



Preschool Ministry Curriculum for  
*July 24, 2016*

Dear Teacher,

This week we learn about the life of Joseph. Joseph and his family reunite, and in this sweet story we see the life of Jacob revived for a little while. This week's story sets the stage for the book of Exodus and the life of Moses, which we will learn about next week. Please feel free to recap the whole life of Joseph with the Gospel Story Book Bible or Jesus Story Book Bible selections below so the children can review.

We encourage all classrooms to engage with the story from the options provided in class. Teachers, tell the story using any of the provided helps (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout). If you would like, read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use time in class to teach the Scripture Memory and the Catechism Questions.

**Lesson:** The Journey: Joseph

**Lesson Objective:** To communicate to children that God keeps His promises always despite circumstances and even sometimes our inability to trust Him.

**Scripture:** Hebrews 11:22; Genesis 45:25-47:12

**Story:** Vos Children's Bible, Chapter 30

**Additional Teaching Help:** Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 50-53; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 76-83; The Beginner's Bible, Pages 73-91

**Teaching Points:**

- God's promises do not change despite circumstances, people and even our inability to believe them. God keeps His promises even when we do not trust Him or follow His commands.
- Joseph's life has endured much hardship: trapped, beaten and sold into slavery by his brothers, wrongfully accused by his master's wife, and forgotten in jail by someone he helped.
- God is in control of everything. He controls dreams, nations, the seasons, and every detail of life. God's promises were for Joseph too. God would take care of Joseph, but Joseph had to trust God.
- Joseph was appointed to oversee a time when grain was stored so that people would not perish during the years of famine. His plan did not just save the people of Egypt, but people from everywhere came to buy grain in Egypt.
- Joseph had become a very important person in Egypt. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> in charge of Egypt.
- Joseph revealed his true identity to his brothers; they were afraid of Joseph and revenge, but Joseph was overjoyed to see them.
- Joseph's brothers went back to Canaan and told Jacob (Israel) that Joseph was alive and in Egypt.
- Joseph being in Egypt saved his family's life. Jacob, his sons, and their families moved to the land of Goshen in Egypt. There they dwelled, tended the flocks, and lived fruitful lives.
- Jacob, Joseph and all of their families lived in Egypt for a very long time. God blessed all of Joseph's family while they lived in Goshen.

## Preschool Ministry – Morning Overview

For the Sunday Schedule, please see “Sunday Schedule for Preschool” found in Handbook on the teacher’s table.

### First Hour

#### **Cherub Church**

- Kindergarten/5’s – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom’s: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s/4’s – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom’s: 169, 168, 167, 166, 165, 164)

*Craft:* Joseph’s Coat of Many Colors

*Supplies:* Paper bag, colored ribbon, glue, crayons/markers

*Instructions:* Help children glue ribbons to paper bag, decorate more with crayons/markers, have children wear paper bag coat.



#### **Snack**

### Second Hour

*Craft:* Wheat from Joseph’s Dream

*Supplies:* Yellow cardstock, various brown colored construction paper strips, rubberband, tape,

*Instructions:* Roll yellow cardstock and secure with tape, place strips around yellow cardstock and secure with rubberband, curl strips with scissors (like curling ribbon).



#### **Story: Joseph and His Family Reunite**

1. Ask for prayer requests and pray.
  - Transition Question: Have you ever moved? (Let the children tell you if they have) I have and it’s a big job! First, you have to pack your clothes in boxes. Then men called “movers” come to your house and they carry the boxes and place them on big moving vans or great big trucks. Then there’s the furniture. It’s so heavy. The movers have to pick it up very carefully and carry it to the moving van too. And after you drive to your new house, they have to bring all the furniture and all the boxes from the moving van and set it all up in the new house. Whew, what a job!
- Today I’m going to tell you about a time when God’s people moved. And it wasn’t just one family, but lots of families moved at one time. There were seventy people who moved. And they just didn’t move from one neighborhood to another or from one town to another, oh no, they moved from one country to another country! It was a really big move.
2. READ: the Story (and the Scripture references if desired; use teaching points to highlight elements in the story children should understand).
3. Ask the questions for review.

#### **Singing**

#### **Scripture Memory**

#### **Catechism Questions (1-10)**

#### **Optional Activities**

### Scripture

#### **Hebrews 11:22**

By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites ...

## Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was Jacob waiting for?
- What was the big surprise?
- What did Jacob do when he was afraid?
- Where did Jacob and his family move?

Questions for Older Children:

- Why was it important for God's people to live in Goshen?
- How many people moved there?

## Scripture Memory for January:

*2 and 3 year olds:*

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus." Hebrews 12:1-2

*4 and 5 year olds:*

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2

## Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*

## Scripture (Selected Verses)

### **Genesis 45:25-46:7**

**25** So they went up out of Egypt and came to the land of Canaan to their father Jacob. **26** And they told him, "Joseph is still alive, and he is ruler over all the land of Egypt." And his heart became numb, for he did not believe them. **27** But when they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said to them, and when he saw the wagons that Joseph had sent to carry him, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. **28** And Israel said, "It is enough; Joseph my son is still alive. I will go and see him before I die."

**1** So Israel took his journey with all that he had and came to Beersheba, and offered sacrifices to the God of his father Isaac. **2** And God spoke to Israel in visions of the night and said, "Jacob, Jacob." And he said, "Here I am." **3** Then he said, "I am God, the God of your father. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for there I will make you into a great nation. **4** I myself will go down with you to Egypt, and I will also bring you up again, and Joseph's hand shall close your eyes."

