

Joseph Helps His Family

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference

Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21

Church Season

Pentecost

Lesson Focus

God can turn bad into good!



Tear here for easy use!

If you are using the Semi-Continuous version of the Revised Common Lectionary (ELCIC, Episcopal Church USA, Anglican Church of Canada, PCUSA, United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ), the lesson for Lectionary 24 is The Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-30). The leader material for this lesson is found on page 93. The leaflet for this lesson is included with all other leaflets for this quarter.

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Play Time Kids explore by playing kitchen, using play dough, and using their helping hands to help clean up your gathering space.</p>	<p>Coloring Pages </p>	<p>Large piece of fabric or sheet, play kitchenware (dishes, utensils, pretend food, etc.), green play dough, craft sticks, dishpan, water, towels, sponges, washcloths, crayons</p>
<p>Circle Time Kids discuss helping hands in relation to the day's story.</p>	<p>Leaflet</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Prayer Time Kids echo words and actions to a prayer.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Joseph Helps His Family Storytelling Kids hear the Joseph Helps His Family story, and are reminded of the lesson focus.</p>	<p>Spark Story Bibles</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Gifts Galore Kids connect the dots to see how Joseph helped his family and add stickers by the gifts he gave to them.</p>	<p>Leaflets, Lesson Stickers</p>	<p>Pencils</p>


Lesson At-A-Glance

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>On the Move Kids cut pictures out of magazines and glue them into a suitcase to show what they would pack for a big move.</p>	Leaflets	Kid-friendly magazines, kid-safe scissors, glue sticks, moist towelettes
<p>Helping Hands Kids identify themselves as helpers, trace their hands, and write their names.</p>	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Crayons or markers
<p>Finger Puppet Play Kids sing a finger puppet play game about ways to help.</p>	Leaflet	None

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<p>Good-bye Time Kids review the lesson and say good-bye with a rhyme.</p>	Leaflet	None
<p>Prayer Time Kids hold hands to pray.</p>	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: a Coloring Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Before kids arrive, lay out a piece of fabric or sheet. Set the play kitchenware on top. As kids arrive, invite them to play kitchen or picnic together using the kitchenware. Encourage kids to serve and dine with one another. In another area, provide play dough and craft sticks for kids to explore. In another area, set out a dishpan of water, towels, sponges, and washcloths. Invite kids to sweep, dust, and wipe down tables and chairs in your space. **There's lots to keep your helping hands busy here today!** Provide copies of this lesson's Coloring Page for kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

Once all of the kids have had time to play, invite them to help put away the supplies and join you in a circle on the floor. Chant the following rhyme to help everyone transition to Circle Time.

**I can help. You can help.
We're helpers, one and all!**

Circle Time

Welcome kids enthusiastically! **Hello, everyone. I'm glad to see you! Let's say and play a rhyme to see who's here!** Repeat the following rhyme using each of the kids' names.

[Name]'s here!
[Name]'s here!
Clap your hands and
Give a cheer!
[Name] is in God's house today!
Hooray! Hooray!
Hooray! Hooray! (clap and cheer)

Following the chant, discuss the activities your group did during Play Time. **Our classroom looks super shiny! Thanks for cleaning. What were your hands busy doing in the kitchen earlier?** (*servicing food, sharing, pretending to eat*) **Thanks for serving and sharing! How else do you use your helping hands?** (*praying, holding hands with a friend, clapping*) **In today's Bible story, we'll hear more about helping hands—the helping hands of Joseph.** Provide brief background information about Joseph: his brothers were mad at him and sold him to strangers who took him far away, but God was always with him. **Joseph had a lot of bad things that happened to him. But today, we'll hear how God turned the bad into good for Joseph!**

Hold up the leaflet and point to the icon on the front. **We're in the church's Season of Pentecost right now, and the color for Pentecost is green. What do you see in this picture?** (*road and tree*) **Who made things with green play dough during Play Time? During Pentecost, we grow as God's people.**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Large piece of fabric or sheet
Play kitchenware (dishes, utensils, pretend food, etc.)
Green play dough
Craft sticks
Dishpan
Water
Towels
Sponges
Washcloths
Crayons

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

Prayer Time

Before we begin reading, let's pray. Echo what I say and do.

Thank you, God, for hands. Hold out your hands.

Thank you, God, for helpers. Gesture to the kids around you.

Only you, God, can take something bad Pound a fist into your other palm.

And make something good! Cross arms across self in a self-hug.

Amen!

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Joseph Helps His Family Storytelling

Gather kids in a circle. **It's time to hear a story from God's word, the Bible. Joseph has had some rough times, but God was always with Joseph, even when things were bad. In today's story, we learn that God is taking the bad things that are happening around Joseph** (pound a fist into your other palm) **and turning them into good things** (hug self). **Listen carefully to the story. When I say, "Ah-ha!" and raise my finger in the air, I want you to remind me that God can take bad and make it good.** Teach the kids the following actions to match the words:

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

None

God can take (pat each syllable on knees)

Bad (pound a fist into your other palm)

And make it (pat each syllable on knees)

Good (hug self)

Practice the words and actions together, leading them with the cues of a raised finger and the phrase, "Ah-ha!"

Distribute copies of the Spark Story Bible, helping kids find Joseph Helps His Family, which starts on page 60. Read the story through once, inviting kids to follow along. Then read it again, involving kids actively. At the end of every other paragraph in the story (four times), pause to say "Ah-ha!" and lead the group in doing the chant and actions.

