

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2024

Class Curriculum - The Book of Genesis

Age - Senior Campers

Friday - Joseph

Summary

1. Subject: The life of Joseph
2. Scripture: Genesis 37-46, James 1:12-1-18
3. Grade/Level: Senior Campers
4. Objective: Learn the life of Joseph, with an emphasis on persevering faith
5. Time Allotment: 1 Hour

Prayer: Don't forget to begin and end your class with a prayer! If possible, have a camper lead one or both of these prayers.

Lesson

Overview: This week's classes will study the book of Genesis. Each lesson will focus on one person and their life. Each lesson will also examine a different aspect of God's character, and provide valuable application to New Testament teachings and the Church.

Today's lesson will focus on Joseph. God will be examined as our source of strength and a God who is worthy of our commitment independent of our circumstances. The applications will be strengthening faith, developing perseverance, and living a life committed to God.

The full account of Joseph's life is long. Please read it entirely yourself as you prepare for this class, as only certain portions will be read together.



Read: 25 Minutes

The following section provides a brief commentary of the passage, as well as some reading comprehension questions.

Genesis 37, 39:1-11, & 41:37-44

Genesis 37:1-11

This passage is the beginning of the life and account of Joseph. He is the youngest of his brothers, and was especially loved by his father. In these verses we see his brothers develop hatred for him. Joseph gave a bad report of his brothers to his father, his brothers were jealous of the many-colored robe given to Jacob by his father, and they are enraged by Joseph's dream where his brothers bowed to him.

Genesis 39:1-11

Instead of finding extreme hardship in slavery, or becoming bitter from his brother's betrayal, scripture tells us that the Lord was with Joseph, and Joseph became successful. He rose to manage a rich man's estate, Potiphar. When confronted with the invitation to sin and lie with Potiphar's wife, Joseph is faithful. In the aftermath of these verses, Joseph is falsely imprisoned.

Genesis 37:18-28

In these verses we read the account of his brothers conspiring to kill Joseph. Instead of killing him, they throw him into a pit and fake his death, then sell him into slavery to Egypt. Genesis does not provide insight into Joseph's feelings, but it is easy to understand this as a devastating betrayal that would likely lead to a future of hardship.

Genesis 41:37-44

In the chapters before, Joseph continues in faithfulness to God despite his difficult circumstances. He interprets dreams in the prison, and after two years is given an opportunity to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. He does so, and proceeds to give Pharaoh advice on how to handle an incoming famine. In these verses we see that Joseph is again rewarded due to his persevering faith.

Reading Comprehension:

- What about Joseph stands out to you? In these readings, what stands out to you about God?
- Do you think Joseph did anything wrong in these chapters?
- Why do you think God allowed all these bad things to happen to Joseph? (God often allows hardship. Through hardship, we are able to display more genuine faith. Also, God's hand is evident when He draws us out of hardship)
- Does God always bring success to those who are faithful? If so, how?

1 John 1:12-18

1 John 1:12-18

This passage relates to the life of Joseph in several ways. In it, we see the promise that God will reward faithfulness, especially faithfulness in the face of trials and struggles. The reward may not always be blessings on this earth, but instead is guaranteed to be the “crown of life”, meaning our eternal life with God in heaven.

This passage also talks about temptation, similar to the temptation Joseph faced with Potiphar's wife. Scripture is clear that temptation does not come from God, even though He is glorified when we resist temptation. It is equally clear that temptation comes from our own desires, and when we allow ourselves to dwell on our desires we lead ourselves into temptation and sin.

Reading Comprehension

- What do you find encouraging in these verses?
- What are some things that tempt us today? How can we be prepared to fight or “flee” from these temptations?
- This passage says “every good and perfect gift” comes from God. What are some examples in your life of “good and perfect” gifts?

DISCUSSION

Ask the question, “What’s the most difficult thing you have done?” or “What has been a difficult time in your life?” This can be a difficult conversation, and be prepared to address some problematic situations like broken relationships, death, divorce, struggles with sin, and more. To your comfort level, begin by sharing your own example of hardships.

Like Joseph, no one is immune to challenging circumstances. Joseph’s life is an inspiring account that should encourage us to persevere like he did. However, not all of us are blessed with his ability to endure. In these times, it’s important to remember that we should look to God to guide us and give us strength to persevere.

While some of the students in your class may have gone through hardship or may be going through hardship, there may be some who have not. It is important for every Christian to prepare for future difficulties. Talk with your class about how we should handle ourselves as Christians in these times. Like Joseph, the answer to any hardship is always the same: live your life in faithfulness to God, with integrity and honesty in all that you do. Never lose sight of Him, nor allow your hardships to cause you to act selfishly or sinfully. Things that we should do in hard times might be:

- Pray to God as often as possible
- Talk with Christians, and tell them about your hardship
- Read the Bible, and see encouraging examples of godly people who endured hardship like Joseph, Job, Paul, Jesus, etc.
- Keep a prayer journal to outline your thoughts and feelings during this time
- Look for the blessings around you, and rejoice in the good things God gives you, even when it feels like we’re surrounded by the bad

Read **2 Corinthians 1:3-5** with your class. One of the “good and perfect” gifts from God is comfort in our hardship. One of the blessings of the Church is that we can share comfort with each other, by sharing our sufferings with each other. While no one will experience the exact suffering of anyone else, this passage is clear in saying that we should use our experience of hardship in order to relate and provide comfort to fellow Christians undergoing suffering.



Genesis and the Church

Every part of the Old Testament foreshadows the coming of the Church and God's redemptive plan, including the Book of Genesis. Use this lesson and story to help your class understand the nature of God's Church and His plan for it. The life of Joseph is a remarkable story of faith, forgiveness, and perseverance. Not all of us are blessed with Joseph's capacity for these things, but through the Church God gives us the necessary tools.

When we face tough times in our lives, God has given us the gift of the Church to strengthen our faith and perseverance. Many Old Testament passages talk about the spiritual strength we find in our community of believers (Ecc 4:12, Proverbs 27:17) and many in the New Testament talk about the strength we find in the Church, and its ability to give us greater abilities to persevere in our faith (Hebrews 10:23-25, 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, 1 Thessalonians 1:15). Help your class understand that they should always turn to the Church when they are in need of strength, faith, and encouragement. In doing this, we fulfill part of the purpose of being the body of Christ.