### **Genesis 46:28-29**

**28** He had sent Judah ahead of him to Joseph to show the way before him in Goshen, and they came into the land of Goshen. **29** Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while. **30** Israel said to Joseph, "Now let me die, since I have seen your face and know that you are still alive."

### **Genesis 47:27-28**

**27** Thus Israel settled in the land of Egypt, in the land of Goshen. And they gained possessions in it, and were fruitful and multiplied greatly. **28** And Jacob lived in the land of Egypt seventeen years. So the days of Jacob, the years of his life, were 147 years.

## Story

### **Background**

Joseph revealed to his brothers his identity. His brothers were shocked, they thought Joseph would be dead or a slave somewhere, not the governor of Egypt! They were even more afraid of Joseph because they thought he would want revenge for all the wrong they did to him. But Joseph didn't. Joseph was kind, gracious and merciful to his brothers; he wanted a relationship with them. Joseph understood that everything he went through was for something good later on. Joseph had to trust the promises of God even in the hardest moments. Our story today brings a close to the life of Joseph and his family. Let's read...

### **The Sons Return**

Old Jacob had been waiting and waiting. Remember he had sent his sons back to Egypt to get food. There was no food in Canaan. Jacob was hoping that the Governor in Egypt would give his sons food and let them all return to Canaan. Days went by as the old father waited. Finally one day he could see his sons coming way off in the distance. Jacob looked and looked. (He probably couldn't see very well anymore.) Sure enough, it was them. There was Judah and Simeon and the others. Oh good, Benjamin was there too! All eleven sons were coming home. The last time his sons had gone to Egypt the Governor had made Simeon stay there while the others returned home. Jacob was worried. Maybe the governor would do that again. But he hadn't made any of Jacob's sons stay in Egypt this time. All the sons were coming home and Jacob didn't know it, but they had a big, big surprise to tell him.

### **The Surprise**

"Father, father", the sons called out. You'll never believe it, but Joseph is alive! We found him. Joseph is living in Egypt. And Father, you won't believe this but Joseph is the Governor of Egypt. When we were in Egypt before we didn't know that the governor was Joseph. But it is. It really is. Joseph is alive and he's in Egypt and he wants us to move there close to him. He said we could live in a beautiful part of Egypt where there is plenty of food and lots of space for our animals!" The Bible says Jacob was stunned. That means he looked like this (look stunned) He could hardly believe it. After all these years, could it be? Could Joseph really be alive? He had loved Joseph so much and he missed him. He wondered. But then Jacob looked at the carts Joseph had sent to carry him and his family back to Egypt. And he saw donkeys loaded down with gifts and grain and bread. Oh my, it must be true!

### **Jacob Prays**

Even though Jacob was very old, he wanted so much to get right into that cart and head off to Egypt to see his beloved Joseph. Jacob knew that he was old and probably didn't have much longer to live, but Jacob was a very smart man. And so the Bible says before he set out with all his belongings for Egypt, Jacob offered sacrifices to God. Jacob went to a place called Beersheba and prayed. God had said to Jacob's father a long time ago, "Don't go to Egypt." Jacob needed to make certain that God wanted him to leave Canaan and move to Egypt now. Jacob knew that God's plan was best and so he prayed. And God heard Jacob and He answered him, "Jacob! Jacob!" "Here I am," Jacob answered. "I am God. Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you."

### **The Move**

Now Jacob was not afraid to leave Canaan. So all his sons gathered their families and prepared to move to Egypt to live with Joseph. They packed all their things. Jacob and the children and the wives traveled in the carts that Joseph had sent. All the animals went too. The Bible says Jacob had seventy people in his family at that time and they all left Canaan and went to Egypt. It probably took many weeks to get there. You can't move too fast when there are lots of children and animals you know! But finally they reached the country of Egypt. Then they found an area called Goshen. That's where they would live. It was God's plan that his people wouldn't live very close to the Egyptians. Instead they lived in an area far away, still in Egypt, but they were away from the Egyptians.

### **Joseph and Jacob Meet**

When it was almost time for Jacob and his family to arrive, Joseph told his servants to get his chariot ready and he went to Goshen to meet his father Jacob who he had not seen for a long, long time. As soon as Joseph came close enough, the Bible says Joseph threw his arms around his father Jacob and he cried for a long, long time. He wasn't crying because he was sad. Joseph was crying because he was so happy. I bet he had thought that he would never see his dear father again. And here he was.

### **Goshen**

Then Joseph said to his family, "Make sure you tell Pharaoh that you are shepherds. The people in Egypt don't like to live near shepherds so Pharaoh will let you live in the beautiful land of Goshen, far away from the other Egyptians." And that's just what Pharaoh did. Goshen was a beautiful part of the country of Egypt. There was lots of green grass and lots of space where the sheep and goats and animals could play and eat. It was God's plan for his people to live in Goshen far from the Egyptians. You see the Egyptians didn't love God. As a matter of fact they worshipped pretend gods called idols. If God's people lived too close to the Egyptians they might forget about the one true God and worship pretend gods too. God wanted his people far away from them. God wants his people to love and obey only Him.

### **Closing**

And so Joseph continued his duties as the governor of Egypt. All of this was God's plan! God had prepared Joseph to be a great leader when he was in Potiphar's house and in prison, and now Joseph had a very important role. God's people, all seventy of them, were safe and well fed in Goshen and Joseph was able to be with his family again. We are reminded that God's plans are best and that God always keeps his promises, even if it doesn't seem like it.