

ALLEY SG – August 19-21, 2023

Today's Bible Story: Change the World (Joseph and the Plan to Save Egypt) • *Genesis 40–41*

Today's Key Question: How have you seen someone solve a problem?

Today's Bottom Line: You can use what God gave you to solve problems.

Monthly Memory Verse: *For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)*

1. Bible Story Extension

What You Need: Bible, index cards (a lot per bin), pens

What You Do:

- Review the Bible story by asking kids to take turns sharing what they found most interesting, surprising, and creative about the events in today's story.
 - Refer to Genesis 40-41 to refresh their minds on the details of the story or for accuracy as kids review what they remember.
 - Remind kids that Joseph made good use of the skills God gave him. When faced with a difficult problem, God helped Joseph figure out what to do then He helped him do it.
- Form teams of two or three kids.
- Give each team a Bible, 12 index cards, and a pen for each kid.
- Challenge teams to write down six different problems the people in today's story encountered, one on each card.
- On the other six cards, tell them to write the solution that was found for each of the problems.
- If needed, give kids an example or two to get them thinking in the right direction, but challenge them to provide the problems and solutions themselves.
- They can refer to the story in Genesis 40-41 for ideas if needed.
- When finished, teams can trade sets of index cards with each other and play a matching game.
- Instruct them to turn all the cards face down and lay them out in a grid.
- Each kid takes turns flipping over two cards.
- If the problem matches the solution, they keep the cards.
- If it does not, the two cards are turned back over in the same place they were and it's another kid's turn.
- Bring kids back together to talk about what it means to solve problems creatively and in ways that honor God.
 - How have you seen someone solve a problem using something you/they are good at?
 - Joseph discovered the gifts he had that would help him solve problems. What are some ways you can discover what you're good at?
 - What are some things you already know you're good at? How can those skills help you solve problems?
- Remind kids that when we face a problem, big or small, we can ask God to help us use our gifts and creativity to figure it out.
 - God is the inventor of creative problem solving.
 - Maybe God will remind them of a verse that gives them just the answer they need.
 - Maybe God will use their family or a trusted friend to help them know the right thing to do.
- Challenge kids to get creative and make good use of their God-given skills the way Joseph did.

2. Take a Snapshot

What You Need: Leader's Phone (if you have one. Don't need to do this activity if you don't)

What You Do:

- Show kids the following short video "TOMS Shoes' CEO Gives a Pair Away for Every Sale" by clicking on this link or scanning the QR code below: bit.ly/3Udj11



- Ask:
 - What problem did Blake Mycoskie want to help solve?
 - What would you say is the first step in solving any problem whether it's big or small?
- Talk about how the first step in *solving* a problem is to *notice* the problem and then to use the creativity God gave us to find a solution.
 - What would you say qualifies as a BIG problem?
 - What are some big problems you come across as a kid?
 - What are some little problems kids face and can solve?
 - How can you start noticing when there is a problem that you're able to help with?

3. Discussion Questions

Ask:

- What are some BIG problems that seem impossible to solve?
- What's the response when kids your age come up with BIG ideas or solutions? How do people react, and what do they say? What do you wish would happen?
- Have you or any of your friends come up with a BIG idea that would help someone else in need—especially in another part of the world? What can you do and who else could help? (*Come up with some action steps as a group*).
- What are some of the things you're good at or that you enjoy, that you could use to help solve problems around you?

4. Verses to Take with You

What You Need: Bibles, "Scribbles" Activity Page (1 per student), pens, Markers

What You Do:

- Give each kid a copy of "Scribbles" Activity Page.
- Ask:
 - If the messy drawing on the "Scribbles" page represented one big problem every person faced, what might that problem be?

- How can our humanness be a problem? (*It keeps us from having a good relationship with God. Because God is perfect and we're not, our imperfectness will always get in the way of us and God.*)
- Tell kids that for some problems there may be more than one solution. However, when it comes to the problem of us needing to be saved, there's only one solution.
- Invite kids to look up Acts 4:12.
- Point out that even though we have a broken relationship with God, God gave us a solution to our problem. Because of Jesus, we can have a forever relationship with God.
- Ask:
 - What did Jesus do to solve our problem? (*Died for us, and God raised Him back to life*)
- Challenge kids to write a few words inside the loops and swirls on their page that express what Acts 4:12 means to them. They can choose key words from the verse or simple phrases of their own that summarize the meaning.
- When finished with their simple summaries, invite them to use markers to color the sections of the design in different colors to create a work of art.

5. Pray

- “Dear God, thank You that we can come to You with our problems and know that You hear us. You are in charge of everything, so we know that You see us and that nothing happens that You don’t know about. Show us the strengths and the abilities You’ve given us to help others when they are facing a problem. Help us to take notice and step in when we can. In Jesus’ name, amen.”