

# Joseph, Son of Jacob

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*In this lesson, the kids will learn how behavior affects their relationship with friends and family, especially if they live in a large family where jealousy may be present.*

## TOPICS

Behavior, Family, Jealousy, Joseph, Kindness, Special

## AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

### My Special Place (Teaching Aid) [page 2](#)

Choose an idea from the above teaching aid. As children arrive, have them sit in a circle. Toss a ball or a rolled up sock to the children. The child with the sock can give an answer to one of the following questions:

1. How many brothers and sisters do you have?
2. Do you like to play with each other?
3. What would you do if your brother or sister needed help?
4. Do you always get along with your brothers or sisters?
5. Do you ever tell on each other?

*Note: If you are aware of an only child in your class, you can substitute "parent" or "parents" when referring to "brothers and sisters" when you ask the questions.*

## BIBLE VERSE (7 minutes)

**"Whenever people are jealous or selfish, they cause trouble and do all sorts of cruel things." James 3:16 CEV**

You can explain jealousy by using an example or asking how they feel when someone else (such as a brother or sister) receives more attention than the student. For trouble and cruel things, explain that it is like fighting with a brother or sister or playing tricks on them instead of playing peacefully.

## BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time, using the same items used during the opening activity. After the introduction, read the children's version of the Bible story about Joseph and his colorful robe taken from Genesis 37.

### Introduction:

Today our story is about a very large family. In fact, there were twelve brothers. One of the young boys was named Joseph. He was always getting in trouble with his older brothers. They were jealous of Joseph because the father seemed to like him the best.

### Joseph and His Colorful Robe (Story) [page 3-4](#)

### Discussion Questions:

1. How many brothers did Joseph have? (11)
2. What was their father's name? (*Jacob*)
3. His brothers were envious of Joseph, why? (*Jacob gave him a colorful robe*)
4. What did Joseph see that made his brothers very mad? (*in dreams he saw them bowing to him*)
5. What did his brothers want to do to Joseph? (*kill him, sell him, etc.*)
6. How well do you get along with your brothers or sisters? Do you ever get jealous? What do you do to make up? (*Allow for answers.*)

## FUN TIME (15 minutes)

### Joseph's Robe (Craft) [page 5](#)

## ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 minutes)

### Joseph's Beautiful Coat (Activity) [page 6](#)

## CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)

### Joseph Dreams (Game) [page 7](#)

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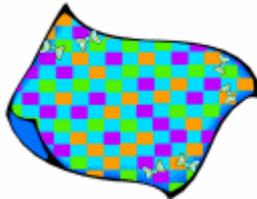
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## MY SPECIAL PLACE

*Give younger children an exciting and special place to sit for discussion or story time.*

Younger children (some older ones too) love to sit on the floor. They will enjoy it even more when they have their own special place to relax. Here are some simple ideas to increase their excitement. These ideas are great for storytelling, discussion time, and gathering kids into a circle to play games.

### Colorful blankets



Turn a blanket, an old bedspread, or a sheet into an imaginary journey. For example, if your Bible lesson is about when Jesus walked on the water, bring a blue blanket to class. Have the children pretend they are sitting on the water as they hear the story. Or pretend you are having a picnic as you read about how Jesus fed the 5,000. A dark blanket can be a deep cistern for the story of Joseph and his jealous brothers. With a green blanket, the children can pretend they are sitting on the leaves of a tall tree, as they hear Jesus say, "Zaccheus, come down."

### Flying Carpets

Save those carpet samples, or leftover carpet squares. When it is time for discussion, have all the children grab their own flying carpet to sit on. Make sure no flying carpets are touching each other, or they may not fly well.

This is a simple idea, but the kids love it. They feel pride in having their own special place to sit and are more likely to remain on their carpet squares instead of roaming around. If possible, have a variety of colors so the children can choose a flying carpet to use for the full year.



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## JOSEPH AND HIS COLORFUL ROBE

*This is a story about Jacob's son Joseph, whose life was as colorful as his robe.*

### TOPICS:

Behavior, Family, Jealousy, Joseph, Kindness

### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

Once there was a very old man named Jacob. He already had ten sons, when his wife Rachel gave birth to two more, first Joseph, then Benjamin. Of his twelve sons, Joseph easily became Jacob's favorite, because he was one of the youngest.

Joseph grew up to be a good young man. He always acted in a godly and obedient way to his father. Because of this, his father gave him an expensive colorful robe.



Genesis 37 (Paraphrased)

Now Joseph's brothers, at least most of them, did not like him at all, especially when Jacob treated Joseph better than his other sons. Whatever Joseph did, or said, nothing pleased his brothers. When they were doing something wrong and Joseph would find out about it, Joseph would go and tell his father. He only wanted to help his brothers, but this only multiplied their hatred of him.

Could you imagine your brother snitching on you every time you did something wrong? Well, instead of doing what was right, they went right on with their business, no matter how annoyed they were with Joseph. The more they got in trouble, the more they disliked him.

It was hard for Joseph, but despite his brothers obvious dislike for him, he still talked to them, especially about his dreams. One day he went up to them.

