

## GENESIS

## Lesson 8: JOSEPH'S DREAMS COME TRUE

## CONTENT:

1. To tell the story of Joseph -
  - i. Joseph's dreams - the jealousy of his brothers.
  - ii. He is sold into slavery.
  - iii. In Egypt he is framed by Potipher's wife.
  - iv. In prison he interprets dreams.
  - v. He rises to power.
  - vi. He forgives and helps his brothers
2. To reflect on the story and see that God can bring good out of the worst situations.
3. Guide to help the children to turn to God with confidence when they face difficulties, enmity, etc.



REFERENCES: Genesis 37, 39 - 45

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

Good News Bible, Match sticks {18 per pair of children} i.e. for a class of 25 children you will need 5 boxes of matches, Blank papers for story frieze, One strip of chart / brown paper per group of 6 children, Crayons and pencils.

## I. STARTER: Matchstick Exercise

Children, can you change good things into bad things? How? *[Very easily! We can tear a nice book into pieces or mess up a beautiful garden by pulling up the plants...etc.]*

BUT let's see if you can change BAD into GOOD! *[Give out 18 match sticks to a group of 2 – 3 children]* Using all these 18 match sticks let's see if you can make the word BAD. *[Let them try and then share the solution by drawing on the black board BAD. Let all form it with their match sticks]*

Now change BAD into the word 'GOOD', again using the same match sticks. *[Draw the solution on the black board]*

There is a person I know who is very good at changing bad into good. That person is GOD! Let's listen to how he turned bad to good for Joseph, Jacob's son.

## II. DEVELOPMENT:

Let's read about Joseph and his family. *[Since the story is very long, only a few parts are read, while the teacher fills in the rest of the story briefly]*

Teacher: Do you remember who Jacob married? *[Leah and Rachael.]* Altogether Jacob had 12 sons

Read: Genesis 37: 3-11

- Why did Joseph's brothers hate him so much? *[Because they were jealous of him and felt he was just showing off...]* Jealousy is like a monster who can take over your life. Let's see what their jealousy made them do.

## Read: Genesis 37: 12-35

Is Joseph's life 'GOOD' or 'BAD' now? *[Very bad! He is far away from home, he has been cruelly treated by his own brothers, and he is a slave in a foreign country.]*

When the traders got to Egypt, he was bought by an officer called Potipher, who was captain of the palace guard. The Bible says that the Lord was with Joseph and whatever he did turned out well. Potipher realised this and soon Joseph was in charge of everything – the house and the fields.

But once again, trouble came to Joseph!. Potipher's wife saw that he was handsome and strong and she wanted him to be her lover. Joseph knew this was wrong and he refused. This made her very angry and she told a lot of lies to her husband about Joseph.

And now Joseph landed in an even worse position – he was thrown into the palace prison. So ‘BAD’ became WORSE! Joseph must have wondered why this happened! But he somehow knew that God was there. He knew that God could bring good from bad, so he kept praying and doing whatever he could as well as he could.

One night two other prisoners had dreams which troubled them very much. One was the King’s wine steward and one was the King’s baker. Joseph told them – ‘God is the one who can explain your dreams.’ He told both of them the meaning of their dreams – In 3 days the steward would be released and get his job back, but the baker would be put to death. Everything happened just as Joseph had said.

Next the King himself had a dream which troubled him very much. No one could explain what it meant. Then the steward told him about Joseph. Let’s read about it

### **Read: Genesis : 41: 14-30; 39-42**

So now Joseph saw that God could really do the impossible – He could take him from the dark prison, and make him the Governor of Egypt.

But God had even more good in store! The seven years of plenty came. Joseph went all round Egypt and made sure all the extra corn was stored in big store houses in the cities. There was so much corn that he stopped measuring it – it was like the sand of the sea.

Then the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. All the countries around had no food and began to travel to Egypt to buy corn from Joseph. Back in Canaan, Jacob heard that there was corn in Egypt – so he sent his 10 sons to Egypt to buy corn and save them from starving. Only one boy, Benjamin, Joseph’s full brother {Rachael’s son} remained at home. Jacob did not want to lose him as well.

When they arrived at Egypt they bowed down before the Governor {Joseph’s boyhood dreams were coming true!} Although Joseph recognized them, they did not recognize him – he had changed so much and they could not even imagine that their little brother could be this big powerful Egyptian! At first Joseph kept fooling them – he gave them grain to take back but kept Simeon. He told them to bring Benjamin the next time they came or else he would not sell them anymore grain.

The next time they came, he quietly slipped a silver cup into Benjamin’s sack and then pretended to be angry and take Benjamin as prisoner. All the brothers begged him to let Benjamin free. At last Joseph could not carry on pretending any more -

### **Read: Genesis 45: 1-11**

So God was truly able to bring great good out of all the bad that happened. Joseph realised this – thanks to God, Jacob, his sons and all their families were able to live in the best part of Egypt and were saved from starving to death.

## **III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:**

[Help the children to quieten down. Encourage them to bring their own difficulties to God, or to think of someone else who is in a bad situation. In their imagination, let them place the difficulty into their hands. As you pray ask them to open their hands and offer the difficulty to God]

**PRAY:** Lord God, you are the God who changes BAD into GOOD. We bring this trouble to you. We trust you and ask you to turn it to good. Thank –you, Lord! Amen.

## **IV. ACTIVITY:**

[Write the following on the black board:

1. Joseph dreamt that 12 sheaves of corn were bowing to his sheaf.
2. His brothers sold him to some traders.
3. Potiphar’s wife told lies about Joseph.
4. Joseph landed in prison.
5. Joseph became the Governor of Egypt.
6. He forgave his brothers.

Let six children sit as a group. Give out blank paper to each child [quarter A4 size]. [Before hand draw lines on each paper to separate the picture and the story.] Each child writes one part of the story and draws a picture above it. Let one of the group be the leader.

When all have finished, they stick the pictures on the strips of chart paper to make a story frieze. They write a title of their choice. They could put them up in the class or take turns to show in the class in school and tell the story to their classmates.