

Age-Level Overview

| | Open the Bible | Activate Faith |
|---|--|---|
| Lower Elementary | | |
| WORKSHOP FOCUS: God helps us when we're jealous. | SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles | SPARK RESOURCES: None |
| SWEET DREAM PILLOWCASES: Kids will decorate pillowcases with fabric paint and markers. | SUPPLIES: None | SUPPLIES: Pillowcases, fabric paint, fabric paint markers, paint shirts, paper or cardboard, newspapers or plastic tablecloths, paper, pencils |
| Upper Elementary | | |
| WORKSHOP FOCUS: God brings good out of bad! | SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers | SPARK RESOURCES: None |
| SMASHED CAN ART: Kids will consider how God can bring good out of bad situations by making a new sculpture out of a can that has been destroyed. | SUPPLIES: None | SUPPLIES: Tin cans of medium size, acrylic paints, paper plates, water cups, paint shirts, various craft and found objects (such as bottle caps, buttons, sticks, lace, silk flowers, chenille craft stems, foam pieces), craft glue, hot glue gun |
| All Kids | | |
| WORKSHOP FOCUS: God is with us when we're up and when we're down. | SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers | SPARK RESOURCES: None |
| GOD IS GOOD STORY COATS: Kids will realize God's story for Joseph brings about much good! | SUPPLIES: None | SUPPLIES: "Coats" cut from 12" x 12" (30 x 30 cm) felt pieces of various colors (1 per kid; cut in the shape of a short-sleeved alb), white or off-white pieces of paper glue sticks, colored pencils |



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content. Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find a downloadable Family Page for this rotation's story filled with ideas for families to use to explore this story and live out their faith at home.

Workshop Focus: God helps us when we're jealous.

Keep these tips in mind as you welcome kids to the workshop and explore the story together.

- Each week, remember to welcome kids to the rotation. Keep in mind that for some kids it may be the first time they are visiting your workshop!
- If kids have heard the story several times during previous weeks, read it again! Kids learn through repetition, and every workshop will explore the Bible story in a slightly different way.
- Remember that the Shepherds are there to support you as they accompany kids each week.
- Be sure to visit www.sparksondayschool.org to download the Family Page for this story. Make copies of it and ask Shepherds to distribute it during the Wrap Up.

Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Have you ever been jealous? What things have made you feel jealous? Allow all answers. **Today we are going to explore a story about a family that felt some jealousy and reacted badly to it. We'll see what God did to help this family even though they weren't perfect. Open up your Spark Story Bible Joseph and His Brothers on pages 48-53.**

Read the story to the kids.

Oh no, Joseph! What is he going to do now? He's being taken to Egypt where he will be a slave. He'll have to work all day for no pay.

Talk about these questions together.

- **Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?** (*Their dad gave Joseph a fancy coat but didn't give one to them, he told them of dreams he had where his brothers bowed down to him.*)

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

- **What did Joseph's brothers want to do with him at first?** (*Kill him.*)
- **They decide to do what instead?** (*Sell him to the traders passing by.*)
God cares about Joseph and he never leaves him. Next, take a few minutes to talk about the questions on page 53 of the Spark Story Bible. Encourage the kids to share stories about their dreams.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Sweet Dream Pillowcases

Set Up: Cover work surfaces with newspapers or plastic tablecloths.

Activity Instructions

1. Invite kids to gather around the work area and give each of them a piece of paper and a pencil. **We are going to be painting Sweet Dream Pillowcases. You can decorate your pillowcase with pictures from a dream you have had, or you can decorate it with anything you like. Stars, hearts, different shapes and colors—all of these would be good decorations for a pillowcase.** Ask kids to practice drawing their design on paper before painting it on a pillowcase.
2. Help kids come up with design ideas if they are struggling. Affirm the work they are doing.
3. When everyone is done drawing a design on paper, explain that the next step is to paint the design on a pillowcase using fabric paint and fabric markers.
4. Give everyone a paint shirt to wear, and remind them to be very careful with the fabric paint and markers because they will leave permanent marks on their clothes.
5. Give everyone a pillowcase and help kids place a piece of paper or cardboard inside of it to protect the opposite side from getting filled with paint. Distribute fabric paints and fabric markers and ask Shepherds to help kids decorate their pillowcases based on the designs they drew on paper.
6. Celebrate all the beautiful designs when kids are done. Instruct them to allow the paint to dry before using the pillowcase! When caregivers arrive to get the kids, give them any instructions needed to ensure the design sets properly. (Some paints require ironing to set the design, so caregivers may have to iron the pillowcase before it is used or washed.)

