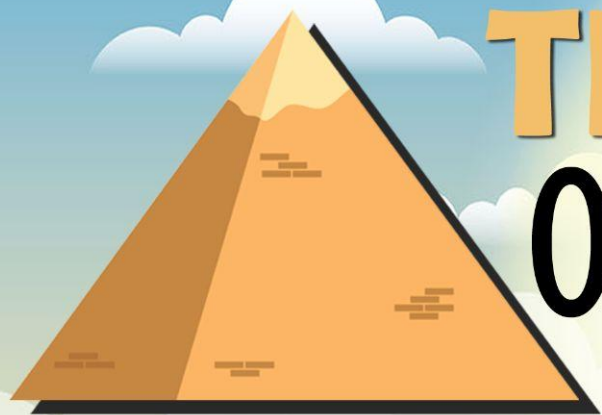


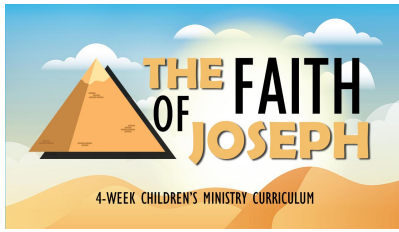


THE FAITH OF JOSEPH

4-WEEK CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CURRICULUM



THE **SUNDAY SCHOOL** STORE



Overview

The Faith of Joseph: 4-Week Children's Ministry Curriculum explores the Genesis story of Joseph. Faithfulness helped Joseph through all sorts of experiences. Joseph's story is one that reveals faith in God is always an option. Each lesson offers opportunities for children to learn Scripture, discover something new about themselves and each other, and acquire real ways they can rely on God in faith.

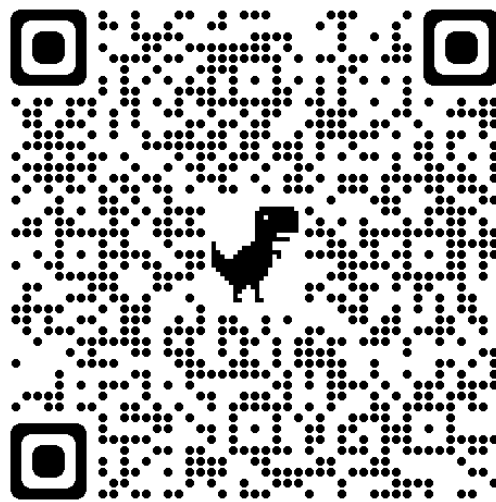
Big Idea: I can have faith that God loves me and never leaves me!

Memory Verse: Genesis 41:16

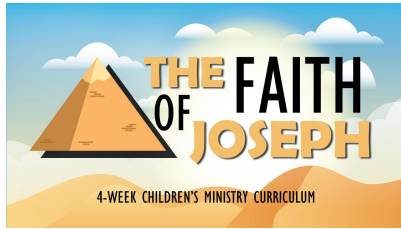
- Lesson 1: FAITH IN THE FAMILY
- Lesson 2: FAITH IN BAD TIMES
- Lesson 3: FAITH IN GOD'S LEADING
- Lesson 4: FAITH THAT CONTINUES TO GROW

Credits: This series was written by Lauren Sanford. The editors were Tony Goforth and Joseph Sanford.

You are viewing the free sample lesson
- use this link to purchase the full
4-week curriculum.



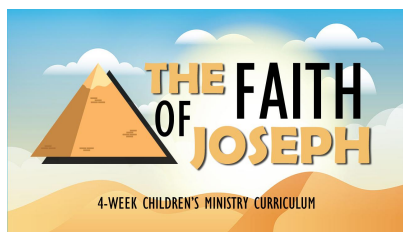
<https://sundayschool.store/products/the-faith-of-joseph-4-week-childrens-ministry-curriculum>



THE FAITH OF JOSEPH

The Faith of Joseph is a four-lesson children's ministry curriculum that explores the Genesis story of Joseph. While the whole of the Joseph story is told in the last portion of the book of Genesis, chapters 37-50, this curriculum focuses on key moments when Joseph's faith in God are so very important. Faith/faithfulness helped Joseph persevere through all sorts of experiences. Joseph's story is one that reveals faith is always an option. Each lesson offers opportunities for children to learn Scripture, discover something new about themselves and each other, and acquire real ways they too can rely on God in faith.

