise to their family. "God will certainly come to your aid and bring you up from this land to the land He promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob" (Gen. 50:24). Despite Egyptian oppression, Jacob's descendants multiplied. God kept His promise, and through the nation of Israel, He worked out His plan of redemption through His Son, Jesus Christ.



Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Joseph's Dreams Came True

Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15–21

Jacob and his family did not have enough food to eat. No one in the land had enough food to eat, and they were hungry! But there was a lot of food in Egypt. So **Jacob sent 10 of his sons to Egypt to buy food. His son Benjamin stayed home.**

When the brothers got to Egypt, they bowed down before Joseph, the man in charge of the food. The brothers thought Joseph was a stranger, but Joseph knew them because he was their brother! Many years before, they sold him into slavery. Now he had an important job in Egypt and was very powerful.

Joseph said, “Are you here to spy on the land?”

The brothers said, “No! We are brothers. We have another brother at home.”

Joseph said, “Go home and bring your brother back.”

Joseph gave the brothers food for their families, and they went home. The brothers told their father everything that had happened, and their father was very upset.

“Do not take my youngest son with you,” he said. “Joseph is dead, and I cannot lose another son.” But **when all the food was gone, Jacob asked his sons to go back to Egypt.**

So the brothers took money to buy food, and they took a special gift for Joseph. **The brothers went to Joseph’s house.** They gave Joseph the gift and bowed before him. They all ate a meal together. Then **Joseph told his servant to fill his brothers’ bags with grain. He told the servant to put a silver cup in Benjamin’s bag.**

When the brothers left to go home, the servant

stopped them. “Why did you take my master’s silver cup?” he asked.

“We did not take it!” they said. “Look in our bags. If we have the cup, we will be servants too.”

The servant looked in each bag. He found the cup in Benjamin’s bag. Oh no! The brothers were sad. They did not want Benjamin to stay in Egypt as a servant.

Benjamin’s brother Judah told Joseph, “Please let me stay instead of Benjamin.”

Joseph told all of his servants and helpers to go away. Then he cried. “I am Joseph!” he said. “I am your brother! You sold me into Egypt, but I know God sent me here. He sent me here to save a small part of your family by giving them food. Go home and get all of your family members and all of your belongings and come back to Egypt. You will have enough food here.”

The brothers went home and told their father everything that had happened. All of Jacob’s family went to Egypt. Jacob hugged Joseph, and they cried happy tears.

When Jacob died, Joseph’s brothers were afraid. Was Joseph going to punish them for what they did? No. Joseph said, “You had a bad plan, and you did a bad thing. But God planned it for something good. God’s plan was good, and God’s plan saved the lives of many people.”

Christ Connection: Joseph’s brothers hurt Joseph, but God had a good plan. God used Joseph’s hurt to save His people from hunger. One day, people would hurt God’s Son, Jesus. God’s good plan was to use Jesus’ death to save His people from sin.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD’S WORD?
GET MORE!**

Invite preschoolers to check out this week’s devotionals to discover that God is faithful to keep His promises. God planned to send Jesus through Jacob’s family to rescue us from sin and death. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Joseph's Dreams Came True

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15-21

MAIN POINT: God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 26:24

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's plan.

Welcome

- "Trustin' God" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys

Play the unit theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Match the Cups" activity page, 1 per child
- pencils or crayons

Instruct preschoolers to draw a line to connect the matching cups.

SAY • Good job matching the cups! In today's Bible story, Joseph told his servant to put his silver cup in someone else's bag. Let's discover whose bag Joseph's silver cup was in.

Play "I Spy"

LOW PREP

Engage preschoolers in a game of "I Spy." Choose one preschooler to go first by inviting him to select an object clearly visible in the room. Lead him to say, "I spy with my little eye, something that is [*words to describe the object*]." Invite other preschoolers to take turns asking questions about the object. Assist younger preschoolers with clues and questions as needed.

SAY • “I Spy” is a good game, but spying can be a wrong thing if you are looking for information to hurt someone. In today’s Bible story, Joseph asked some people who came to buy food in Egypt if they were spying. The men were not spying, and Joseph knew it. Let’s find out who the men were and why Joseph asked that.

Follow the pattern

Before class, cut two colors of construction paper into squares. Distribute several squares of each color to preschoolers, keeping one set for yourself. Make a pattern with the squares and invite preschoolers to copy your pattern with their own squares. Encourage preschoolers to take turns making patterns for the rest of the group to copy. For older preschoolers, see who can complete the pattern first. Continue play with various patterns as time allows.

SAY • You all did not know what pattern to make until someone showed you. God showed Joseph in a dream that his family would bow down to him one day. Joseph did not know how that would happen until God showed him. We will hear about that in today’s Bible story.

- construction paper,
2 colors
- scissors

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Ask preschoolers the big picture question. If they answer correctly, they may move to Bible study. Assist younger preschoolers who may struggle with the answer.

