



(11) Jacob and Coat of Many Colors

Genesis 37

Kindergarten & 1st Grade

WARM-UP: (10 minutes)

As kids are arriving, some just before class starts and some right after, have kids “drop” Joseph into the well. They will each have a cup. Have them start with the cup on the table and hold their hand on their nose while holding “Joseph.” Joseph can be a marshmallow, small paper ball, etc. They have to drop Joseph and try to land him in the well. (If this gets too easy or repetitive, they can stand up and place the cup on the ground behind their chairs and drop “Joseph” from their noses. They can also “toss” Joseph into the well standing back away from the “well.”

PRAYER: (5 minutes)

Help kids learn the value in talking to God. Ask for prayer requests. Write on the white board “Thank You” and “Please Help” – then, let the kids share their “thank you” and “please help” requests. Write them on the white board.

ASK KIDS:

- How God talks to us? (Through the bible and answering our prayers)
- How do we talk to God? (Prayer)

Remind them that *we can't have a relationship with anyone, our friends or even parents, if we don't talk to them. It's important that we talk to God. He made us and no one can do the things he can, not even our moms and dads.*

Lead kids in prayer.

BIBLE LESSON & ACTIVITY: (30 minutes)

Remember, Jacob has had 11 sons so far and he took them with the rest of the family back home where he was reunited with his brother Esau. And remember, he was very afraid because the last time he saw Esau, his brother was going to kill him. Why? (Stealing his birthright).

Now, we are still in the book of Genesis. What does Genesis mean? (Beginning)

Who did Jacob love? Rachel. Well, now Rachel is about to have *another* baby! She had a son and named him Benjamin. Jacob was very excited about his new son, but sad because Rachel died.

PASS OUT HANDS ON PLAY ITEM (Play-Doh, Silly Putty, Floam, etc.)

1. **Make the number 12.** Now Jacob has 12 sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph (his favorite) and Benjamin (the baby).
2. **I will read from Genesis while you make a sheep.** Joseph was 17 years old. He was taking care of the flocks with some of his brothers. Joseph brought their father a bad report about his brothers. **What was Joseph doing? (Watching flocks.) Joseph was the second youngest child and he is tattling on his brothers. Are his brothers going to be happy or mad? (Mad)**

3. **Now make heart.** ³Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. **Who was Israel? Remember last week? The man wrestling with Jacob changed his name to Israel; so Israel is Joseph's dad.** His dad loved him most because Joseph had been born to him when he was old. Israel made him a beautiful robe. ⁴Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them. So they hated Joseph. They couldn't even speak one kind word to him. **His brothers were jealous. How would you feel if your parents loved your brother or sister more than you and gave them nice gifts? (Allow answers)**
4. **Make a bundle of grain. (Have them roll several thin snakes then put together to make a bundle.** ⁵Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Listen to the dream I had. ⁷We were tying up bundles of grain out in the field. Suddenly my bundle stood up straight. Your bundles gathered around my bundle and bowed down to it." **What do you think his brothers were thinking about bowing down to Joseph?**
5. **Make a king's crown.** ⁸His brothers said to him, "Do you plan to be king over us? Will you really rule over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream. They didn't like what he had said. ⁹Then Joseph had *another* dream. He told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said. "I had another dream. This time the sun and moon and 11 stars were bowing down to me." **Uh-oh, it was another dream with his brothers bowing down to him.**
6. **This time he told his brothers AND his father the dream. Make a mad/sad face.** His father rebuked him. He said, "What about this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers really do that? Will we really come and bow down to the ground in front of you?" ¹¹His brothers were jealous of him. But his father kept the dreams in mind. **I don't think any of his family was happy about this. Do you**
7. **Make a shepherd's staff for watching sheep.** ¹²Joseph's brothers had gone to take care of their father's flocks near Shechem. ¹³So Israel said to him, "Go to your brothers. See how they are doing. Also see how the flocks are doing. Then come back and tell me." Joseph arrived at Shechem. ¹⁴A man found him wandering around in the fields. He asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?" ¹⁵He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are taking care of their flocks?" ¹⁶"They've moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'" **Do you**
8. **Make a face with eyes that see Joseph.** So Joseph went to look for his brothers. He found them near Dothan. ¹⁸But they saw him a long way off. Before he reached them, they made plans to kill him. ¹⁹"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to one another. ²⁰"Come. Let's kill him. Let's throw him into one of these empty wells. Let's say that a wild animal ate him up. Then we'll see whether his dreams will come true.
9. ²¹Reuben heard them talking. He tried to save Joseph from them. "Let's not take his life," he said. **Which brother tried to save Joseph? (Reuben, he was the oldest)** ²²"Don't spill any of his blood. Throw him into this empty well here in the desert. But don't harm him yourselves." Reuben said that to save Joseph from them. He was hoping he could take him back to his father. **Make a ball and use your finger to make a deep hole. This is your well. What were they going to throw in the well? (Joseph)**
10. ²³When Joseph came to his brothers, he was wearing his beautiful robe. **Do you remember who gave him that beautiful robe? (His father and this made his brothers mad)** They took it away from him. ²⁴And they threw him into the well. The well was empty. There wasn't any water in it. ²⁵Then they sat down to eat their meal. As they did, they saw some traders coming. Their camels were loaded with spices, lotion and myrrh. They were on their way to take them down to Egypt. **Make a**

