Joseph the Dreamer

The Brothers Who Sold Him

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:45 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth Betrayal and slavery are wrong. God remained with Joseph when others treated him unjustly.

Learning goals Recall key events; explain the central truth; choose one safe way to respond in daily life.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online Open this video on Servus Dei

Before watching | 2 minutes

Find Canaan and Egypt on a map, if available. Recall the previous part of Joseph's story, then ask: What happened in Joseph's dreams?

Watch and notice

Notice the choices people make and how those choices affect others. Listen for signs that God has not forgotten Joseph.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. What happened in Joseph's dreams?
His brothers' sheaves bowed to his, and the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed before him.

2. How did Reuben try to protect Joseph?
He opposed killing him and hoped to return later to rescue him from the pit. His plan did not keep Joseph safe.

3. What did the brothers do, and what did Jacob believe?
They sold Joseph and used his bloodied robe to deceive Jacob. Their father believed Joseph had died.

4. What had the brothers failed to take away?
They took Joseph's freedom and separated him from home, but God had not abandoned him.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

Joseph the Dreamer

Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Use the two large picture spaces. Read the prompts aloud and accept pointing, drawing, or a spoken answer.

Read & Write Invite one story detail, one explanation, and one practical choice. Short or dictated answers are welcome.

Adapt by readiness

Younger or emerging readers: read aloud, pause often, and accept drawings or dictated answers.

Older children: use the Scripture passage to distinguish what happened from what should have happened.

One faithful choice | Optional 4 minutes

With an adult, name safe people and places where a child can ask for help. On a card, draw a trusted adult and practice: I need help. Pair this with one truthful, kind choice the child can make today.

Look for understanding The child connects a concrete story detail to a kind, truthful, or responsible choice without excusing harm.

Closing prayer God, stay close to people who are afraid or far from home. Help us tell the truth and seek help. Amen.

At home Tell someone at home one thing you remember. Practice the small action you chose with an adult's help.

Handout answer notes Recall: accept accurate details from the story. Explain: Betrayal and slavery are wrong. God remained with Joseph when others treated him unjustly. Apply: accept a specific safe action appropriate to the child.

Teach with care

Preview the story and the parent/teacher notes below. Explain unfamiliar words before watching; pause for questions. Includes threats of violence, a pit, enslavement, deception, and a father's grief. Do not reenact selling, trapping, or threatening anyone. No person belongs to another. Trust in God never means remaining in danger or keeping harmful secrets.

Words to explain Sheaf: a bundle of harvested grain. Caravan: people and animals traveling together. Slavery: forcing a person to live and work without freedom.

Sources for the leader

Scripture: Genesis 37:5-36 - USCCB