

Age-Level Overview

	Open the Bible	Activate Faith
<p>Lower Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: Even in bad times, God is always with us.</p> <p>THE COLORFUL COAT RELAY: Kids will play a version of red light/green light to see which brother can catch Joseph and get his coat.</p> <p>BROTHERS TIC-TAC-TOE: Kids will answer questions about the story as a team to play tic-tac-toe.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Dot stickers (at least 4 different colors), fancy robe or sheet, dry-erase board or chart paper, marker</p>
<p>Upper Elementary</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: God can take the bad choices we make and turn them into good.</p> <p>BROTHER SCRAMBLE: Kids will learn Joseph's story using their Bibles in a silent scramble game.</p> <p>SLAVE MARKET: Kids will imagine what it must have been like to bargain to sell your brother.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: None</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Story Labels sheet, scissors, tape, stones/beads</p>
<p>All Kids</p> <p>WORKSHOP FOCUS: We can trust that God can turn bad things into good!</p> <p>GOD VS. THE BROTHERS: Kids will play a ball game where God is able to change bad deeds to good.</p> <p>PIT-Y PARTY: Kids will play a quiz game to see who knows the story best.</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers</p> <p>SUPPLIES: None</p>	<p>SPARK RESOURCES: Spark Story Bibles, Spark Bibles</p> <p>SUPPLIES: Garbage cans, non-latex balloons, paper, marker, tape, garbage can, non-latex balloons, masking tape, buzzer/bell for each team</p>



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: Even in bad times, God is always with us.

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

Hi, kids! How many of you have brothers and sisters? Allow kids time to respond. **I have ___ brothers/sisters and I know how much fun having siblings can be. But it isn't always fun, is it? Sometimes my _____ would annoy me so much and we would get into fights.** Discuss siblings using the following questions, allowing kids to respond. **Do any of you fight with your siblings? Do you ever feel jealous of something they get to do or some present they got?**

In our Bible story today we're going to learn about a family that had 12 brothers! Let's read our story to learn more. Distribute copies of the Spark Story Bibles. Help kids find the story of Joseph and His Brothers (pages 48-53). Read the story, inviting kids to follow along.

Discuss the story, using the following questions. Allow time for kids to discuss.

Why were Joseph's brothers jealous of Joseph? (*Joseph dreamed he was better than his brothers. Joseph's dad gave him a special coat.*) **Would you have been jealous of Joseph, too? What would you do if you were jealous? Is it right to do something mean because we're feeling jealousy?** (*No.*)

People don't always treat other people fairly. Remember, God is with us when we're good and when we're bad.

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

Colorful Coat Game

Our Spark Story Bible told us that Joseph's father, Jacob, treated Joseph as his favorite. Jacob gave Joseph a fancy coat, which made the brothers feel really jealous.

Discuss jealousy using the following questions, allowing time for kids to discuss.

What do your siblings do that makes you feel jealous? How does it make you feel inside when you are jealous? I'm sure the brothers felt just like that. Now we are going to play a game where most of us get to be the jealous brothers.

We're going to play a game where the brothers are jealous and try to be like

Joseph. To play, choose one kid to be "Joseph." Wrap the robe or sheet around his or her shoulders, and set that person on the other side of the room, back turned to the rest of the group. Give each of the remaining kids 2 different colored stickers and line them up across the room from Joseph, facing him or her.

When the game begins, our Joseph will announce, "I love all the _____ (one of the colors) in my coat!" The jealous brothers who have that color sticker will start sneaking forward. When Joseph turns around, you must freeze. If Joseph catches any of you moving, you must go back to the beginning. Joseph will keep calling colors and the first person to tag our Joseph is the new Joseph and we play again. Play the game as time allows.

That was a fun game to remember how jealous Joseph's brothers were! Jealousy can be a sneaky feeling. But even if we are feeling jealous (or any other sneaky feeling), God is with us.