camel. He just needs a body, a head, one hump or two, and of course his 4 legs and a tail. Who was coming with a camel? (Traders)

- 11.²⁶Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and try to cover up what we’ve done? ²⁷Come. Let’s sell him to these traders. Let’s not harm him ourselves. After all, he’s our brother. He’s our own flesh and blood.” Judah’s brothers agreed with him. **Oh good! They aren’t going to kill him... uh-oh, but they are about to give him away!** Joseph’s brothers pulled him up out of the well and sold him to the traders for eight ounces of silver. Then the traders took him to Egypt. **What did Joseph’s brothers get for their brother? (8 ounces of silver) Make eight pieces of silver. And where are the traders taking him? (To Egypt)**
12. **Later, Reuben came back just like he planned! But the well was empty! Joseph wasn’t there.** He was so upset that he tore his clothes. ³⁰He went back to his brothers and said, “The boy isn’t there! Now what should I do?” **They had a plan. Not a very nice plan. Make a robe or a coat.** ³¹They got Joseph’s beautiful robe. They killed a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. ³²They took the robe back to their father. They said, “We found this. Take a look at it. See if it’s your son’s robe.”
13. **Of course it was his son’s. They new it was but they were convincing. They didn’t want their dad to know what they had done with his favorite son.** ³³Jacob recognized it. He said, “It’s my son’s robe! A wild animal has eaten him up. Joseph must have been torn to pieces.” **Make a tear drop.** ³⁴Jacob tore his clothes. He put on the rough clothing people wear when they’re sad. Then he mourned for his son many days.
- 14.³⁶But the traders from Midian sold Joseph to Potiphar in Egypt. Potiphar was one of Pharaoh’s officials. He was the captain of the palace guard. **But this is not the end of Joseph’s story. God always has a plan and He had a very special plan for Joseph! Even though Joseph was probably a bit spoiled and a tattletale, his brothers were wrong. Next week we will see how God can take a bad situation and make something good come out of it. We have an amazing God!**

Sometimes bad things happen in our lives that just aren’t fair. Maybe people pick on you or call you names. Maybe someone in your family is sick or doesn’t have a job. God is always with us no matter what though! He is watching over us and can turn bad into good so be patient, talk to God and let Him do His thing. It will be amazing!

Briefly review.

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE & SONGS: (5 minutes)

Sing the Old Testament books song and then the New Testament books songs.