- countdown video
(optional)

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Joseph's Dreams Came True

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15-21

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KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 26:24

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's plan.

Introduce the Bible story

SAY • Do you get hungry sometimes? In our Bible story today, Jacob and his family were hungry. They weren't just hungry because it was dinner time. They were very hungry because they didn't have any food to eat! But God had a plan to give them food.

Watch or tell the Bible story

Open your Bible to Genesis 42.

SAY • The Bible is the most special book there is because it has God's words in it. The stories in the Bible really happened. Today's Bible story comes from the first book of the Bible, Genesis.

Show the Bible story video "Joseph's Dreams Came True," or tell the Bible story in your own words using the script provided. Use the bolded version for younger preschoolers.

Talk about the Bible story

SAY • Joseph's brothers were afraid Joseph would punish them for selling him as a slave all those years before, but he did not. **God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.** What happened was part of God's good plan.

- Bible
- "Joseph's Dreams Came True" video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

- Main Point Poster
- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline or big story circle as you ask the following review questions:

1. Why did Jacob send his sons to Egypt? (*to buy food*)
2. Did Joseph's brothers know who he was? (*no*)
3. Whom did Joseph want his older brothers to bring back to Egypt with them? (*Benjamin*)
4. What did Joseph tell the servant to put in Benjamin's bag? (*Joseph's silver cup*)
5. Did Joseph punish his brothers for what they did to him? (*No; he knew it was part of God's plan.*)

Big picture question

SAY • In today's story, we saw how God took all the bad things that happened to Joseph and made something good. **God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.** Our big picture question is, ***What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's plan.*** Even when people do things to be mean and make wrong choices, God's plan still happens. Only God can take bad things and make them into good things!

• Big Picture Question
Poster

Key passage

Open your Bible to Genesis 26:24. Read the key passage aloud several times. Sing together the key passage song, "I Am With You."

• Key Passage Poster
• "I Am With You" song

SAY • Joseph's brothers hurt Joseph, but God had a good plan. God was with Joseph, and God used Joseph's hurt to save His people from hunger. One day, people would hurt God's Son, Jesus. God's good plan was to use Jesus' death to save His people from sin.

Transition to small groups

Small Group ACTIVITIES

SESSION TITLE: Joseph's Dreams Came True

BIBLE PASSAGE: Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15–21

MAIN POINT: God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What can stop God's plan? Nothing can stop God's plan.



Play “Brother, May I?”

Play this version of “Mother, May I?” Select one child to be “Joseph.” Joseph stands by himself at one end of the room while the rest of the group stands in a line on the other end of the room behind a designated starting line facing Joseph. Children take turns asking Joseph if they may take a certain number of steps forward by saying, “Brother, may I?” Joseph replies with a “Yes, you may,” or, “No, you may not.” The first child to reach Joseph is the winner and becomes Joseph for the next game.

SAY • Joseph dreamed that his family would bow down to him someday. His dream came true. **God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.** God had a good plan. God used Joseph's hurt to save His people from hunger. One day, people would hurt God's Son, Jesus. God's good plan was to use Jesus' death to save His people from sin.

Draw grown-up self portraits

Offer a sheet of paper and markers or crayons to each preschooler. Ask preschoolers to imagine how they will look as a grown-up. Urge each preschooler to draw a picture of what she thinks she will look like as a grown-up. Consider

- paper
- markers or crayons
- photographs of adult leaders as children (optional)

showing preschoolers photographs of adult leaders as children, if available.

SAY • The last time Joseph's brothers saw him, Joseph was young. Now, Joseph was a grown up. Joseph's brothers didn't recognize him. **God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.** Joseph's brothers hurt Joseph, but God used all the hurtful things that happened to Joseph to rescue His people from hunger. One day, people would hurt God's Son, Jesus. God's good plan was to use Jesus' death to rescue His people from sin.

Play out grocery shopping

Invite preschoolers to play out shopping for groceries. Provide toys such as a cash register, play money, plastic food items, and paper bags. If available, also use clean, empty food containers.

SAY • Jacob's family did not have a store where they could buy food. Jacob had to send his sons to Egypt to buy grain. **God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.** God used Joseph to save His people from hunger. One day, God would use Jesus' death to save His people from something much worse than hunger—sin.

- toy cash register
- play money
- plastic food items
- paper bags
- clean, empty food containers (optional)

Sculpt food with play dough

Offer play dough to each preschooler. Lead preschoolers to think of their favorite foods and encourage them to form those foods out of play dough.

SAY • Jacob and his family were hungry. There was not enough food to eat in their land, but **God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.** God had a good

- play dough

plan all along. God used Joseph's hurt to save His people from hunger. One day, people would hurt God's Son, Jesus. God's good plan all along was to use Jesus' death to save His people from sin.