Spark Resources

None

Supplies:

Pillowcases, 1 per kid
 Fabric paint
 Fabric paint markers
 Paint shirts, 1 per kid
 Paper or cardboard, large enough to cover inside of pillow case, 1 piece per kid
 Newspapers or plastic tablecloths
 Paper, 1 piece per kid
 Pencils, 1 per kid
 Handwashing supplies

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for the Wrap Up.

Invite everyone to join you in a circle. **Thanks for coming to Art today. Joseph had some really interesting dreams, and his brothers really didn't appreciate them because they were jealous of Joseph. I hope you get lots of use out of your pillowcases, and I hope you have many sweet dreams on it!**

Let's pray!

Prayer Time

Loving Father, we can't help when we feel jealousy. But we can help how what we do when we feel jealous. Help us to listen and to always be kind to each other. Amen.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Workshop Focus: God brings good out of bad.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Have you ever had something bad happen to you? If so, do you want to tell us what it was? Allow them to share stories. **Today we are going to dive into the first part of the story of Joseph. He has some really bad things happen to him. Open your Spark Bible to Genesis 37 on page 42 of the Spark Bible. I am going to read verses 3-13a** (stopping after “Come I will send you to them”), **19-20, and 26-28.**

Have kids place a sticker in their Spark Bibles. Ask them which sticker they think they might use—Makes Me Feel, Makes Me Want to, Something I Don't Like? Talk about these questions together.

- **Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?** (*Their dad gave Joseph a fancy coat but didn't give one to them, he bragged about his dreams of greatness.*)
- **What did Joseph's brothers want to do with him at first?** (*kill him*)
- **They decide to do what instead?** (*sell him to the traders passing by*)

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Even though Joseph doesn't die, this is a terrible thing to happen! We can understand why his brothers were mad, can't we? They were feeling jealousy which isn't bad or good; jealousy is a feeling and we can't help our feelings. But what can we do? (not act badly because of what we feel) God takes the awful thing his brothers did and uses it to save the whole family and the generations that come afterwards.

What do you think about this strange way that God works?

Invite kids to place stickers to reflect their ideas about this in their Spark Bibles.

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Smashed Can Art

Set Up: Using the small nail and hammer, punch two holes in the top edge of each can about an inch from each other. Then smash the cans, with the holes in the back. Get the bottom of the can to turn up. This round part will form the front of the sculpture. Loop a piece of hanging wire through the holes so it will be ready to hang.

Fill water cups and set out supplies.

Activity Instructions

- From the story of Joseph, we learn that God really can use all things for good. Even when bad things happen to us, we can be sure that God can turn it around. We are going to illustrate this fact today by making smashed can art.**
- Give each kid a smashed can. **There you go. Pretty ugly, isn't it? Your challenge is to take this messed-up can and turn it into something wonderful. It can become a really interesting sculpture with your help. Use these supplies and found objects to fill the can like a vase. Attach things with the craft glue. If the craft glue won't be strong enough, you can come over to the hot-glue station and I'll help you use that for attaching things. Use the paints to add extra color. Let your imagination run wild! Now, let's get to work.**
- Give kids time to put these elements together to transform their smashed cans into beautiful works of art. Keep them active for the whole period; if kids finish early, suggest they add more elements to their works of art.
- As needed, help kids squirt some acrylic paint (with paint shirts on) onto paper plates. The plate serves as a paint palette and can hold several colors.
- With a few minutes left in the period, ask them to stop, clean up, and share their smashed can art with the others.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Tin cans of medium size, 1 per kid
Acrylic paints
Paper plates
Water cups
Paint shirts
Various craft and found objects such as bottle caps, buttons, sticks, lace, silk flowers, chenille craft stems, foam pieces
Craft glue
Hot glue gun

6. **You did it! You took worthless, old, smashed up cans and transformed them into incredible works of art. This is how God took Joseph's messed-up situation and made him a ruler of Egypt. We can be sure that God is doing this work in our lives, too. Even when it seems like everything is going wrong, God is there and will work on bringing good out of the situation.**

Option

Instead of a tin can, provide a number of old pop cans. Smash them in a whole variety of ways so that they are different shapes and sizes. Punch a few holes in each can with the hammer and nail. Have kids put the cans together creatively to form a can collage. They can attach them with jewelry wire.

