

OVERVIEW CARD

God Talks to Joseph

Key Question: Who has a plan for you? **Bottom Line:** God has a plan for me.

Memory Verse: "For I know the plans I have for you,"

says the Lord. Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

Bible Story: God has a plan for my family.

God Talks to Joseph Genesis 37; Jeremiah 1:5

Coloring Page: Joseph's brothers sell him.

Music: Life with Jesus

Great Big God

This Little Light of Mine

Story: The Jesus Storybook Bible

The Forgiving Prince

Pages 76 to 83

Service Time: 74 minutes



ACTIVITY PAGE God Talks to Joseph

Story: The Kissing Hand

What You Need: The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn, Ruth E. Harper and Nancy M. Leak

What You Do: Gather the children together on the carpet and read the book...

What You Say:

"That was a great story! Chester Raccoon didn't want to go to school--he wanted to stay home with his mother. His mommy assured him that he would love school and she had a special secret that had been in the family for years--the Kissing Hand. This secret, she told him, would make school seem as cozy as home. She took her son's hand, spread his tiny fingers into a fan and kissed his palm--smack dab in the middle: "Chester felt his mother's kiss rush from his hand, up his arm, and into his heart." Whenever he felt lonely at school, all he has to do is press his hand to his cheek to feel the warmth of his mother's kiss.

In our Bible lesson today we heard about how Joseph was separated from his loved ones too. Joseph's brothers were angry with him and they sold him to some men who were going to a faraway place called Egypt. They made Joseph leave their family and go with the men to the faraway place! Oh, no! Joseph wasn't with his family anymore. How would you feel if you had to leave your family? (*Pause.*) I would be sad and afraid and miss my mom and my dad and my room and my own bed! I would miss those things so very much!

"Well, Joseph was SO sad to be so far from his family in the strange place! But you know what? Even though it seemed like Joseph was alone, he knew that God was still with him and God still had a plan for him! So he took a deep breath, and he said, 'I'm a (point to self with right thumb) big fan (punch right arm up in air) of God's plan!' (Point fingers and raise arms above head.) Even when things weren't easy, God had a plan for Joseph. And God has a plan for me and you!



ACTIVITY PAGE God Talks to Joseph

Line It Up

What You Need: Painter's tape, 11 plastic round balls, and 1 soft football.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Put a length of painter's tape on the floor, making sure the length is equal or greater than that of the balls when they're lined up.

During the activity: Encourage the children to line up all of the balls, identify them, and count all the balls that are alike and the one ball that is different. Talk about the differences of the one special ball.

What You Say: "Look at these balls. There are so many of them! Let's see if we can line them all up on this strip of tape. Ready? (Pause.) Go! (You may need to assist the children in getting all of the balls lined up.) Wow! That was super great! These colored balls—what kind of balls are they? (Pause.) Plastic balls! Can you help me count them? (Pause.) There are one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven colored plastic balls! Whew, that was good counting! There's one more ball, but it's not a colored plastic ball. This is a different shape and color. Do you know what type of ball it is? (Pause.) It's a football! Footballs are a totally different shape and color than the plastic round balls, aren't they? Can you play football with a plastic round ball? (Pause.) No! Could you play baseball with a football? (Pause.) No way!

"In our story today heard more about Joseph. (*Pick up the football.*) God made him special and different from his brothers. He had eleven brothers (*touch or gather all the plastic round balls*), just like we had eleven plastic round balls. Eleven brothers is a lot of brothers! But God had a plan for Joseph and his brothers and we heard about it in our Bible lesson today."



ACTIVITY PAGE God Talks to Joseph

God gave each of us Families

What You Need: No supplies necessary

What You Do:

Teach the children a fun song about how God gave us families by using the following words to the tune "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow:"

Oh, God gave each of us families.

Oh, God gave each of us families.

Oh, God gave each of us families,

Because He loves us so.

Tell the children that you are going to sing a song about how God gave us all families. Tell them that before you start over each time, you are going to ask them to do something while you sing. For example, have the children skip, dance, hop, crawl, march, clap, etc...while you sing the song.