Every lesson includes a lesson plan for teachers, supplies list, prayer, opening activity, Bible lesson with discussion questions, and craft. *The Faith of Joseph* children's ministry curriculum was created to engage children pre-K to fifth grade, with plenty of options for flexibility to make the lessons fit any group with ease.



TEACHER TIPS

LESSON PLAN

Every lesson starts with a Lesson Plan for the teacher. This section provides a learning goal for the lesson and some notes to better prepare for teaching your students.

SUPPLIES

Read this section and gather all supplies before beginning your lesson. Organize your supplies in the order you will use them to help lesson time run smoothly.

PRAYER

A good way to start prayer time is to make the experience feel set apart and peaceful. Dimming lights and lighting candles will decrease distractions and help students to quiet and feel calm. In many Christian traditions the lighting of candles can serve as a symbol of love and faith toward God. You can use small votive candles in votive holders. If you always have the same students in your group for every lesson you can add a name label to each candle so that every student has their own candle. When lighting a candle for each student ask them if they have anything on their heart or mind they would like prayer for. If you do not want to have fire in your group setting, consider getting battery operated candles the students can switch on themselves. A scripted prayer is provided for each lesson but feel free to make this time personal by saying your own prayer that fits your group, or ask if any students would like to offer prayer for the group.

OPENING ACTIVITY

This time is a great opportunity to break the ice, allowing students to warm up

to one another while having some fun. The activity will allow students the space to participate together while bringing the lesson theme to life.

BIBLE LESSON

Feel free to gear the Scripture reading toward what works best for your group. You can use the Bible translation(s) you are most comfortable with. (NRSV was used in the construction of *The Faith of Joseph* curriculum.) If you have older students you can ask them to take turns reading aloud. Locating specific Scripture readings will help students to familiarize themselves with the Bible. Every assigned reading is also included within the curriculum for your convenience. If you are looking for a children's Bible, *Frolic Preschool Bible* and *Whirl Kids Story Bible* (pre-K to second grade) are great choices for younger children.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

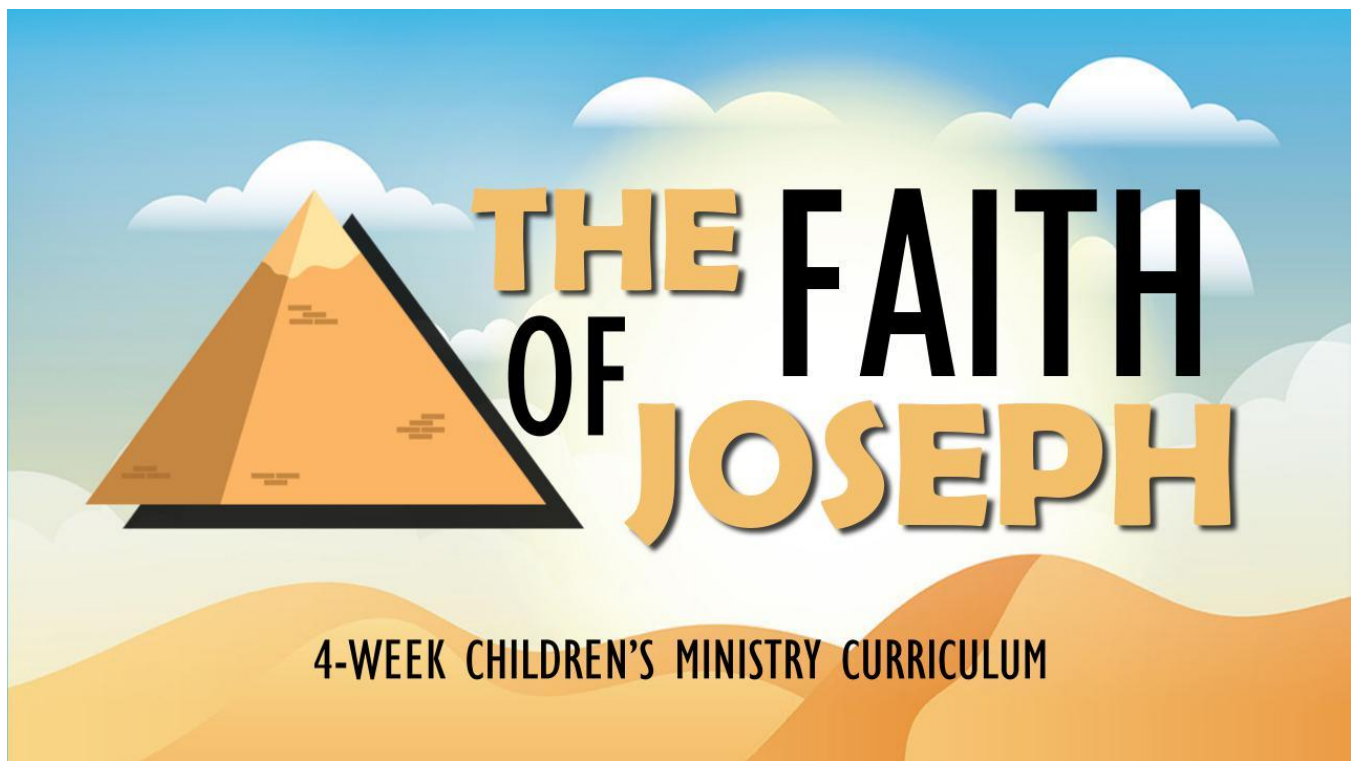
This time is an opportunity to nurture safe and open discussion about the ancient biblical writings and what it means for us today. Allow students the space to answer the questions and ask their own questions. Offer supportive guidance and assurance when they share their thoughts and feelings on the topic. When students feel their input is valued they will trust and depend on the relationship they continue to form with you as their guide.