Brother Tic-Tac-Toe

Set Up: Prior to the lesson, use the Spark Story Bible to create a list of quiz questions to use within the game. Create questions of varying difficulty, so that a range of challenge is available. Because tic-tac-toe can go quickly, have several questions ready. Example questions: What was the name of Joseph's dad? (Jacob); What special present did Jacob give Joseph? (a coat); What was Joseph's first dream about? (grain bowing down); What was Joseph's next dream about? (the sun, moon, and stars bowing to Joseph); True or False—Jacob was never angry with Joseph? (False); Jacob's sons took care of what kind of animal? (Sheep); Joseph's brothers threw him into what? (A pit)

Activity Instructions

Let's play a game to help us remember the details of our story. We are going to practice remembering the story by playing tic-tac-toe. Do you all know how to play tic-tac-toe? If kids don't know, briefly explain the game.

Explain that you are going to split up into 2 teams (Xs and Os). You will take turns

Spark Resources
None

Supplies
Dot stickers, at least 4
different colors
Fancy robe or sheet

Spark Resources
Spark Story Bibles

Supplies
Dry-erase board or chart
paper
Marker

asking each team a question about the story. If they get it right, they get to draw one of their symbols on the tic-tac-toe board. If they get it wrong, the other team has a chance to steal with the correct answer, and if they do they can put an X or O on the board. **If neither team gets the answer to the question, then we'll take a look in our Spark Story Bibles. Whichever team can find the answer first gets to put a symbol on the board.**

Draw a tic-tac-toe grid and have copies of the Spark Story Bible on hand in the case that neither team knows the answer. Play as long as time allows.

In the story, the brothers didn't react very well to their jealousy. We know that the brothers made a very bad choice and now Joseph is a slave in Egypt.

But we also know that God is always with us. So when we make a bad choice, we can ask for God's help, and when we are scared, we can look to God to be with us.

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.

Thank you for playing games today. I hope you liked the story of Joseph and his brothers. It is easy to feel jealous of our siblings on occasion, but we want to avoid acting badly when we feel jealous. God wants us to make good choices with our brothers and sisters, not bad choices. No matter what (even when we are jealous like Joseph's brothers), we know that God is watching over us all.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Let's close in prayer. I'll pray and when I pause I want you to say the names of your brothers and sisters and friends so we can pray to be nice to them as God wants us to.

Great God,

Thank you for the story of Joseph and his brothers. We know that Joseph's brothers were feeling jealous and sometimes we can be jealous, too. Help us make good choices and treat all our siblings and friends, including . . . (pause for the kids' sibling and friend names), the way you want us to treat them. Help keep us from being jealous and remind us that you are always with us. Amen.

Workshop Focus: God can take the bad choices we make and turn them into good.

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.
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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Welcome! Today we're going to play some fun games, but first I want to get to know you better. Let's play a name game together.

Explain that, starting with you, everyone will say their name and some item (toy, game, etc.) they love that begins with the same letter as their name. (Example: I am Stacy and I love my skateboard.) The next person will say his/her name and item and the people's names and items before them. And so on.

You own a lot of cool stuff. That makes me feel a bit jealous. I don't have any fun toys and games like you do. In fact, I think I'm too jealous to play any games with you today. Would you like that? (no) I didn't think so. We are going to hear a story about jealousy today in our Bibles in the book of Genesis. Let's look it up and read it together. Invite kids to take out their Spark Bibles and look up Genesis 37:1-28 on page 42 in their Bibles and take volunteers to help read it to the class. Encourage the kids to use their Spark Bible Stickers as they read.

Joseph's brothers were really jealous. Jealousy can be a pretty nasty emotion to have. Our games today will explore that more.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies
None

Brother Scramble

Set Up: Prior to the lesson, make a copy of the Story Labels Sheet from page 43 of this guide, and cut them apart.

Activity Instructions

Have any of you ever been so jealous that you have wanted to do something mean? Joseph's brothers were very jealous with him and they did something really bad. Let's practice working together rather than against one another in our game to learn the story better.

Explain that the kids will each get a label taped to their back with part of the story on it. They aren't allowed to talk during this game, but they must work together to figure out the order of the story on their labels and get in the correct order. **When you think you have the correct order, let me know and I'll check. If you're right, the game is over; if not, you have to figure out what's wrong and fix it.** Tape the labels to kids' backs to start the game.

After the game, take time to discuss. **Was it hard to work together without talking?** Allow kids to respond. **What do you suppose would have happened if Joseph's brothers would have told Joseph how they felt and asked him to stop bragging?** (*They may not have done those bad things to him.*)

Doing bad things because of how we feel can really mess up relationships, like it did with Joseph and his brothers. But when we work together like God wants us to, great things can happen. You did a great job working together and not letting your emotions get the best of you!

