

October 8, 2017

Bible Focus: Joseph Forgives • *Genesis 42–45; Psalm 16:11*

Memory Verse: “So let us do all we can to live in peace.” Romans 14:19, NIRV

Key Question: Who can help you choose peace?

Bottom Line: God can help me choose peace.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

Here’s what you’ll be teaching in 3s–5s this week.

Social (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

All Service Times

- Chex Count

Bible (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)

All Service Times

- Bible History Presentation in the Sandbox

Journaling (9:30, 10:45, 12:00)

All Service Times

- Small Group Time
- Prayer

Groups (9:35, 10:50, 12:05)

9:00 & 11:30

- Joseph’s Story

10:15

- Share Big

All Service Times

- Dismiss–Parent CUE

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Social (Introductory Activities, 10 minutes)

Let one teacher lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

All Service Times

Chex Count

“Chex Count” is a fine motor skills activity that uses focus and counting skills.

What You Need: 2 large bowls, mini gelato spoons, and a box of Rice Chex.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Pour the box of Rice Chex[®] into one of the bowls and place it on a chair or table in your play area. Place the second empty bowl about five feet away on another chair or table.

During the activity: Give each child a spoon and ask children to line up single file in front of the bowl of Rice Chex[®]. Challenge them to go one at a time, using only a gelato spoon to pick up Chex[®] and put them into the empty bowl.

At the end of the activity: Have the children sit down. Then take the second bowl and together, as a class, count how many Chex[®] were dropped into it.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Today we are going to play a game. I have a lot of Rice Chex[®] in this bowl. (*Point to first bowl.*) How many Rice Chex[®] do I have in this bowl? (*Point to second bowl.*) You’re right! There’s none! We need to fix that. Let’s use this straw (*hold up gelato spoon*) and see if we can move the Rice Chex[®] over to this empty bowl. Watch how I do it. (*Demonstrate.*) Okay, are you ready?”

At the end of the activity: “Great job! I see a lot Rice Chex[®] in the bowl. Let’s count and see just how many we have. (*Count the Rice Chex[®] with the class.*) Wow! You got (*number*) Rice Chex[®] into the bowl using only a tiny straw! Wahoo! Today in our Bible Truth, Joseph counts something, too. Are you ready to find out what? (*Pause.*) Me, too! Let’s get ready for our Bible Truth.”

Bible (Large Group, 20 minutes)

After children have participated in Social, gather them for a large group time that includes interactive worship, introductory sketch and Bible Truth. Place your “We are in the Sandbox” sign on the door as you leave. Travel to the Sandbox.

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Journaling (Small Groups, 5 minutes)

Journaling is designed to help preschoolers understand how the Bottom Line applies to them. They’ll discuss real-life experiences and share prayer requests.

Give each child a cup of Chex cereal to snack on while you take them through the following exercise.

What you Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Romans 14:19. Journal and a fun-shaped pen. Reward stamps.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Joseph did something TOTALLY amazing in our Bible Truth today. Does anyone remember what Joseph did that was hard but amazing all at the same time? *(Pause.)* I’ll give you a hint. He did it to his brothers—the ones who were mean to him. *(Pause.)* Yes! Joseph forgave his brothers for being mean! Joseph hugged them and loved them and gave them food to eat! Joseph was able to choose peace! Who do you think helped him do that? *(Pause)* Yeah, God helped Joseph choose peace. Way to go, Joe!”

“You know, God’s plan for you and me is to forgive people when they hurt us or make us mad, just like Joseph did. Yep! Forgiveness is always a part of God’s plan. I’m glad God can help us choose peace. **Who can help you choose peace?** *(Pause.)* **[Bottom Line] God can help me choose peace.**”

“Before we pray, you have one last chance to say our Bible verse all by yourself for a sticker/hand stamp. I know you can do it! Who wants to go first?”

Allow each child to try and say the verse. Give a sticker or a hand stamp to anyone who tries.

“I hope you always remember that verse.”