CRAFT

Be sure to check out the photos for step-by-step instructions and craft examples. Ask your church to donate craft supplies to your ministry for upcoming craft projects!

LEARNING MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS:

This optional section offers information for teachers that is directly relevant to the biblical text. The learning material gives an overview of the passage that will supplement the lesson and provide added ideas for thought and teaching.



1. FAITH IN THE FAMILY

(THE STORY OF JOSEPH WITHIN THE BOOK OF GENESIS)

LESSON ONE PLAN

This lesson will provide students with a basic understanding of the book of Genesis by offering an overview of the genealogy leading up to Joseph, with some examples of faith along the way. (If you plan to use a children's story Bible for your lesson, take some time before this lesson to mark pages with images of Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham & Sarah, Isaac (Rebekah, Jacob, Esau), Jacob (Rachel, 12 sons including Joseph). This will offer a visual aid to your students as you work your way through the pages of Genesis to teach the connected story.)

LEARNING GOAL: By hearing the larger story of the book of Genesis and the genealogy from which the whole book operates, students will see the story of Joseph is one part of a larger narrative and not something we can separate from the larger purpose of the book.

SUPPLIES

- Bible/ children's story Bible
- Roll of toilet paper
- Family Tree template for each student • Pencils, crayons, markers

PRAYER

Creator God, we come to you in prayer at this time of learning. We thank you for always being with us, for never leaving us, the people you have made, in your own image. We pray for your guidance in our time together as a group, and as we experience today's lesson. Amen.

OPENING ACTIVITY

Toilet paper challenge. Line students one behind the next. The first student in line passes the toilet paper roll over their head to the student behind them while holding on to the end of the sheet. The next student passes the roll between their legs to the student behind them. Continue in this pattern until the toilet paper roll has reached the back of the line. Try not to drop the roll, let it touch the ground or tear any of the sheets, allowing the line of toilet paper to connect the group. After the activity, ask the group to talk about how it felt to be connected this way. If you only have one or two students you can line up several chairs front to back and do the activity by taking turns maneuvering the toilet paper roll over and under chairs without dropping, tearing, or letting it touch the ground. Ask your student(s) to describe how they accomplished connecting the chairs in this way.

BIBLE LESSON

The book of Genesis is about beginnings. Each new beginning is connected to the last. The connections come through genealogy (family line), and there are also connections through stories of faith in God. The people in the Genesis stories are not perfect, not even close. We should not look to them for directions on how to be good people. But what we can learn from them is how they understood God to be in relationship with them.