Slave Market

Sometimes talking to someone about jealousy isn't always enough; we can still feel jealous. It can be hard to know how to deal with those feelings. We want to be nice to our brothers, sisters, and friends, but it can be hard when we are jealous. But think about it: No cool toy, trip, or present is more important than those people.

We're going to play a game where we practice trading to imagine what it must have felt like for the brothers to be so jealous and angry that they tried to sell their brother.

Explain that you are going to play a trading game. The object of the game is to end up with eight beads of the same color. Give eight beads (mixed colors) to each kid. Explain that when the "market" opens, they must pick one, two, or three beads to trade and yell out that number. When they find someone yelling the same number, they trade that number of beads. You can give any colors away and the person can give any colors to you. You don't get to ask for specific colors. The market closes when someone gets eight beads of 1 color and yells out, "I've sold Joseph!" Play as many times as time allows; the kids will get the hang of the game the more they play.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Story Labels sheet (p. 43 of this guide)

Scissors

Tape

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Stones or beads (several colors; at least 8 of each color—ideally enough for 1 color for each kid but you can double up on colors if necessary)

Take time to discuss; allow kids time to respond to each question: **How did it feel to be a trader? Do you think you could trade like that to do something so mean to your sibling? It would be hard, wouldn't it? How do you think the brothers felt as they sold Joseph? They must have been very angry and jealous to be able to do that to Joseph. Emotions like jealousy can cause us to do really mean things, just like the brothers did.**

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.

Jealousy is a hard thing to deal with, particularly because we can often be jealous of the people we are supposed to love. Joseph and his brothers didn't get along very well and because of this his brothers ended up selling Joseph into slavery. The rest of the story is very interesting and God manages to make Joseph's slavery into a good thing. That is one of the wonderful things about God. God can take the bad choices we make and turn them into good things.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Let's pray.

Gracious God,

Thank you for sharing the story of Joseph with us. It is a good lesson to learn the dangers of jealousy. Thank you for watching over us and helping have good come from the bad decisions we sometimes make. Help us stay away from acting badly due to jealousy and treat our siblings and friends with love and respect.

Amen.

Workshop Focus: We can trust that God can turn bad things into good!

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

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Open the Bible (10 minutes)

Joseph and His Brothers Storytelling

Welcome!

Today's story is found in the book of Genesis and it is the story of a boy named Joseph. Joseph had 11 brothers and his brothers were very jealous of him because their father treated Joseph best. Let's read our story together. If your group is predominantly younger kids, read from Joseph and His Brothers the Spark Story Bible (pages 48-53). If your group is older kids, read Genesis 37:1-28 from the Spark Bible starting on page 42. Encourage kids to use their stickers to mark the story.

The brothers sure made a bad choice. Their bad choice had a bad effect on others—especially Joseph! Today we're going to play some games to get to know Joseph's story better.

Invite kids to share stories about a time they made a bad choice that affected others. (Breaking a promise, not sharing, not listening, etc.) Ask them who helped them make it right? (parent, friend, teacher, pastor, other adult, etc.)

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

None

Activate Faith (25 minutes)

God vs. the Brothers

Set Up: Prior to the lesson, use the paper, marker, and tape to label two of the cans as bad, and one as good.

Activity Instructions

Joseph's brothers made a bad choice. It's the start of a long, hard road for Joseph. But by the end of Joseph's story, God helped turn the bad in Joseph's life to good. Let's play a game to show this.

Explain that you will need someone to be "it." The "it" person will be God. He or she will be across the room from the group with the 3 garbage cans (the can labeled "Good" in the middle and a "Bad" can on either side). Two at a time, the rest of the group will run down and put a balloon into a "Bad" can and run back. When they return to the start, the next 2 kids can grab a balloon and run down. It's God's job to take balloons out of the "Bad" cans and put them into the "Good" one. It will be a race to see who can fill up a garbage can first. Allow time for kids to play.