Game: Bible Basketball. Each child or set of kids will need to cups and a paper ball. Label one cup “Old” and the other “New”

Let kids set up cups on the table in front of them. You can decide how far away they should be. (Or you may line them up against the wall so there’s a backdrop.)

Select a book of the bible. Have them tell you if the book is found in the Old or New Testament. Then, they can toss the “basketball” into the appropriate cup (this reinforces which part of the bible it’s in so they are more likely to remember next time.) They can even keep their score if they’d like! Continue until class is over.



(11) Jacob and Coat of Many Colors

Genesis 37

2nd & 3rd Grade

WARM-UP: (10 minutes)

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PRAYER: (5 minutes)

Help kids learn the value in talking to God. Ask for prayer requests. Write on the white board “Thank You” and “Please Help” – then, let the kids share their “thank you” and “please help” requests. Write them on the white board.

ASK KIDS:

- How God talks to us? (Through the bible and answering our prayers)
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Lead kids in prayer.

BIBLE LESSON & ACTIVITY: (30 minutes)

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Who did Jacob love? Rachel. Well, now Rachel is about to have *another* baby! She had a son and named him Benjamin. Jacob was very excited about his new son, but sad because Rachel died.

PASS OUT HANDS ON PLAY ITEM (Play-Doh, Silly Putty, Floam, etc.)

15. Make the number 12. Now Jacob has 12 sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph (his favorite) and Benjamin (the baby).

16. I will read from Genesis while you make a sheep. Joseph was 17 years old. He was taking care of the flocks with some of his brothers. Joseph brought their father a bad report about his brothers. **What was Joseph doing? (Watching flocks.) Joseph was the second youngest child and he is tattling on his brothers. Are his brothers going to be happy or mad? (Mad)**

- 17. Now make heart.** ³Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. **Who was Israel? Remember last week? The man wrestling with Jacob changed his name to Israel; so Israel is Joseph's dad.** His dad loved him most because Joseph had been born to him when he was old. Israel made him a beautiful robe. ⁴Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them. So they hated Joseph. They couldn't even speak one kind word to him. **His brothers were jealous. How would you feel if your parents loved your brother or sister more than you and gave them nice gifts? (Allow answers)**
- 18. Make a bundle of grain. (Have them roll several thin snakes then put together to make a bundle.** ⁵Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Listen to the dream I had. ⁷We were tying up bundles of grain out in the field. Suddenly my bundle stood up straight. Your bundles gathered around my bundle and bowed down to it." **What do you think his brothers were thinking about bowing down to Joseph?**
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- 20. This time he told his brothers AND his father the dream. Make a mad/sad face.** His father rebuked him. He said, "What about this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers really do that? Will we really come and bow down to the ground in front of you?" ¹¹His brothers were jealous of him. But his father kept the dreams in mind. **I don't think any of his family was happy about this. Do you**
- 21. Make a shepherd's staff for watching sheep.** ¹²Joseph's brothers had gone to take care of their father's flocks near Shechem. ¹³So Israel said to him, "Go to your brothers. See how they are doing. Also see how the flocks are doing. Then come back and tell me." Joseph arrived at Shechem. ¹⁴A man found him wandering around in the fields. He asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?" ¹⁵He replied, "I'm looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are taking care of their flocks?" ¹⁶"They've moved on from here," the man answered. "I heard them say, 'Let's go to Dothan.'"
- 22. Make a face with eyes that see Joseph.** So Joseph went to look for his brothers. He found them near Dothan. ¹⁸But they saw him a long way off. Before he reached them, they made plans to kill him. ¹⁹"Here comes that dreamer!" they said to one another. ²⁰"Come. Let's kill him. Let's throw him into one of these empty wells. Let's say that a wild animal ate him up. Then we'll see whether his dreams will come true.
- 23.** ²¹Reuben heard them talking. He tried to save Joseph from them. "Let's not take his life," he said. **Which brother tried to save Joseph? (Reuben, he was the oldest)** ²²"Don't spill any of his blood. Throw him into this empty well here in the desert. But don't harm him yourselves." Reuben said that to save Joseph from them. He was hoping he could take him back to his father. **Make a ball and use your finger to make a deep hole. This is your well. What were they going to throw in the well? (Joseph)**
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camel. He just needs a body, a head, one hump or two, and of course his 4 legs and a tail. Who was coming with a camel? (Traders)