- *Adam & Eve* were created for a special purpose of caring for the earth and everything in it, but they didn't put complete faith in God and sinned by disobeying his directions for them. (Read **Genesis 2:15** and/or show your image of Adam & Eve from your children's story Bible.)
- In *Noah*, a descendant of the first family, God saw faith like no one else. (Read **Genesis 6:22** and/or show your image of Noah from your children's story Bible.)
- After some generations, God blesses *Abraham & Sarah* who are faithful to God. (Read **Genesis 12:2** and/or show your image of Abraham & Sarah from your children's Bible.)
- They have a son named Isaac who grows up to marry Rebekah. *Isaac and Rebekah* have twin sons who God plans to make leaders of nations. (Read **Genesis 25:23** and/or show your image of Isaac (Rebekah, Jacob, Esau) from your children's story Bible.)
- One of their son's, Jacob, has many children who will become the twelve tribes of Israel in the stories following Joseph. *Jacob and Rachel* are parents to Joseph. (Read **Genesis 35: 9-12** and/or show your image of Jacob (Rachel, 12 sons including Joseph) from your children's story Bible.)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who is in your family?
- How has God blessed you and your family?
- What does faith mean to you?
- What are the names of Joseph's parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents?
- Which of these Genesis stories would you like to learn more about?

LEARNING MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS:

GENEALOGY AND FAMILY IN GENESIS:

The book of Genesis contains a variety of genealogies interspersed throughout the narrative. These genealogies, although not terribly exciting to read, ties the whole book together from the opening pages of the first family through a myriad of generations and family lines.

Cultural and societal norms of the time of Genesis would dictate the legacy of family to pass through the oldest son born to his father. Time and again we find the Genesis story following a different thread. Oftentimes it is the younger son—Isaac (not Ishmael), Jacob (not Esau), Joseph and Judah (not any of their older brothers)—who becomes the focal point and carries on the legacy.

The listed genealogies (chs. 5, 10, and 11) which bridge the sections of the Genesis narrative also provide a clear message that the surrounding peoples and nations of Israel/Judah for later audiences are extended family. Biblical conflicts in the Hebrew Scriptures include groups of people that share ancestors. The first family of the Bible featured brothers who engaged in conflict leading to the first murder (Cain killed Abel). The Joseph story comes to a close with the reconciliation between he and his brothers who had attempted to end his life. The theme of familial relationships should not be ignored in the book of Genesis. The family of Abraham is the source of God's divine promise for a blessing upon all of the world.

FAITH/FAITHFULNESS IN GENESIS

The words for faith/faithfulness in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) are different than we might be used to understanding them from our Christian Scripture studies. The word for "faith/ faithfulness" in New Testament Greek speak to belief which closely connects with the Hebrew word AMAN (אמן) referring to behavior which "confirms" or "supports" a belief.

The Hebrew words for faith/faithfulness in Genesis speak to the dependability and trustworthiness of the one who is "faithful." A person's

faithfulness is uplifted as a sign of dependability. God is credited for faithfulness to Abraham (Gen. 24:12, 27). The Hebrew word EMETH (אֱמֶת) refers to the “reliability” and “stability” of the person/entity to which it is attributed. Jacob attributes faithfulness to God for all of the ways that God has brought blessing upon him during his time away from his family. Success, protection, and blessing are seen as signs of God’s dependability to be present with the chosen family. This brings us to the faith of Joseph.