“Now what should we write in our journal today? Hmm ... I know! Why don’t we write down our very own names? I’ll pass our journal around and you can write your name. Then when we pray, we can ask God to help us forgive people when they hurt us or make us mad. After all, forgiveness is a way to choose peace, right? *(Pause.)* Right!

Pass the journal and pen around so that each child can print their name in it.

“Okay, now we’re ready. Let’s pray.”

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, we want to forgive others. We know that’s Your plan for us. Help us to always forgive the same way You have forgiven us. We want to do it because we love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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Groups (Application Activities, 25 minutes)

9:00 & 11:30

Joseph’s Story

The “Joseph’s Story” activity uses sequencing and fine motor skills to review the Bible Truth.

What You Need: Set of “Joseph and His Brothers,” “Joseph in Jail,” “Joseph Gathering Grain,” and “Joseph Hugging His Brothers” for each child, plastic baggie

What You Do:

During the activity: As the children color their cards, retell the Bible Truth using the Bible Truth Review pictures.

At the end of the activity: Add the children’s cards to their baggies and send them home.

What You Say: “Joseph had a big family! He had how many brothers? *(Pause.)* Eleven! Count with me. *(Use your fingers as you count.)* One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven! *(Point to the eleven brothers in the picture of Joseph’s family.)* Joseph’s brothers were very jealous of Joseph! They sent him far away. But Joseph knew that God was with him and that God had a plan. Joseph got a job and was really good at it, but he got thrown in jail. *(Point to the picture of Joseph in jail.)* Joseph didn’t complain; he prayed to God and helped the people that were in the jail, too.

“God also helped Joseph tell the king what his dream meant, so Pharaoh put him in charge of everything. *(Point out Week 4 card and have them color it. Hold up the big picture.)* Joseph’s new job was to save all the food he could before there wasn’t any food to find. When the food ran out, the people could eat the food Joseph saved. How many sacks of grain did Joseph save? *(Pause.)* One, two, three, four, five, six, seven! When there was no other food to eat, the people came to Joseph and he gave them food to eat. This was all part of God’s plan.

“There were also some hungry people that lived far away and they too came to see Joseph to ask for food. Do you remember who it was? *(Pause.)* Joseph’s brothers! But they didn’t know who he was! But Joseph remembered them and all the things they did to him, but he didn’t get mad. He chose peace! Joseph was happy to see his brothers again and gave them all a big hug and he gave them food to eat! *(Point to the Week 5*

card and have them color it. Hold up the big picture.) It was all part of God's plan! God Helped Joseph choose peace by forgiving his brothers.

"Who can help you choose peace? (Pause.) [Bottom Line] God can help me choose peace. Look at all the pictures of Joseph's story! You get to take your cards home and tell your family all about Joseph's story and the plan that God had for him."

10:15

Share Bag

"Share Bag" is a fine motor skills activity that teaches relationship skills as well as reviewing the Bible Truth.

What You Need: White paper lunch sacks, crayons, stickers, small candies, and small treat bag toys.

What You Do:

During the activity: Give each child a bag and have them decorate it with the crayons and stickers. Once they're finished, allow them to choose some candy and small toys to go inside their bag.

At the end of the activity: Encourage the children to give the bag away. They can take the bag home to give away or they can give them to someone in the classroom.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "In our Bible Truth today, Joseph gave people food to eat. He even gave some to his brothers who were mean to him, because he was able to forgive them for what they did. God likes it when we choose to be nice and share. Here are some bags (*hand each child a bag*) and some fun things (*spread items out in the center of your workspace*) to go in them. Color and decorate your bags and fill them with the treats. Once you're finished, you can pick someone to give it to. Are you ready?"

At the end of the activity: "Your bags are gorgeous! I am so proud of you for picking someone to give it to. Joseph did not think of himself when the people and his brothers were hungry. He gave food to them because God helped him to choose peace! God can help you choose peace by forgiving others too! **Who can help you choose peace? (Pause.) Yes! [Bottom Line] God can help me choose peace!**"

All Service Times

Get Ready to Dismiss