What You Say: "I want you to think for a minute about your family—your grandparents, cousins, brothers, sisters, mom, dad—your WHOLE family. Do you know that God has a plan for your family, just like He has a plan for you? (*Pause.*) He sure does! God has a plan for your family!"



ACTIVITY God Talks to Joseph

Family Bowling

What You Need: "Family Bowling" from the Activity Pages on the Website, cardstock, scissors, tape, eleven regular-sized water bottles, and a playground ball.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make a copy of the "Family Bowling" picture onto cardstock. Cut out the faces of Joseph and his brothers and tape them to the water bottles. Once you have done that, arrange the water bottles like bowling pins in an area of the room.

During the activity: Help the kids bowl. Talk about the eleven brothers Joseph had and try to knock them down. When the pins have been knocked down, set them up again. Repeat as many times as desired.

What You Say: "I have a fun game to play with you today! We are going to roll the ball and knock these bottles over. (Demonstrate.) Want to give it a try? (Pause.) Great job! You knocked over (say number) bottles! Let's count all the bottles as we stand them back up. (Point to each on as you count.) One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven! Eleven bottles and they all have faces on them; these are Joseph's brothers! Okay, roll it again. Super! You knocked (say number) of Joseph's brothers over!" (Continue as long as there's interest.)

At the end of the activity: "That was fun! We learned that God had a plan for Joseph and his family. God has a plan for us, too. Who has a plan for you? (Pause.) God has a plan for me."



ACTIVITY God Talks to Joseph

Catch!

What You Need: One inflatable baseball.

What You Do: Stand in a circle with the children. Hold the inflated baseball in front of you as you say the Memory Verse out loud. Put a child's name in the verse and then throw the ball to that child. Ask him/her to throw it back to you. Continue saying the verse over and over, putting a different child's name in the verse each time. (Continue as long as there's interest.)

What You Say:

During the activity: (Open Bible.) "Our new Bible verse says, "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord,' Jeremiah 29:11. Listen as I say the verse. If you hear your name, get ready to catch the ball! Everybody got it? (Pause.) Great! Here we go! "For I know the plans I have for (child's name)," says the Lord,' Jeremiah 29:11." (Repeat the verse with each child's name, continuing as long as there's interest.)

At the end of the activity: "That was fun! You guys can really catch! But the best part of that game is knowing that God has a plan for (name of child) and (name of child) and ... (say each child's name). Who has a plan for you? (Pause.) God has a plan for me!"



ACTIVITY God Talks to Joseph

Family Portrait

What You Need: "Family" from the Activity Pages on the Website, white paper, markers, and crayons.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Copy "Family" from the Activity Pages onto white paper for each child.

During the activity: Talk with the children about their families. Who do they live with? Who do they see at Christmas? Give each child an activity page and instruct the children to draw their family members. Walk around to each child and encourage them by telling them that God has a plan for their family. (Option: If time allows, let the children share their pictures with the class.)

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I want you to think for a minute about your family—your grandparents, cousins, brothers, sisters, mom, dad—your WHOLE family. Do you know that God has a plan for your family, just like He has a plan for you? (Pause.) He sure does! God has a plan for your family! Okay, now I want you to do something REALLY special. I want you to draw a picture of your family on this paper." (Hand each child a "Family" Activity Page.)

At the end of the activity: "Your family pictures are so beautiful! I'm proud of you! You can go home and show your picture to your family. Tell them that God has a plan for them, just like He has a plan for you! Who has a plan for you? (Pause.) God has a plan for me!"



CRAFT God Talks to Joseph

My Family Tree

"What You Need: "Family Tree," activity page, "leaf" stickers and crayons or markers.

What You Do:

During the Activity: Have the children color their tree stump with crayons or markers and then allow the children to add leaf stickers to their tree. Once the children are ready, help the children write all of their family members on the leaves to represent their family tree. Talk about all the people that make up the child's family.

What You Say: "We are going to make a tree by adding leaf stickers to the picture of the tree stump. Look at your tree! It's so special, just like you! God made me and you and everybody in your family! God has a plan for you and everyone in your family. God has a plan for you and a plan for me. Who has a plan for you? (Pause.) God has a plan for me."