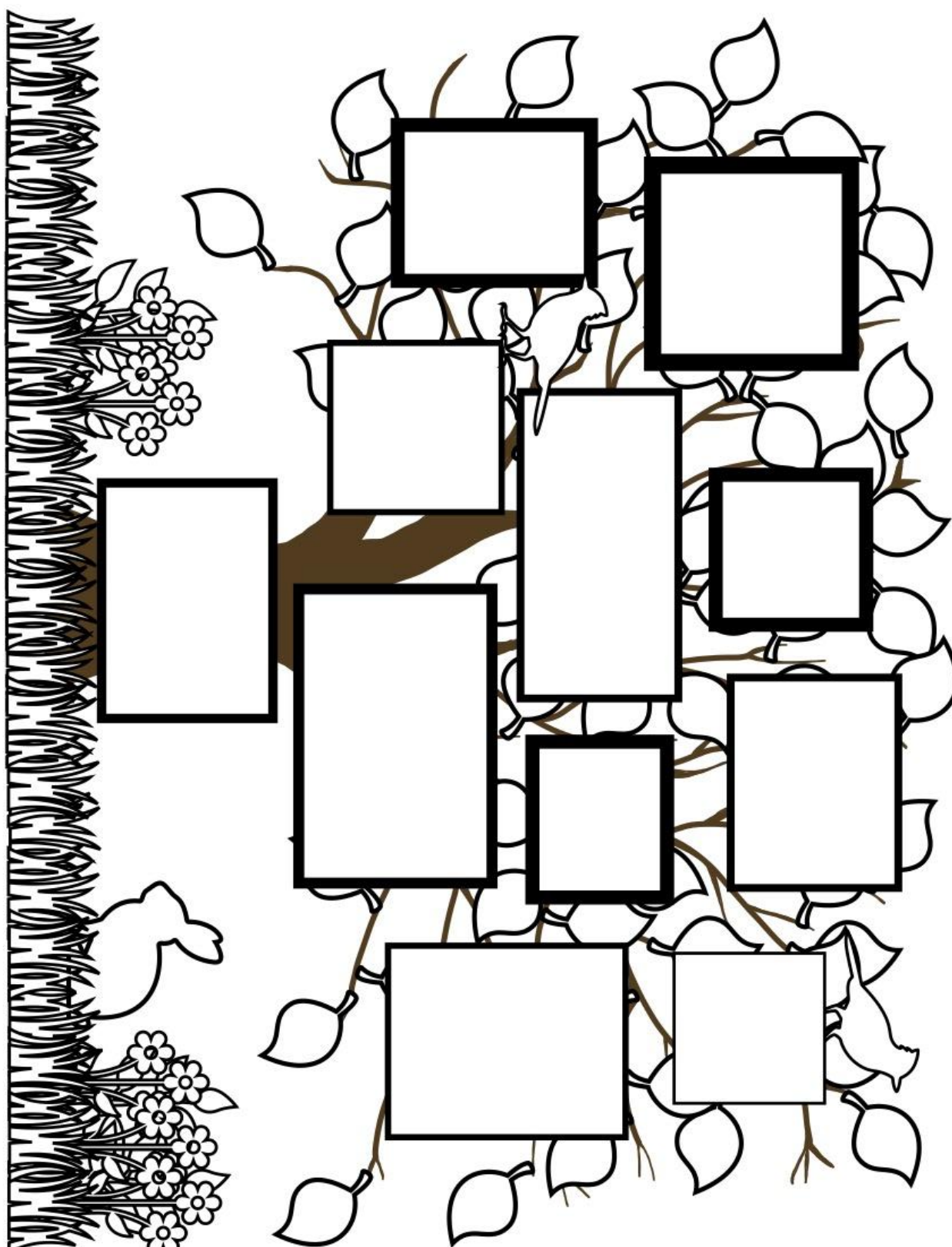
Joseph, although never directly linked with the Hebrew words for “faith/faithfulness” is seen as a sign of God’s faithfulness by the characters in his story (his brothers, Potiphar, and Pharaoh). Joseph is given divine signs through dreams and willingly shares the interpretations of these dreams despite the resentment and anger they bring in response from his brothers. After being almost killed and sold by his brothers, he continues to be reliable in his actions. We know this because Potiphar sees this reliability/faithfulness and, through it, sees that “The LORD is with Joseph.” Potiphar has such trust in Joseph’s faithfulness that he puts him in charge of everything in his life except the food he eats (39:1-6).

We can also know that Joseph’s faithfulness is directly connected to his relationship with God as a part of the chosen family through Abraham. When Pharaoh recognizes Joseph’s gift in dream interpretation, he offers Joseph credit. Joseph deflects the credit and gives all of the credit to God (41:16, 25) and makes it clear the visions and wisdom given come ultimately from God. Given Joseph’s actions being directly perceived as a credit to God (Potiphar) or Joseph himself directly given credit (from Pharaoh), we can see that it’s Joseph’s actions and words that communicate to the non-Hebrew characters the foundation for how Joseph lives his life. This foundation which is the basis for success, wisdom, and eventually salvation (his brothers and their families end up being saved from the effects of the famine) is how Joseph lives his life as a dependable/faithful person who reflects the way and will of God as he has come to understand them.

CRAFT

Make a Family Tree of your family. Color your tree and write names or draw pictures of family members in the squares on the tree. Include church family and friends on your tree if you would like. While crafting, ask your students what are some family stories/memories they hope to always remember.





WORD SEARCH

Garden – Eden – Command – Descendant – Community
Abraham – Isaac – Nation – Noah – Brothers – Israel – Jacob

A	Q	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y
Z	B	J	E	P	N	C	R	F	N	X
I	S	R	A	E	L	Q	N	O	A	H
F	K	H	A	C	S	W	O	P	T	L
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T	W	G	S	W	W	D	U	D	O	C
Q	Y	D	V	M	S	Z	E	E	H	V
D	E	S	C	E	N	D	A	N	T	K

WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