"Listen to this dream I had," Joseph said. "We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it." (Gen 37:6-7NIV)

His brothers questioned Joseph replying, "Are you saying that we are going to bow down to you, that you are greater than us?" They really got angry as they growled at him.

Poor Joseph scratched his head. Because he was young, he did not understand why they were so mad at him. Then guess what? He had another dream, only this time not only did he tell his brothers, but he ran to tell his father Jacob also.

"Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me." (Gen 37:9 NIV)

Now his brothers were red with anger. His father Jacob became concerned and said to Joseph in dismay, "Oh Joseph, are you actually saying we are all going to bow down to the ground before you!"

This last dream bothered his brothers so much that they plotted to kill him. The opportunity came one day when Joseph's father sent him out to look for his brothers in a place called Dothan.

"Let's remove his beautiful robe and kill him," they said. "We will tell father that a ferocious animal ate him. Let's see what this dreamer can do".

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The brothers plotted to carry out their plan. However, when he heard about the plan, the oldest brother Reuben devised a way to save Joseph. He said to the other brothers, "Let's just throw him in this cistern." Secretly, Reuben was hoping he could rescue Joseph later on.

Another brother named Judah did not really want Joseph to be hurt, and said, "Why don't we just make money by selling him, it will do us no good to leave him in the desert to die."

"Yeah, you're right. We might as well make money off him as payback for the misery he caused us," said another brother.

So they decided not kill Joseph, Instead they stuffed him in a deep well called a cistern. Joseph was stuck. He could not get out. Then a few hours later, a group of Ishmaelites came by and his brothers all agreed to sell Joseph to them like a slave.

The men, who bought Joseph, took him to Egypt, and he served there as a slave for many years. Because his heart was right with the Lord, God protected him while he was living there. Joseph worked hard and despite many other hardships, he eventually became very successful. Since the ruler of the land was so pleased with Joseph's hard work, he made Joseph the second in command of all of Egypt. Once again, Joseph received an ornamental robe of fine linen, this time from the great Pharaoh of Egypt.

**THE END**

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## JOSEPH'S ROBE

*A fun chance for children to make their own version of Joseph's fancy robe.*

### TOPICS:

Happiness, Joseph, Joy, Special

### MATERIALS:

Joseph's Robe craft page [page 8](#)  
Different color construction paper, or  
Strips of colorful cloths (optional)  
½ yard of tassel (any color optional)  
Glitter, Glue  
Crayons or markers

### DURATION:

Approximately 15 minutes

### PREPARATION:

For younger children, it may be helpful to have a completed craft available to view. Before class, print out copies of the Joseph's Robe craft page for shown above for each child.



Cut out strips of cloth or construction paper of different colors about 1/2 inch wide and approximately 6 inches long. Wider strips will work okay for younger children, as they can overlap. Cut several tassels the width of Joseph's robe (optional).

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

The children will glue the strips, alternating colors, onto the robe area. Then, help them decorate the hem with glitter and tassels. The children can also color the areas outside the robe, like the face, feet, hands, and hair using crayons or markers.

### WHAT YOU WILL SAY:

Today we are going to make a robe, just like the one Joseph received from his father, Jacob. According to the Bible, Jacob loved his son so much that he gave him a very rich ornamental robe as a gift. Joseph felt so special whenever he wore his robe. Do you know that God loves us even more? He gave us a very special gift: Jesus. The Bible says that because of Jesus, we will be given white robes to wear in Heaven (Revelation 7:9). They will be as white as fresh snow!

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## JOSEPH'S BEAUTIFUL COAT

*As children obey instructions, they get to help create a color coat, like the one which was given to Joseph.*

by Donna Gentile

### TOPICS:

Blessings, Joseph, Obedience

### MATERIALS:

Construction paper (Four colors)  
Butcher block paper, Black marker, Tape

### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



### PREPARATION:

Lay the butcher block paper flat on a table or floor and tape it down to secure. Using the marker, draw a large 48 inch outline of Joseph's coat on the paper ([page 9](#)).

Using four different colors of construction paper, cut out 3 by 3 inch squares. For example, you could use red, blue, green, and yellow construction paper. Make a complete set of colored squares for each child in class and one set for yourself. Tape the children's colored squares in different, easy-to-find places around the room.

### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Tell the children that the Bible tells us we should obey God and our parents. Share the meaning of obey: to do what you are asked to do. In the Bible, we learn that Joseph obeyed God and his parents. The Bible also tells us that Joseph's father loved him very much and gave him a special gift, which was a coat of many colors.

Explain that the children will get to create Joseph's coat of many colors and see just how beautiful it was. Hold up your colored squares one at a time (red, blue, green, and yellow) and ask the children to name each color. Point to the construction paper squares around the room and ask the children to find one of each color and bring them back to you.

As the children return, show them the outline of Joseph's coat on the butcher block paper and instruct them to tape their colorful squares to a blank area inside Joseph's coat. Once all of the children have finished taping their squares to the paper, hold it up so they can see the beautiful coat they helped to create.