- 25.²⁶Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and try to cover up what we’ve done? ²⁷Come. Let’s sell him to these traders. Let’s not harm him ourselves. After all, he’s our brother. He’s our own flesh and blood.” Judah’s brothers agreed with him. **Oh good! They aren’t going to kill him... uh-oh, but they are about to give him away!** Joseph’s brothers pulled him up out of the well and sold him to the traders for eight ounces of silver. Then the traders took him to Egypt. **What did Joseph’s brothers get for their brother? (8 ounces of silver) Make eight pieces of silver. And where are the traders taking him? (To Egypt)**
26. **Later, Reuben came back just like he planned! But the well was empty! Joseph wasn’t there.** He was so upset that he tore his clothes. ³⁰He went back to his brothers and said, “The boy isn’t there! Now what should I do?” **They had a plan. Not a very nice plan. Make a robe or a coat.** ³¹They got Joseph’s beautiful robe. They killed a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. ³²They took the robe back to their father. They said, “We found this. Take a look at it. See if it’s your son’s robe.”
27. **Of course it was his son’s. They new it was but they were convincing. They didn’t want their dad to know what they had done with his favorite son.** ³³Jacob recognized it. He said, “It’s my son’s robe! A wild animal has eaten him up. Joseph must have been torn to pieces.” **Make a tear drop.** ³⁴Jacob tore his clothes. He put on the rough clothing people wear when they’re sad. Then he mourned for his son many days.
- 28.³⁶But the traders from Midian sold Joseph to Potiphar in Egypt. Potiphar was one of Pharaoh’s officials. He was the captain of the palace guard. **But this is not the end of Joseph’s story. God always has a plan and He had a very special plan for Joseph! Even though Joseph was probably a bit spoiled and a tattletale, his brothers were wrong. Next week we will see how God can take a bad situation and make something good come out of it. We have an amazing God!**

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Select a book of the bible. Have them tell you if the book is found in the Old or New Testament. Then, they can toss the “basketball” into the appropriate cup (this reinforces which part of the bible it’s in so they are more likely to remember next time.) They can even keep their score if they’d like! Continue until class is over.



(11) Jacob and Coat of Many Colors

Genesis 37

4th & 5th Grade

WARM-UP: (8 minutes)

As kids are arriving, some just before class starts and some right after, have kids “drop” Joseph into the well. They will each have a cup. Have them start with the cup on the table and hold their hand on their nose while holding “Joseph.” Joseph can be a marshmallow, small paper ball, etc. They have to drop Joseph and try to land him in the well. (If this gets too easy or repetitive, they can stand up and place the cup on the ground behind their chairs and drop “Joseph” from their noses. They can also “toss” Joseph into the well standing back away from the “well.”

PRAYER: (5 minutes)

Help kids learn the value in talking to God. Ask for prayer requests. Write on the white board “Praise” – “Petition” – “Thanksgiving” – “Confession.”

- Have kids give suggestions for **Praise** (ex: God is holy, amazing, awesome, our rock).
- Have kids give **Petitions** (needs/please help)
- Have kids give **Thanksgiving** (what are they thankful for)
- Remind them that in a public prayer, we typically pray that God forgives us, but we don’t get specific in our **confessions**.
- Lead kids in prayer.

BIBLE LESSON: (28 minutes)

Quick review: We have been learning God’s word in order, just like a movie!

