

Joseph and His Brothers

Welcome to the story of Joseph and His Brothers! As the caring leader of your small group of kids, you are an important part of their Spark experience. You also support the other Rotation leaders by being a consistent and friendly presence with your group. Use these Small Group Builders, Conversation Sparks, and Transition Tips to generate conversation and build relationships with your kids. Have fun as you grow in faith together!

Small Group Builders

Try these tips to build relationships, trust, and friendship with your small group of kids when you have a few minutes at the beginning of Sunday school or between activities.

- **Sharing Dreams**

Joseph shared his dreams with his family. Ask if anyone has ever had a dream he or she would like to share. Share a dream of your own to get the conversation started, and listen carefully as kids share their dreams.

- **What's the Chore?**

Joseph and his brothers did chores in the fields. Tell kids that you are thinking of a chore they might do at home that involves a four-legged animal. Kids can answer what they think the chore might be. (*walking the dog or feeding the cat*) Try guessing another chore. Common chores for kids this age include setting the table, cleaning their room, folding laundry, or picking up toys.

- **Brotherly Love**

Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. They also felt emotions like anger, love, relief, and forgiveness. Share with each other feelings that you have about brothers, sisters, cousins, or friends. Talk about why forgiveness is really important in families.

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- What was one really good thing that happened to you this week?
- What's a really cool present you have received from your parents?
- Were you jealous of anyone this week?
- What's the best trip you've ever taken with your family?
- Do you trust God to help you out of bad situations?
- Whom did you forgive this week?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Sheep Walk**

Joseph and his brothers watched the sheep. As you move to a new place, walk together as a flock and do some serious baa-ing. Remember that sheep like to hop, run, and jump, too!

- **Seek and Find**

Siblings are brothers and sisters. Joseph had 11 brothers. His father sent him to the fields to find his brothers. As your group walks along, repeat what Joseph said: "I am seeking my brothers (and sisters)." If kids see any of their brothers or sisters along the way, they can yell, "I found one!"

- **Camel Walk**

Some of Joseph's brothers sold him to a camel caravan going to Egypt. Walk to the next place with your back humped up like a one-hump camel.

- **Dancing Sheaves**

Sheaves are bunches of grain stalks. Pretend you are wheat stalks blowing in the wind as you gracefully move to your next place.

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- **Forgiveness Circle**

Joseph showed forgiveness to his brothers. Showing forgiveness is hard to do, especially saying the words. Divide into pairs. One person says, "I'm sorry," and the other responds with, "I forgive you." Go around the circle so all the kids have a chance to practice showing forgiveness to the people around them.

- **I Want**

Joseph's brothers wanted his special coat. Have the kids in your group share some things that they want but don't have. The word we use when we really want something someone else has is "covet." Talk about how one of the Ten Commandments tells us God has commanded us not to covet anything belonging to our neighbors.

- **Naming It**

When Joseph's brothers called him a dreamer, this name wasn't a compliment. They were teasing him because they were angry with him. Teasing and calling people mean names happens all the time—in the Bible and in our lives. Share times when you have hurt or been hurt by mean teasing. How can you stop others when they are being mean? How should you react when you are being teased?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- How would it feel to have everyone bow down to you?
- Have you ever tattled on someone? What happened?
- Would you enjoy being a shepherd, working outdoors with animals? Why or why not?
- Have you ever tried to talk someone out of doing something wrong? What happened?
- Name some fun things you like to do with your brothers, sisters, or friends.
- Do you ever worry about things being fair in your family? Why or why not?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Pass the Coat**

Borrow a coat or sweater from someone in the room or from the lost and found. The first person puts on the coat, takes it off, passes it to the next person, and then moves forward. Kids can't move forward until they have put on the coat and passed it on. How fast can your group move?

- **Celestial Actions**

One of Joseph's dreams had 11 stars, the moon, and the sun. As you move to the next place, become a moon, a star, or the sun. Use your imagination and your whole body to be one of these celestial objects. Remember you can be any stage of the moon—even an eclipse!

- **Bow and Go**

Joseph's dreams said all would bow down to him. As you go to the next place, bow at the waist to everyone you pass. In your new location, ask how it feels to bow down to others.

- **Camel Ramble**

A camel caravan took Joseph from his brothers. Camels have only two toes, flexible ankles, and long legs. Walk like a camel caravan by lifting your legs high and putting your feet down gently as you move to your next site.

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- **Sorry Story Statements**

There were many reasons for Joseph's brothers to apologize to him. Divide the group into two teams. Team 1 will read these statements: You hated my coat. You threw me in a pit. You sold me into slavery. Team 2 will say, "We're sorry." If there is time, switch positions and say the statements again. Afterwards, talk about how it felt to say, "We're sorry."

- **Twelve Brothers**

As a group, work on memorizing the names of the 12 brothers, remembering that each becomes a tribe of Israel. Here are the names: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, and Joseph. First echo one name at a time. Then echo groups of names. Finally, try the entire list together.

- **Helping Hands**

In families, everyone's hands work together to help. Imagine you were in Jacob's family. We know they worked in the fields and shepherded flocks. Share ways you could lend a helping hand in Jacob's family. What day-to-day chores could you do? How are these ways to help the same or different in your families?

Conversation Sparks

Spark some faith-filled conversation during time you wait for activities to start or between activities. Use these questions with the kids in your group whenever you have a minute or two.

- Why do you think some people believe they are more important than other people?
- Do you know a kid your age who was born in a different country and moved to the United States with his or her family? How do you think it felt to leave the place they called home?
- Whom would you ask for help if you were lost?
- What is a favorite thing to do together as a whole family?
- When do you get really angry at your brother, sister, or friends?
- Were you ever afraid for someone in your family? What happened?

Transition Tips

As your group moves from one place to another, keep things fun and story-focused! Try these tips as you transition.

- **Dream and Go**
Pretend you are sleeping and dreaming as you move ahead. Put your head on your hands or do some pretend snoring on your sleepy trip.
- **Twelve Steps and Stop**
Jacob had 12 sons. Take 12 steps forward and then stop. As a group, count your steps along the way. After 12, yell, "Stop!" Then resume with another 12 steps. How many groups of 12 does it take to get to your destination?
- **Gummy Walk**
The camel caravan that took Joseph was carrying gum. This wasn't bubble gum, but sticky sap from a tree used in food and inks. Pretend you have gum on your shoes as you journey on your way.
- **Wild Animal March**
Joseph's brothers tried to pretend that wild animals had hurt Joseph. Choose a wild animal to act out as you march to the next locale. Use motions and sounds to be your wild animal.