Scoop rice for the hungry

- large bag of rice
- large bowl
- measuring cups
- sandwich size ziplock bags
- labels (optional)

Fill a large bowl halfway full with rice. Provide a measuring cup and ziplock bag for each preschooler. Direct preschoolers to wash their hands. Assist preschoolers in scooping a certain measurement of rice from the bowl into a ziplock bag. Help them close the bag securely. Consider placing a label on the ziplock bag containing cooking instructions. Donate the rice to a local food pantry or to people in your community who do not have enough food.

SAY • There was not enough food for Jacob's family, but **God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.** There are people today who do not have enough food to eat. God has given us what we need most—someone to rescue us from sin, so we can give what we have to help others. We can help people who are hungry and tell them how they can be saved from sin through Jesus.

Snack

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Guide preschoolers to clean their areas. Take a restroom break and wash hands. Gather preschoolers for snack time. Thank God for the snack.

Enlist a preschooler to distribute snack to the class with your help. Remind preschoolers that Joseph was in charge of distributing food to people when food was hard to find. **God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.** Jacob's family could not have lived without food. God used Joseph to keep the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to give them a big family. God was working His plan all along! *Nothing can stop God's plan.*

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- snack food
- paper cups and napkins

Transition

When a child finishes her snack, guide her to throw away any trash. She may select a book or puzzle to examine, play quietly with play dough or a favorite toy, or color the Bible story coloring page.

Offer the journal page and invite preschoolers to draw a way they can help their family. Remind children that **God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.**

SAY • God, thank You that nothing can stop Your plan. You are in charge of everything and You use it for good. Thank You for your good plan of sending Jesus to rescue people from sin.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- Journal Page printable, 1 per child
- Bible Story Coloring Page
- books and puzzles
- crayons
- *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool*

Journal Page

God the Covenant-Keeper

Key Passage: Genesis 26:24

Big Picture Question: What can stop God's plan?
Nothing can stop God's plan.

Session 1: The Stolen Blessing

Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45

Jacob took what belonged to his brother.

Session 2: Jacob's New Name

Genesis 32-33

God changed Jacob's name to Israel.

Session 3: Joseph Sent to Egypt

Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1-41:57

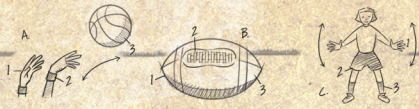
God sent Joseph to Egypt.

Session 4: Joseph's Dreams Came True

Genesis 42:1-46:34; 50:15-21

God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.

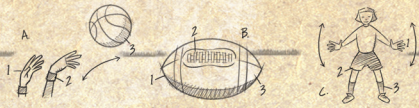




**“I am the God
of your father
Abraham. Do not
be afraid, for I am
with you.”**

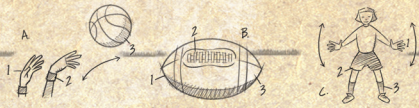
Genesis 26:24





I am the God of
Abraham thy
father: fear not,
for I am with thee.
Genesis 26:24

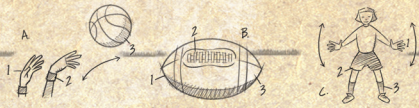




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Genesis 26:24





**“I am the God of
Abraham your
father. Fear not,
for I am with you.”**

Genesis 26:24



God sent Joseph
to Egypt to save
his family.





Match the Cups

INSTRUCTIONS: Draw a line connecting the matching cups.

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 26:24

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What can stop God's plan?
Nothing can stop God's plan.

BIBLE STORY:

JOSEPH'S DREAMS CAME TRUE

- Joseph's brothers did not recognize Joseph when they came to Egypt for food.
- Joseph told his brothers to come back with their youngest brother, Benjamin.
- Joseph forgave his brothers.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Joseph was young last time he saw his brothers. Encourage your preschooler to imagine life as a grown-up.
- Joseph forgave his brothers for hurting him. Share about a time you forgave someone or someone forgave you.

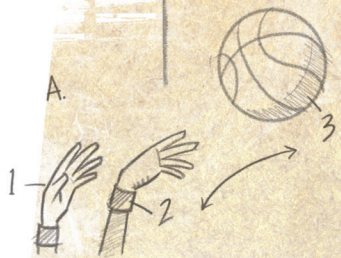
FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Talk about what it must have been like for Jacob's family to have no food. Gather food to donate to a food pantry.
- Go further: Volunteer at a soup kitchen as a family.

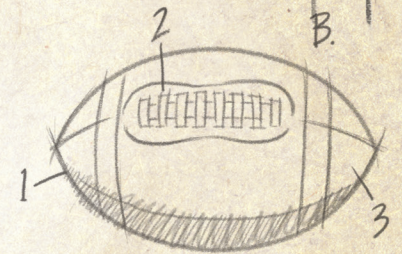
Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 3, Session 4







What can stop God's plan?



**What can stop
God's plan?**

Nothing can stop
God's plan.

