


GOD CALLED OUR FATHERS

UNIT TWO: Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

Lesson 4:**Joseph's Dreams**

CONTENT:

1. Jacob had twelve sons. Joseph was the second last. He was a helper to his older brothers. Jacob gave Joseph a special coat with long sleeves and many colours. This made the older brothers angry and jealous of their brother.
2. Joseph had two dreams: One about sheaves and the other about the sun, the moon and stars. Through them, God showed him what would happen to him in the future: that his brothers would bow before him.
3. When Jesus was a baby, God showed that he had a plan for him too. When his parents took him to the temple, an old man named Simeon came into the temple and picked Jesus up. He talked about what God was going to do when he grew up.
-  4. God has a good plan for each of us. We must trust him and cooperate with him so that he can do all the good things that he wants to do in our lives.

REFERENCES: Genesis 37:1-11; Luke 2:22-35, Psalm 139:15,16. CCC 302-306

MATERIALS NEEDED: Handouts, blackboard (or a bundle of grass tied as a sheaf).

HOME ASSIGNMENT: Learn the prayer. Find out the number of the psalm.

I. STARTER:

- How old are you now? Close your eyes and imagine yourself after 10 years.

[Children close their eyes and imagine as teacher speaks]

Imagine yourself bigger, grown up, going to college; maybe riding a bike, or going out with your friends...

Now imagine yourself after 30 years. You will be about as old as your Daddy or Mummy. What do you think you will be doing? What would you like to be? ... a teacher?... a doctor?... a mother?...

[After a minute, let children share.]

- You and I can imagine what will happen, but we don't know for sure. But there is someone who knows everything. He can see what you will be doing after 10 years and 20 years and 50 years. Who is that person? *[God!]*
- Today we will hear about Jacob's son, Joseph, and how God showed him what would happen to him when he was grown up.

II. DEVELOPMENT:**[Story of Joseph's Dreams]**

Do you know how many children Jacob had? He had twelve sons. The second-last son was Joseph. Remember I told you that Jacob had many herds and flocks of animals? His sons looked after the animals.

Every day all the brothers would go out with the sheep to places where they could graze. (*Graze means eat grass*) Joseph was not in charge of any flock because he was too young. He was a helper to his older brothers.

The brothers felt he was a 'kuccha roti' because they were big men and he was small compared to them. But their father loved Joseph and gave him a special coat with long sleeves and stripes of different colours. When the older brothers saw the coat they got jealous of Joseph and angry.

“Daddy’s little darling! Daddy’s pet!” they would call out when they saw him.

One night, Joseph had a very strange dream. He dreamt that he and his brothers were out in the fields, cutting the dried wheat stalks. When the stalks were cut, they tied them in bundles. (The bundles are called sheaves)

[Draw a sketch of a sheaf on the blackboard and let the children say ‘one sheaf... many sheaves’. Better still, prepare a bundle of dried grass and show it at this point.]



Back to Joseph’s dream: Suddenly Joseph’s sheaf jumped out of his hands and stood up by itself. Then all the sheaves jumped out of his brothers’ hands and they flew off by themselves! They made a circle around Joseph’s sheaf. Then they all bowed down to his sheaf.

Just then, Joseph woke up. He jumped out of bed and ran to his brothers.

“Reuben! Judah! Listen to what I dreamt!” (*Reuben and Judah were kinder than the other brothers.*) But none of the brothers liked the dream. “You little show off! Do you really think we are going to bow down to you? Come, fight, and show us how strong you are, then we’ll bow down.”

Joseph wished he had not had the dream. But then, after a few days, he had another dream. He dreamt that it was night and the moon and stars were out. Suddenly he began to rise out of his bed and soon he was flying up, up into the sky. As he went higher, he seemed to be getting bigger and bigger.

Joseph looked around and noticed something strange: the moon and some of the stars were moving towards him. As he stared, they moved closer and closer and made a circle around him, just as the sheaves had done in the last dream. He counted the stars... there were eleven. Suddenly he saw something big and bright coming closer and closer... It looked like the sun! It also came and joined the circle. Then all the shining balls started going up and down as if they were bowing to him.

Joseph opened his eyes and found himself back in his bed. He ran out of his tent and told everyone his dream. But his father Jacob scolded him. “What kind of dream is this? Have some respect for your elders! Do you want your mother and me, and your big brothers to bow down to you? Stop all these silly dreams!”

Joseph put his head down and went away sadly. “I can’t help dreaming these dreams! I didn’t make them up! I think God is trying to tell me something.”

- Do you think God was trying to tell Joseph something? What do you think he was telling him?

[Children suggest what they think. Give out handouts and read the top section. Children draw one of Joseph’s dreams in the space provided.]

NEXT CLASS:

- Do you know for sure where you will be after 30 years? [*No!*] Does anyone know? [*Yes, God does.*]
- How did God tell Joseph what would happen to him when he grew up? [*Through his dreams.*] What did he dream? [*Children relate the dreams.*]

Today I will tell you another true story about a little boy. God had a plan for this boy too. When this boy was only a tiny baby, his parents took him to the Temple to offer him to God. (*Like your parents took you to church for your Baptism.*)

As they walked into the temple with their baby wrapped up in a bundle, an old man came running up to them. He had a long white beard and looked very old and shaky, but he was very excited.

The old man said to the parents, "May I see your baby?"

The father said, "Yes, you may, if you want to." He could see that the man was a holy man.

The mother opened the baby's blanket and showed the baby to the old man. First the man put his face close to the baby and just looked and looked. Then he began to smile. He smiled and smiled. His face looked as if it was shining.

He picked up the baby and lifted him up in the air. Then he shouted in a loud, happy voice, "Praise be to God! Praise be to God!" He prayed, "Master, now I can die happy, because you have done what you promised. This child is the one who will save the whole world. He will be a light to show the way to everyone!"

- Can you guess who the baby was? *[It was Jesus.]* The parents were Mary and Joseph. And the old man's name was Simeon. When they heard Simeon's words, Mary and Joseph looked at each other and nodded their heads. They knew that their baby was a very special child and that he was going to do something very great.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

- God had a special plan for baby Jesus and also for Joseph. Do you think he has a plan for you? Is it a good plan or a bad one?
- Thousands of years ago someone wrote this prayer: *[Children follow in their handouts.]*

O Lord, you could see me as I was being made.
Even before I was born,
you wrote down in your book
all that would happen to me.
Lead me in the everlasting way.

- God wants us to trust him, because he always does what is good for us. He wants us to try and find out his plan and do what he wants us to do.
- Close your eyes now and ask God to show you what he wants you to do, day by day. Tell him that you are ready to trust him and do what he wants.

[Children pray silently, then go through the handout together.]

| |
|---|
| Home assignment: Learn the prayer. Find out the number of the psalm. |
|---|