

## Teaching Plan - Joseph, Friend of God

**Aim** - To show that our actions do have consequences but God is teaching us through the rollercoaster of life.



**Welcome** - We are here together



**Game**

Play a game of snakes and ladders - everyone can take a turn. (Link it to our lives - sometimes on the way up and sometimes down - but we get home in the end)

**Question: ?**

Take time to ask about group members families i.e. how many brothers and sisters etc - perhaps thinking about things they did together - and times they argued.



**Bible reading:** Genesis 37: 3- 5



**Drama using pictures**

There is a PowerPoint containing pictures to go with this story (ask Ivy if you want it or download from website) - or you could act it. Have a card with the words '**And God was there**' on it - when it is held up everyone says the words.

Joseph's father loved him and gave him bright clothes to wear. Joseph said "I'm special" (*Hold up Card*) **And God was there.**

Joseph sometimes had dreams about himself being important. His brothers were fed up with his showing off and dreaming - they threw him in a big hole. They wanted rid of him. (*Hold up Card*)

**And God was there.** God was preparing Joseph for a big job later on when he would tell a king what his dreams meant.

Joseph ended up living in Egypt -he was sold as a servant to a man called Potiphar. *(Hold up Card)* **And God was there.**

Joseph did a great job looking after Potiphar's house but Potiphar's wife got Joseph into trouble. Joseph was put in jail although he had done nothing wrong. *(Hold up Card)* **And God was there.** Joseph got on well with the people in the jail and he told them what their dreams meant.

The king of Egypt was also having dreams - no-one could tell him what they meant. Then they got Joseph out of the jail - got him washed and dressed and then he went to meet the king. *(Hold up Card)* **And God was there.** The king was worried about the dreams and people were scared that there would not be enough food. Joseph told them what to do and the King made him boss over everything.

Soon Joseph's brothers had no food - they went to Egypt and asked the boss for some - they did not know it was Joseph. Joseph forgave them for being bad to him and invited the whole family to come and live with him in Egypt - they all had plenty to eat. *(Hold up Card)* **And God was there.**



Genesis 50: 19- 21



**Talk**

Joseph's story starts with him being a bit of a show-off with his fancy coat and telling people what dreams meant. It's not surprising that his brothers hated him and got rid of him - but what they meant to harm Joseph God meant for good. It was God who showed Joseph what all the dreams were about and it was through that gift of being able to tell what dreams meant - that people noticed

Joseph and got him in a place of power and authority - and able to help lots of people. Even when the brothers came and asked for help - Joseph helped them - those same people who had tried to get rid of him. Joseph was able to love them and forgive them for all they did to him and they all lived together and had plenty of food.

God has given each of us a special talent - something we can do well - how do we use that talent to help others?

Like Joseph our lives will have times of great happiness and times of great sadness - but remember **God is there** with you at all times.



### Prayer Time

Joseph forgave people who had done bad things to him. Can we forgive people who have hurt us? To forgive means to "let off". It's a hard thing to do so we need to ask Jesus to help us. By forgiving someone you are not saying that what the other person did was okay - but rather than you have decided not to hold it against them. The Lord's Prayer says **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us** (*hands clasped together in front of the body and then released; turn and shake hands with the people either side - part of the Lord's prayer with actions*)

In small groups people may want to talk about people who have hurt them. Remind people if we don't let that person off, we still feel hurt - that is because God can't heal us until we forgive the person who hurt us. People may want to write or draw someone who has hurt them.

Then lead an echo prayer.

- Dear God (group echo)
- Thank you that you forgive me when I do things wrong. (group echo)
- I want to forgive (name of person said quietly) for what they did to me. (group echo)
- Please heal this sore part of my life. (group echo)
- Please bless (name of person said silently) (group echo)

Amen

After this prayer - ask people to rip up papers and put in bucket.  
Don't attempt this prayer time unless you have sufficient time and helpers to support people - remember to encourage everyone including helpers and carers to pray.



**Possible Craft - Sack of Corn** with bible verse on card  
Cut out sack shape from card or cloth. Glue tied string on and add some corn kernels or something to represent corn. Glue appropriate bible verse beside the sack.

A reminder that we must forgive as God forgives us and Joseph forgave his brothers.

..You thought evil against me, but God meant it for good..."  
Genesis 50:20



### Possible Songs

We are here together (Prospects)  
The Bible is the word of God (Prospects)  
Jesus love is very wonderful  
God who made the earth  
God's love is great (Prospects)