*If the number of children in class is relatively small, you can have the children go through the process more than once, or ask the students to collect two or three of each color square.*

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## JOSEPH DREAMS

*A simple fun game for younger children as they pretend to be Joseph.*

### TOPICS:

Joseph, Listening

### MATERIALS:

A large colorful shirt or old painted pillowcase with holes cut out for arms and head

### DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

### PREPARATION:

Before class find a large colorful shirt, or use fabric paint to make a colorful robe from an old pillow case.



### WHAT YOU WILL DO:

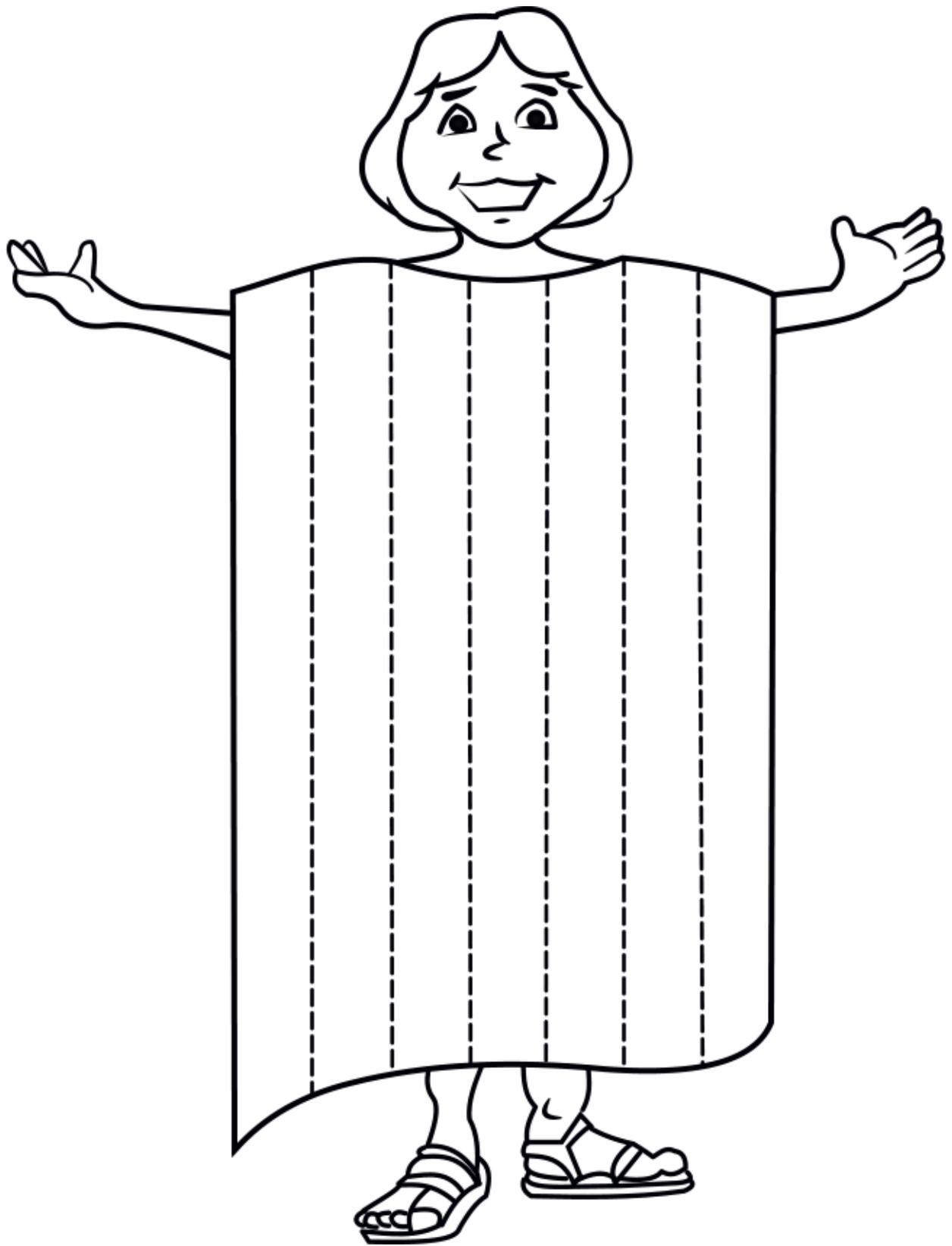
Gather the children around in a circle. Choose one to be Joseph and have him or her wear the colorful robe (shirt). "Joseph" will then get in the center of the circle of children. Have an older person get with Joseph in the center to help with instructions (if needed.) Explain to the kids they must do what Joseph says only when Joseph says "I dreamt that..." Otherwise, they are not to obey, like in the game "Simon Says."

Here are some examples of what "Joseph" can say.

I dreamt that...

- 1) Everyone should sit down
- 2) Everyone claps
- 3) Boys stick out their tongues
- 4) Girls raise their hands
- 5) Everyone skips with one foot
- 6) Everyone dances
- 7) Girls stomp their feet
- 8) Boys hop on one foot
- 9) Everyone runs in place
- 10) Everyone laughs out loud
- 11) Nobody stands on two feet

After calling out five or so commands, choose another child to become "Joseph." Repeat until everyone has a chance to be in the center, or continue play as time permits.



# Joseph's Beautiful Coat

