

But forgiveness is with you—that’s why you are honored. (Psalm 130:4)

Joseph in Egypt – Genesis 39:20–40:23

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation is a big word for little ones. Reconciliation can be hard to understand for adults, as well as children. Forgiving someone does not necessarily bring about reconciliation. Reconciliation restores a right relationship with the person you are in conflict with. Reconciliation can be a slow process, not unlike growing a plant. The seed must be planted in good soil. It must be nurtured and cared for as it grows. The seed of reconciliation must be planted in a truly remorseful person, who takes the time to nurture and care for the person wronged. Eventually, as a seed may bloom, a relationship may be restored.

The Bible story this week tells us about the dreams Joseph had. Joseph believed the dreams came from God. Joseph also believed his ability to interpret the dreams came from God. In the Bible story this week, Joseph was in prison for something he did not do. Instead of complaining and losing hope, Joseph used his gift of dream interpretation for the pharaoh’s baker and cupbearer. Joseph correctly interpreted the events that would unfold and that will help him in next week’s lesson.

Joseph was treated badly, and that would have made many people angry and mad. Not Joseph. He continued to use the opportunities God provided him to grow seeds of reconciliation. Joseph continues to mature and learn from each unfortunate event.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Imagine you are frustrated and angry with God. You don’t like being angry with God; you feel terrible inside. You know you shouldn’t feel this way, but you do. What would you do? Pray? Some of the steps in reconciliation are the same we take when we pray. Confess your anger with God and your part in it. Say you are sorry for feeling the way you do. Commit to changing your behavior, and pray God will grant you peace.

Come Together

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, small pillow*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4). Place a small pillow inside the Wonder Box.*

- Point to the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster, and invite the children to wonder about what the word *reconciliation* means.
- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we are hearing stories about a man named Joseph. Our story today is about what happened to Joseph in the land of Egypt.

ASK: Do you remember what happened to Joseph in last week's story?

- Take a few minutes to talk about last week's Bible story.
- We recommend reading a story each week from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary kid to read, "Joseph in Egypt" (pp. 44–45), from the storybook.

PRAY: Dear God, Joseph helped others. Guide us to help others too. Amen.

Prisoner's Dream – Preschool

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "A Prisoner's Dream (1)" (Reproducible 2A) and "A Prisoner's Dream (2)" (Reproducible 2B) for each preschooler.*

- Invite the preschoolers to use crayons to color the picture. Invite elementary kids to help the preschoolers follow the directions on the pages.

SAY: God thought Joseph was special. God thinks you are special!

Prisoner's Dream – Younger Elementary

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, colored pencils*

Prepare Ahead: *This week Reproducibles 2A and 2B can be shared with all of the kids in your class. You may have already shared them with your preschoolers. Photocopy Reproducibles 2A and 2B for all the kids in your class.*

- Have crayons and colored pencils available, and invite the class to color the pages using the directions at the top.

Silly Story – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Silly Story" (Reproducible 2C) for each child.

SAY: Fill in the blanks using silly words. Then find Genesis 39–40 in a *Common English Bible* to learn the correct answers.

- Invite the kids to fill the blanks according to the word prompts indicated on the page under each blank line.
- Assist the kids if they get stuck or suggest they work together if needed.
- Then have the kids use Bibles to find the story. Invite them to compare their silly stories to the story from the Bible.

Bagels and Juice – All Ages

Supplies: paper cups, juice, napkins, nitrile gloves, bagels, cream cheese or butter, paper plates, plastic knives or clean craft sticks, optional: toaster

SAY: In today's Bible story, two prisoners have dreams. One prisoner had been the pharaoh's cupbearer.

- Hold up a disposable cup and pour some juice in it.

SAY: The other prisoner had been the pharaoh's baker.

- Wearing a nitrile glove, hold up a bagel.

SAY: Let's enjoy a breakfast treat this morning as we think about our Bible story from last week.

- Invite the kids to enjoy a plain or toasted bagel with cream cheese or butter. Older-elementary kids will enjoy helping younger kids with their breakfast snack.
- Pour cups of fruit juice for the kids to enjoy with their bagels.
- As the kids eat, talk about last week's Bible story ("Joseph and His Brothers").
- Invite the kids to help clean up after the snack.

Wonder Time

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages from the Reproducible Kids' Book, 2F–2G (pp. 73–74). "Joseph in Egypt" is written in short sections that are one to three sentences long. Display the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 10 & 15).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading the story, one section at a time.

ASK: What do you think will happen to Joseph next?

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you, sitting in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 2 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18). Cut out the three remaining Unit 1 story figures (Class Pack—6), if not done already.

- Place the Wonder Box on the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat.

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *reconciliation*.

- Show the children the Unit 1 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4).

SAY: Last week we talked about *reconciliation*, a big word meaning to bring peace between persons who have disagreed.

- Point to the words on the Unit 1 Wonder Story Mat.

SAY: This word is *reconciliation*, which means to bring peace to people who disagree. This word is *forgiveness*. You forgive so you can be reconciled and stay friends with those you disagree with. Joseph had a special gift of interpreting dreams.

WONDER together:

- Do you have a special gift?
 - How can you use your special gift to bring peace?
 - Which of these words describes our Bible story: *reconciliation* or *forgiveness*?
- Add the figure of Joseph in his white tunic on the Wonder Story Mat.
 - Open the Wonder Box to reveal the pillow.

WONDER: I wonder why a pillow is in the Wonder Box.

Experience Wonder

Sleep Tag

SAY: When we are awake, we are always busy. We only dream when we are asleep. Sleeping gives us time to dream. Joseph had special dreams when he slept. His dreams often told him what could happen in the future. Sleeping and resting are important. Let's practice resting with a game.