Following the story, discuss using the following questions. Allow time between each for discussion. **Surprising new things happened for Joseph! Who did he help?** (*hungry people, his family*) **How did he help them?** (*He gave them food he had been saving, clothes, water, wagons, land.*) **Joseph had been through such hard times. But God was with Joseph, and turned the bad into good! Joseph was so happy to be with his family again! He forgave them for all the terrible things they did, and helped them.** Do the actions one more time. **Ah-ha! God can take bad, and make it good!**

Tear here for easy use!

Gifts Galore

Move to a table and distribute leaflets and pencils, so that each kid has one of each.

How did Joseph help his family? (*He gave them food he had been saving, clothes, water, wagons, land.*) Direct kids' attention to the Gifts Galore activity on the front of the leaflet. **There's a puzzle on our leaflet today that will show a way that Joseph helped his family.**

Help kids get started on the dot-to-dot puzzle. **Find the dot with a number 1 next to it. Now spot the dot with a number 2 next to it. Draw a straight line from dot 1 to dot 2. What dot should you look for now? (3) Yes, 3 is next! Keep going, all the way to 15.** Allow time for the kids to complete the dot-to-dot. Some kids will need more help than others, so move around the space throughout the activity, offering help to those who need it.

When kids have finished, discuss the results. **What picture did you make?** (*a present or gift*) **Some of the gifts pictured here were not part of the story. Place a sticker next to the presents that Joseph did give.** (*food in a wagon, water, clothes*) Distribute stickers and allow time for kids to attach them.

Joseph gave his family helpful gifts. Joseph had been in a rough situation. But God made the bad into good. Joseph was able to help his family and forgive them for all the bad things they had done!

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Pencils

Tear here for easy use!

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

On the Move

Direct kids' attention to On the Move on the back of the leaflet. **God made a bad situation into good. God helped Joseph help his family. What things did Joseph do for his family?** (*He gave them food, clothes, a place to live, etc.*) **One thing that Joseph did was to move his family to live by him! How nice!**

Moving to Egypt was a big move for Joseph's family. Have you ever made a big move? Allow time for kids to respond. **What would you pack if you were moving?** Allow time for kids to respond. Answers will vary, but may include: clothes, food, a special toy, etc.

Distribute magazines, kid-safe scissors, and glue sticks. **Cut out pictures of things you would bring from these magazines and glue them in or near the suitcase.**

Give kids time to create. If time allows, invite kids to show what they glued in their suitcases. Have moist towelettes available for quick and easy clean up.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Kid-friendly magazines
Kid-safe scissors
Glue sticks
Moist towelettes

Helping Hands

Joseph helped his family. You can help your family, too! How can you use your hands to help your family? (*share, hug, clean, put things away*) **Do your helping hands help make bad things into good?** Allow kids to respond, accepting all answers.

We're going to trace our helping hands in the space on your leaflets. Point to the space. **I'll help you write your name on the line. It says, "_____'s hands are Helping Hands."**

Distribute crayons or markers and invite kids to trace and decorate their hands. Provide assistance if they need help, or encourage them to get help from a neighbor. As they work, discuss more ways that kids can use their helping hands.

When kids are finished, distribute the rectangle stickers. **Put this sticker on your clothes as a reminder that you can help your family like Joseph did! It says, "I have helping hands!" When you go home today, think of how your hands can be helping hands.**

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies
Crayons or markers

Tear here for easy use!

Finger Puppet Play

Move the group to an open space on the floor. Invite kids to sit in a circle. Hold up a leaflet and point to the icon on the front. **We are in the church Season of Pentecost. During Pentecost we learn about being God's helping people. We're going to sing a song to help us remember that we can be helpers. God gives us lots of ways that we can help others—God helps turns bad into good. When someone spills, we can clean it up. When someone is sad, we can give a hug. Let's sing the song and share some more ideas!**

Sing the song to the tune of the classic finger play, "Thumbkin."

Where is helper? Where is helper? (hide hands behind back)

Here I am! (reveal thumb on left hand)

Here I am! (reveal thumb on right hand)

Can you help today, sir? (wiggle thumbs as if they are chatting)

I can (fill in helping idea). (keep wiggling)

Let's go help. (hide one hand)

Let's go help. (hide other hand)

After one verse, ask kids to fill in the names of the other fingers and suggest ways they help. **What do you do to help?** (*share, hug, clean, listen*) Use their answers to name a helping idea for each of the other four fingers.

Spark Resources
Leaflet

Supplies
None

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Thank you for being here today, my helpers! All the bad (make the fist action) **that had happened to Joseph finally turned into good** (cross your arms in a self-hug). **God helped Joseph so that Joseph could help his family. You are a helper, too! Your helping hands have been busy today—cleaning, sharing, and taking care of your friends. With God’s help, you can turn bad into good, too!**

Do you ever help at the grocery store? How? (*push the cart, help remember items on the list, load or unload cart and vehicle, carry bags, put away items*) Hold up the leaflet. **Be sure to take home your leaflet and read the Faith on the Go! idea with an adult.** Point it out. **This week there is an idea for how you and your family can work together to be like Joseph and help feed hungry people.**

Before we go, let’s say good-bye with a rhyme. Repeat the rhyme until all of the kids have been named. Give each kid a hug or high-five following the rhyme.

**Good-bye, [Name],
Our great friend.
God will be with you
Until we meet again!**

Prayer Time

Let’s join hands and pray to end our time together. Please pray with me. Have kids echo a phrase at a time after you.

**Dear God,
Thanks for hands. Thanks for helpers.
Thanks for taking bad and making it good.
You are so good, God!
Amen.**

Be sure to send leaflets and Family Pages home with kids.

Spark Resources
Leaflet

Supplies
None

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Tear here for easy use!