1. First we learned about how God created the whole world in 6 days and what did he do on the 7th day? (Rested)
2. Then, we learned about Adam and Eve being tempted in Garden of Eden by what? (A serpent/snake) Right, he was the craftiest of all creatures! So they were kicked out of the garden that was guarded by cherubim with flaming swords.
3. Next, Cain was jealous of his brother Abel and murdered him so Cain was sent away to wander.
4. Over time there were many people but they did not love God so God sent a flood saving one righteous man and his family. Who was it? (Noah) It rained for 40 days and 40 nights! After it dried up, what did God send as a sign that he’d never destroy the entire world by flood again? (Rainbow)
5. Later, a man named Job lived and God allowed Satan to test him. Who won? Good or Evil? (Good) Job remained faithful to God even when others told him not to or believed he must have done something wrong.
6. The people on earth just can’t seem to remember to keep God first! They decided to build a tower to the heavens to make them famous. It wasn’t about God. Who was it for? (Them) So what did God do? (Mixed up their languages so they couldn’t finish) And this is when he scattered the people across the earth.

7. God sends a man named Abram to Egypt with his wife Sarai and his nephew Lot. Because of some problems with too many animals, they divided the land. Abram stayed in Canaan and Lot chose to go live near Sodom.
8. God promised Abram he'd bless him with many descendants and changed their names to Abraham and Sarah. Sarah was impatient waiting for a baby and gave Abraham her servant Hagar who had a son named Ishmael. This made Sarah jealous. Later she had a son named Isaac
9. God tested Abraham. He sent him to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Abraham was faithful so God provided a ram in place of his son.
10. Isaac married Rebekah, gave birth to twin boys, Esau and Jacob. Jacob stole his brother's birthright so Jacob hid at his Uncle Laban's house where he worked 7 years to marry Rachel but was tricked into marrying her older sister Leah. He worked another 7 years for Rachel.
11. They left to go back to Jacob's home. Jacob wrestled with God (or an angel) who changed his name to Israel. He was afraid but God was with him. Esau welcomed him back.

At this point in God's story, Jacob has had 11 sons so far. Now, we are still in the book of Genesis. What does Genesis mean? (Beginning)

Who did Jacob love? Rachel. Well, now Rachel is about to have *another* baby! She had a son and named him Benjamin. Jacob was very excited about his new son, but sad because Rachel died.

Now Jacob has 12 sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Joseph (his favorite) and Benjamin (the baby).

Pass out bibles. This week we will let the kids follow along in the bible. You may take turns allowing kids to read aloud.

In Genesis 37:2, it tells us that Joseph was 17 years old. He was taking care of the flocks with some of his brothers. Joseph brought their father a bad report about his brothers.

What might you call your brother if he did this to you? Maybe a tattletale.

Read vs. 3: ³Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. **Who was Israel? Remember last week? The man wrestling with Jacob changed his name to Israel; so Israel is Joseph's dad. And what gift did his father give him? A beautiful robe, or coat.**

Read vs. 4: ⁴Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them. So they hated Joseph. They couldn't even speak one kind word to him. **Of course his brothers were jealous! This is a normal feeling.**

Read vs. 5- 7: ⁵Joseph had a dream. When he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, "Listen to the dream I had. ⁷We were tying up bundles of grain out in the field. Suddenly my bundle stood up straight. Your bundles gathered around my bundle and bowed down to it." **His brothers do not like this at all! They say in the next few verses: "Do you plan to be king over us? Will you really rule over us?" So they hated him even more because of his dream. But it didn't stop there.**

Read vs 9: ⁹Then Joseph had *another* dream. He told it to his brothers. “Listen,” he said. “I had another dream. This time the sun and moon and 11 stars were bowing down to me.” **Uh-oh, it was another dream with his brothers bowing down to him. This time he told his brothers AND his father the dream. How did his dad react? The bible says he rebuked him. I bet your parents would probably do something similar if it were you and your siblings.**