- When the lights are on, have the children busily run around the room. When the lights are off, have them lie on the floor and close their eyes.
- Play several rounds, leaving the light off longer each time.

WONDER: Do you remember any special dreams you have had? What was important about your dream(s)? What do you think is important about the Bible story?

Examine the Bible Verse

SAY: Our Unit 1 Bible verse is Psalm 130:4. Find it in your Bibles.

ASK: Is the Book of Psalms in the Old or New Testament? (*Old*) Where is Psalms located in the Old Testament? (*about the middle of your Bible*) In what chapter of Psalms is our verse located? (*130*) What is the verse number? (*4*)

- Gather the kids around the Unit 1 Bible Verse Poster. Read it together.

ASK: What is the reference for our verse? (*Psalm 130:4*)

SAY: Our Bible verse helps us understand that forgiveness comes from God. We will learn about forgiveness and reconciliation as we hear more about Joseph's story.

Roller Coaster Ride

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, foam pipe insulation, rolls of masking tape, marbles*

Prepare Ahead: *Get a few pieces of foam pipe insulation from your local hardware store or home improvement store. You will be dividing your class into teams of two to three kids. So, make sure you have a piece of insulation for each group. Photocopy "Roller Coaster Ride" (Reproducible 2D) for each group.*

- Divide your class into groups of two to three kids. Hand each group a roll of masking tape.
- Hand out copies of Reproducible 2D to each group.

SAY: Joseph's life had a lot of ups and downs—kind of like a roller coaster!

ASK: Have any of you ridden a roller coaster?

- Invite the kids to share their roller coaster experiences.

SAY: Some roller coasters have a big loop in the track. When you ride them, you go upside down as the coaster zooms through the loop! In this activity, use the picture on your sheet to make a loop. Try placing a marble on your “roller coaster” and see if it will zoom through the loop!

- Instruct the groups to attach one end of their insulation to a wall, table, or chair. By taping the insulation into place along the wall, table, chair, and floor, they can create a loop that will actually make the marble go upside down, but stay on the “track”!
- This activity will work, but it takes some experimentation. Allow the groups to try a few times, but offer help if they get stuck. For a hint, a small loop at the end of the insulation (taped to the floor) works best.

SAY: In this activity, we see that the force of the marble going through the loop is stronger than the force that would normally make the marble drop to the ground. Joseph was able to manage his ups and downs because God was a powerful force in his life.

Peaceful Place

Supplies: *Reproducibles 2A–2B (Reproducible Kids’ Book), Unit 1 Bible story figures (Class Pack—p. 6), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, suggested book: “Harriet, You’ll Drive Me Wild!” by Mem Fox, sand tray, soft pillows, crayons or markers*

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items provided.
- Have the children use their fingers in the sand tray as they imagine walking to Egypt.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Reconciliation Through Forgiveness

SAY: A spiritual practice is something we do to help us connect to God. God wants us to forgive others. Forgiving and reconciling with others helps us grow closer. We practiced saying we were sorry earlier.

- Guide the children through a spiritual practice:
 - Think of someone you have hurt and you need to say you are sorry to. Imagine saying sorry to them. Imagine they say you are forgiven.
- PRAY:** Repeat after me: “God, thank you for helping me forgive those who hurt me. Amen.”
- SAY:** This week remember to ask for forgiveness and forgive those who hurt you.
- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child as you say this blessing: “May you always carry forgiveness in your heart. God bless you.”

Family Spiritual Practice

SAY: Let’s take a look at your Take-Home Pages for today (*Reproducibles 2F–2G*). Ask your family to participate in this week’s spiritual practice.

Supplemental Activities

Preschoolers – Retell the Story with Song

- Have the children interact with the Unit 1 Bible story figures (Class Pack—p. 6) as you sing the song.
- Sing the verses to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

SING: To Egypt, Joseph went. / To Egypt, Joseph went. / The Lord was with young Joseph. / To Egypt, Joseph went.

SAY: Last week Joseph was given a special robe from his father, Jacob. The robe made Joseph’s brothers mad, so they sold him to a man who took him to Egypt.

ASK: What happened to Joseph in the Bible story today?

WONDER: Which part of the story did you like? Which part did you not like?

Early Elementary – Dream Art

Supplies: paper, crayons or markers

WONDER: The baker and the cupbearer had dreams. What do you dream about? Do you ever remember your dreams?

- Give each child a some paper and something to draw with.
- Invite each child to each draw a dream he or she had or of one of the prisoners’ dreams.

Older Elementary – God’s Dream

Supplies: black construction paper, chalk or chalk pastels

SAY: In the Bible story, Joseph helped Pharaoh’s workers interpret their dreams. Dreams can be amazing and interesting things! Do you remember your dreams? What do you think God’s dreams for our world are? Do you think God’s dream includes reconciliation? If so, what might reconciliation look like?

- Give each child a black piece of construction paper and chalk or chalk pastels.
- Instruct the children to reflect on the questions and conversation from above.
- Invite the children to answer the question: What are God’s dreams for our world? Perhaps you might write that on a poster or board where they can see it.
- Invite wonder and imagination as they create.
- When they are done creating, make sure to leave time for the group to share and discuss. Point out themes of God’s reconciliation, love, and care for us.

Intergenerational Activity – Food Collection

Note: Each week we will feature a special intergenerational activity. Plan to invite youth and adults to join you for these activities.

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Food Donation Items” (Reproducible 2E) and hand copies out to your class and to other members of the church.

- This week plan a food drive for your church.
- Plan how the food drive will work. For example, you might invite church members to bring food donations to your church building for the next few weeks. Then decide if a food pantry or other group will receive your donations.

SAY: We will learn more about the food drive in Session 3.