Take time to discuss the game. **Did you win against God?** Allow time for kids to respond. **We can never beat God in forgiving us. We can never beat God in loving us. We can never beat God in being able to turn bad things into good!**

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

Garbage cans, 3
Non-latex balloons
Paper, 3 pieces large enough for a sign on the garbage cans
Marker
Tape

Pit-y Party

Set Up: Set the garbage can on one end of your space. Mark 2 lines using masking tape—one 4 feet away from the can and one 6 feet away. Create a list of quiz questions for kids to use in the game. Create questions that are applicable for both the Spark Story Bibles and Spark Bibles. Example Spark Story Bible questions: What was the name of Joseph's dad? (Jacob); What special present did Jacob give Joseph? (a coat); How many dreams did Joseph have? (Two); True or False—Jacob was never angry with Joseph? (False); Jacob's sons took care of what kind of animal? (Sheep); Joseph's brothers threw him into what? (A pit).

Example Spark Bible questions: What was the name of the land Jacob's family settled in? (Canaan); What was Joseph's first dream about? (sheaves of grain); What was Joseph's second dream about? (the sun, moon, and stars bowing to Joseph); Where did Jacob's sheep go to pasture? (Shechem); Which brother saved Joseph? (Reuben); What group of people took Joseph to Egypt? (Ishmaelites); Where were the Ishmaelites from? (Gilead)

Activity Instructions

God works to change our bad choices into good outcomes. We know that we will make bad choices sometimes and it's helpful to know that God will help good come from it. But we may not see the good until God shows us the good. Sometimes it seems bad for a while first.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles
Spark Bibles

Supplies

Garbage can
Non-latex balloons (1 color for each team, 20 of each color)
Masking tape
Buzzer or bell for each team

Let's practice our story more so we know the details and can share it with others.

Divide your group into teams. Two to three teams are good, depending on your group size. Create groups of mixed ages.

Have the teams line up their members from youngest to oldest. Explain that you will ask a question to the first people in line. The first person who buzzes in will try to answer it. If that person gets it right, then he or she gets to try to throw one of the team's colored balloons into the garbage can from the appropriate age line (4 feet for K-2, 6 feet for grades 3-6). If the balloon goes in, the team has scored a point. Either way, the questions continue with the next group in line. Have copies of the Spark Story Bible and Spark Bible on hand in case kids get stumped. After all the questions have been asked, the team with the most balloons in the garbage can is the winner.

You did a great job remembering the story! This story helps us remember that God is with us . . . and turns bad into good. We can trust that!

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.

Learning the stories of the Bible can help us when we are hurt by sin. Just like Joseph, people can choose not to be nice to us and sometimes that hurts. Have you ever had anyone hurt you—either physically or by calling you names? It isn't any fun. God knows that people can hurt us and God works hard to bring good out of bad. Sometimes we don't always see it right away, just like Joseph didn't, but God is always with us, helping us.

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Now we will close in prayer. Remember the name of someone who hurt you, and when I ask, whisper that person's name to yourself in our prayer. Let us pray.

**Good God,
We know that you work to heal the hurts we cause in the world. Help us to make the right choices. Help us also to forgive those who have hurt us in the past, including . . . (have the kids whisper here). Let us start fresh today by working for good in the world, just like you do. Amen.**

Story Labels for the Brother Scramble

The story labels below are used for the Brother Scramble activity. They are listed in order here, but make sure to mix them up for the activity. You can take out labels as needed to fit the size of your group. Starred labels are good ones to take out first.

*Jacob lived in Canaan with his sons.

Jacob loved Joseph more than he did any of his other sons.

Jacob gave Joseph a fancy coat.

*Joseph's brothers were jealous of him because of his coat.

Joseph dreams about his brothers' wheat bowing down to his.

The brothers ask, "Do you really think you are going to be a king over us?"

Joseph has a second dream about the sun, moon, and stars bowing down to him.

Jacob gets angry at Joseph's dreams.

Joseph is sent by Jacob to find his brothers and the sheep.

Joseph's brothers see him coming and plot to kill him.

Reuben convinces the brothers to throw Joseph into a pit.

*The brothers take Joseph's coat.

The brothers throw Joseph into a dry well.

*A caravan of Ishmaelites goes past the brothers.

The brothers change their plans and try to sell Joseph.

*The brothers take Joseph out of the well.

The brothers sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites for 20 pieces of silver.

The Ishmaelites take Joseph to Egypt.