Supplies

Pop cans, several per kid
Jewelry wire
Hammer
Small nail
Picture wire for hanging

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for the Wrap Up.

God works in our lives in mysterious ways. Sometimes, it feels like God isn't doing enough to help us when bad things happen. But as Joseph learned, God never leaves our side and God works to bring good things out of bad. We must trust that God can transform our lives, just as we transformed these cans.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Let's close with prayer. Today, we are going to have a moment of silent prayer. Sit up tall. Gently close your eyes. Concentrate on your breath. As you breathe in, imagine you are pulling in God's help. As you breathe out, imagine you are letting go of all your worries and troubles. Inhale, bring God's presence in. Exhale, let your worries go. We'll continue doing this for a little while in silence. You'll know we're done when I say "Amen." Silence for a period. Amen.

Workshop Focus: God is with us when we're up and when we're down.

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

What does the word "jealous" mean? (*unhappy that we don't have what someone else has*) **What things have made you feel jealous?** Allow all answers. **Today we are going to explore a story about a family that felt some jealousy and acted badly. We'll see that God was a part of the story, too, and helped make things better for them all, despite their sin. Open your Spark Story Bibles to Joseph and His Brothers on page 48 or your Spark Bibles to Genesis 37:1-28, page 42, starting with 37:3-13a (ending with "Come I will send you to them."), and skipping to verses 19-20, 26-28.**

Ask for volunteers to read the story.

Have kids place an "I Read It" sticker in their Spark Bibles.

This story ends in a bad place! Joseph's heading off to Egypt to be a slave. Oh, no!

Talk about these questions together.

- **Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of him?** (*Their dad gave Joseph a fancy coat but didn't give one to them. He had dreams of his own greatness.*)

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

- **What did Joseph's brothers want to do with him at first?** (*Kill him.*)
- **They decide to do what instead?** (*sell him to the traders passing by*)

God cares about Joseph and never leaves him. God makes Joseph into a faithful person who will later have great power and will forgive his brothers. God does that for us, too!

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

God Is Good Story Coats

Set Up: Cut out one felt "coat" for each kid.

Activity Instructions

1. **What got Joseph into so much trouble with his brothers?** (*bragging, receiving the coat*) **Well, today we will transform Joseph's coat into a God-saves-us coat!**
2. Hold up a felt "coat." **We will choose a felt coat from the many colors we have here. Then, we will receive three pieces of this paper. I invite you to draw scenes from Joseph's life on each of these papers to tell the story of Joseph, his brothers, and God! You can glue the papers on the front and on the back of your coat. Each coat has room for four pictures.**
3. **What might we draw on our paper squares?** Give ideas, but accept all ideas as well. Ideas you might give: Joseph with his nose up in the air wearing his special coat; Joseph's brothers looking mad; Joseph being tossed into a pit; Joseph being sold to traders.
4. Pass out 4 squares to each kid. Put lots of colored pencils around the tables so all kids have plenty to choose from. Go around and praise what they are drawing. Gently correct any overly cruel depictions or mistaken depictions.
5. Pass out glue sticks and urge older kids to help younger kids glue their depictions in chronological order on their coats.
6. Set aside to dry. Don't forget to tell them to put their names on their coats (perhaps down at the corner of their last depiction).

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

"Coats" cut from 12" x 12"
(30 x 30 cm) felt pieces of
various colors

*Note: Cut in the shape of a
short-sleeved alb*

3" x 3" (8 x 8 cm) white or
off-white pieces of paper (4
per kid)

Glue sticks

Colored pencils

Send (5 minutes)

Wrap Up

Remind the Shepherds to distribute the Family Page for this story if the kids haven't already received it, and come together for the Wrap Up.

Wow! Your coats are wonderful stories of Joseph, his brothers, and God! And I saw lots of kids helping other kids, just like Joseph ended up helping his family and all of Egypt by doing what God wanted him to do!

Let's pray together.

Spark Resources

Family Pages



Supplies

None

Prayer Time

Dear God, we thank you so much for the ways you worked in Joseph's life. Had Joseph not been a braggart, and had Joseph not been treated by his brothers in such a mean way, Joseph would never have gone to Egypt and saved everyone from starving to death. You, dear God, take what's bad in us and turn it into good, because you are so good! We love you! Amen.