

Fort Hill Christian Youth Camp 2024

Class Curriculum - The Book of Genesis

Age - Junior Campers

Friday - Joseph

Summary

1. Subject: Joseph
2. Scripture: Genesis 37, Genesis 39-41, Genesis 45-46
3. Grade/Level: Junior Campers
4. Objective: Learn the story of Joseph, focusing 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.

Story

10-15 minutes

Joseph

The life of Joseph is a rollercoaster. A brief summary is listed below: please read the full account yourself and teach the story at an age-appropriate level to your class.

- Joseph was the youngest of 12 brothers, all sons of Jacob/Israel
- Joseph was his father's favorite child. Israel spoiled Joseph and gave him a robe of many colors, which would have been very rare and expensive
- Joseph had the ability to interpret dreams, even at a young age. After he had a dream that his brothers would bow down to him, the brothers became jealous and upset with Joseph
- His brothers throw him into a pit, and sell him into Egyptian slavery

- In his servitude, Joseph rises to be in command of a wealthy man's estate and finds success. This man is named Potiphar
- Potiphar's wife tries to convince Joseph to sin. When he refuses, she has him thrown into a prison
- In this prison, Joseph interprets dreams for two men who used to work for the Pharaoh. One returns to work for Pharaoh
- Pharaoh has dreams that he does not understand, which leads to Joseph being released from prison to work with Pharaoh
- Joseph eventually rose to be the second most powerful man in Egypt
- Joseph reunites with his brothers and uses his position in Egypt to provide for his family

The full story of Joseph is long and full of many wonderful details. For this class, focus on Joseph's faithfulness to God, and perseverance through hardship. It is easy to blame God when things go wrong in our lives or to just give up when things aren't like we planned. Joseph was always faithful to God, in the good times and the difficult times. His faith is an incredible example to us today and shows us that a strong faith in God can help us endure the tough times in our lives.

Lesson


Discussion: Never Give Up

10-15 Minutes

Guided Discussion: Ask the question, "What's something you've done that was really hard?" or "Was there ever a time when you wanted to give up?" Steer the conversation to age-appropriate difficulties, like struggling with difficult concepts at school, or losing in a sports game. Often younger children face challenges that are difficult for their age, and it's easy to become frustrated.

In some ways, this gets easier as you grow older. There will always be things that are challenging to your skill level, but as children mature, their skills and mind are more able to meet the usual challenges of life. However, like Joseph, no one is immune to challenging circumstances, and no matter how old you get you may find yourself in a very difficult situation. In these times, it's important to remember that we should look to God to guide us and give us strength to persevere.

We most likely won't be in the same tough circumstances as Joseph. Ask your campers, "What might be a difficult situation for someone today?". This can have many different answers, and you



may need to be prepared to talk about some tough topics. Keeping the conversation age-appropriate, some potential answers for your class may be:

- When you lose someone you love
- Your family moves, and you leave your friends/school for a new environment
- You lose a pet
- One of your parents loses their job

In each of these scenarios, talk with your class about how we should handle ourselves as Christians. 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

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. 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, Probers 27:17) and many in the New Testament talk about the strength we find in the Church, and its power 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.



Scripture

- a. James 1:12
 - a. This verse speaks to the importance of perseverance and faithfulness in our lives. This life can be difficult at many times, but if we are faithful to God through it all, we are guaranteed a reward to live with Him in Heaven.
- b. 2 Corinthians 1:3-5
 - a. This passage talks about the role of the church as we encounter hardship. We should share in each other's suffering, and offer comfort to each other as much as possible. Jesus Christ suffered in many ways, so we can look to Him in our hard times. He also offers comfort, which we share "abundantly" through Him.

Activity/Illustration

Remaining Time

Stamina Games

Have your students perform several tasks of stamina to practice their perseverance. Without tiring them out too much, here are some ideas for quick stamina practice:

- Have all the students hold their breath as long as they can
- Have each student lift an object in one hand, like a book or a bag, and see how long they can hold it up before their arm starts to droop
- Blow up balloons and have each student keep their balloon in the air for as long as they can. If a student lets their balloon touch the ground, they are out. The last student remaining wins

Obstacle Course

Set up an obstacle course for your campers to go through. Split your students into two large teams, and have them hold hands as they go through the obstacle course. In real life, having help from your friends and the church makes any obstacle easier to overcome; in this game, the hand-holding makes things more fun and challenging. If either team breaks hands, then they must start back at the beginning.