Read vs. 12-17: ¹²Joseph’s brothers had gone to take care of their father’s flocks near Shechem. ¹⁴So Israel said to him, “Go to your brothers. See how they are doing. Also see how the flocks are doing. Then come back and tell me.” Joseph arrived at Shechem. ¹⁵A man found him wandering around in the fields. He asked Joseph, “What are you looking for?” ¹⁶He replied, “I’m looking for my brothers. Can you tell me where they are taking care of their flocks?” ¹⁷“They’ve moved on from here,” the man answered. “I heard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’” **They must have been on a lot of land. He is looking all over and can’t find his brothers but comes across another man.**

Joseph searches and sees them near Dothan. Read vs. 18-20: ¹⁸But they saw him a long way off. Before he reached them, they made plans to kill him. ¹⁹“Here comes that dreamer!” they said to one another. ²⁰“Come. Let’s kill him. Let’s throw him into one of these empty wells. Let’s say that a wild animal ate him up. Then we’ll see whether his dreams will come true.” **His brothers don’t like him and are making fun of him calling him *the dreamer*. They decide to kill him. That’s a lot of hate.**

But Reuben, the oldest, heard them and tried to save Joseph. He told them not to kill him. Reuben planned to go back to the well later and get Joseph.

Read vs. 23-24: ²³When Joseph came to his brothers, he was wearing his beautiful robe. They took it away from him. ²⁴And they threw him into the well. The well was empty. There wasn’t any water in it.

Next, the Bible tell us they sat down to eat. While eating, some traders were coming with their camels loaded with spices, lotion and myrrh. Hmmm. The brother see an opportunity.

Read vs. 26-27: ²⁶Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and try to cover up what we’ve done? ²⁷Come. Let’s sell him to these traders. Let’s not harm him ourselves. After all, he’s our brother. He’s our own flesh and blood.” Judah’s brothers agreed with him.

Joseph’s brothers pulled him up out of the well and sold him to the traders for eight ounces of silver. Then the traders took him to Egypt. What did Joseph’s brothers get for their brother? (8 ounces of silver) And where are the traders taking him? (To Egypt)

Later, Reuben came back just like he planned! He was not with his brothers during all of the trading. The well was empty! Joseph wasn’t there. He was so upset that he tore his clothes. ³⁰He went back to his brothers and said, “The boy isn’t there! Now what should I do?”

They had a plan. Not a very nice plan. Read vs. 31-32: ³¹They got Joseph's beautiful robe. They killed a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. ³²They took the robe back to their father. They said, "We found this. Take a look at it. See if it's your son's robe."

Of course it was his son's. They new it was but they were acting convincing. They didn't want their dad to know what they had done with his *favorite* son. Vs. 33-34 says, ³³Jacob recognized it. He said, "It's my son's robe! A wild animal has eaten him up. Joseph must have been torn to pieces." ³⁴Jacob tore his clothes. He put on the rough clothing people wear when they're sad. Then he mourned for his son many days.

Read vs. 36: ³⁶But the traders from Midian sold Joseph to Potiphar in Egypt. Potiphar was one of Pharaoh's officials. He was the captain of the palace guard.

But this is not the end of Joseph's story. God always has a plan and He had a very special plan for Joseph! Even though Joseph was probably a bit spoiled and a tattletale, his brothers were wrong. Next week we will see how God can take a bad situation and make something good come out of it. We have an amazing God!

Sometimes bad things happen in our lives that just aren't fair. Maybe people pick on you or call you names. Maybe someone in your family is sick or doesn't have a job. Think about some situations that you make you wonder if God's paying attention. God is always with us no matter what! He is watching over us and can turn bad into good so be patient, talk to God and let Him do His thing. It will be amazing!

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: (5 minutes)

Game: Bible Basketball. First person draws a book from the cup and reads to the class. They decided if it's in the Old or New Testament and race to find. Whoever finds it first gets a chance to make a basket in the appropriate basket for an extra point. Then, they chose the book. Continue (make sure to let each person have a turn making a basket). (You may use mini basketball net with balls for indoors-see Amazon or simply use two cups labeling Old and New along with a paper ball.)