



PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5th grade.

September 5, 2021 – Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 37)

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: Reconciliation

This unit we will focus on the spiritual practice of exploring reconciliation through forgiveness. The definition for reconciliation we will use is to bring peace between persons who have disagreed. The Bible is full of stories about disagreements and conflict, as well as forgiveness and reconciliation. Throughout Unit 1, we will talk about the conflict between Joseph and his brothers, and their final reconciliation.

The father of Joseph, Jacob, had twelve sons. Jacob considered Joseph the favorite of all his sons. He gave Joseph a special robe that we often refer to as “the robe of many colors.” It was beautiful, and it had long sleeves. During Bible times, long-sleeved garments were for the privileged. Workers couldn’t wear long sleeves because they would get in the way of their work. Joseph’s brothers worked in the field with short-sleeved garments. Seeing Joseph with his long-sleeved robe filled the brothers with jealousy. They believed he was privileged since he did not have to work in the fields like they did.

The special robe was not the only reason the brothers resented Joseph. Joseph also had a gift for dreaming and interpreting dreams. He told his brothers of a dream where they bowed down to him. That was the last straw. They decided to get rid of Joseph. The brothers decided to sell Joseph to a slave trader on the way to Egypt.

The brothers were jealous of Joseph, which led to conflict. Joseph may have added to the conflict by acting smug. There didn’t seem to be reconciliation in this Bible story. Reconciliation can take a long time. We have several more Bible stories about Joseph and his brothers. Look for signs leading to reconciliation as you read them.

Wonder with Me

READ the Bible Story

- Joseph and His Brothers, from Genesis 37 (*Read from your Bible or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

WATCH the Bible Story

- <https://youtu.be/NR5wMaejuFM>

SHARE the Faith Word

Faith Word: Reconciliation – means to bring peace between persons who have disagreed.

WONDER Together:

1. Have you ever felt jealous about someone or something?
2. Who was jealous in our story today?
3. Was there any forgiveness or reconciliation in our story today?
4. Who is it that helps us be able to forgive and reconcile our relationships with others?

Spiritual Practice

• Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Spiritual Practice

After reading the bible story from the Bible or from the picture above, do the spiritual practice together.

Say: A spiritual practice is something we do to help us connect to God. We just talked about the conflict between Joseph and his brothers. We also talked about forgiveness. Forgiveness means to let go of any bad feelings about another person after that person has hurt you.

Say: Lie down and place your hands on your tummy.

Say: Say, "I'm mad," as you inhale and watch your tummy get small.

Say: "I forgive," as you exhale and watch your tummy grow with God's love.

Go in Peace

Blessing: Touch your child and say: **"May you always carry forgiveness in your heart. God bless you."**

Prayer: Dear God, help me forgive myself and others. Amen.

Additional Activity for each age group

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)

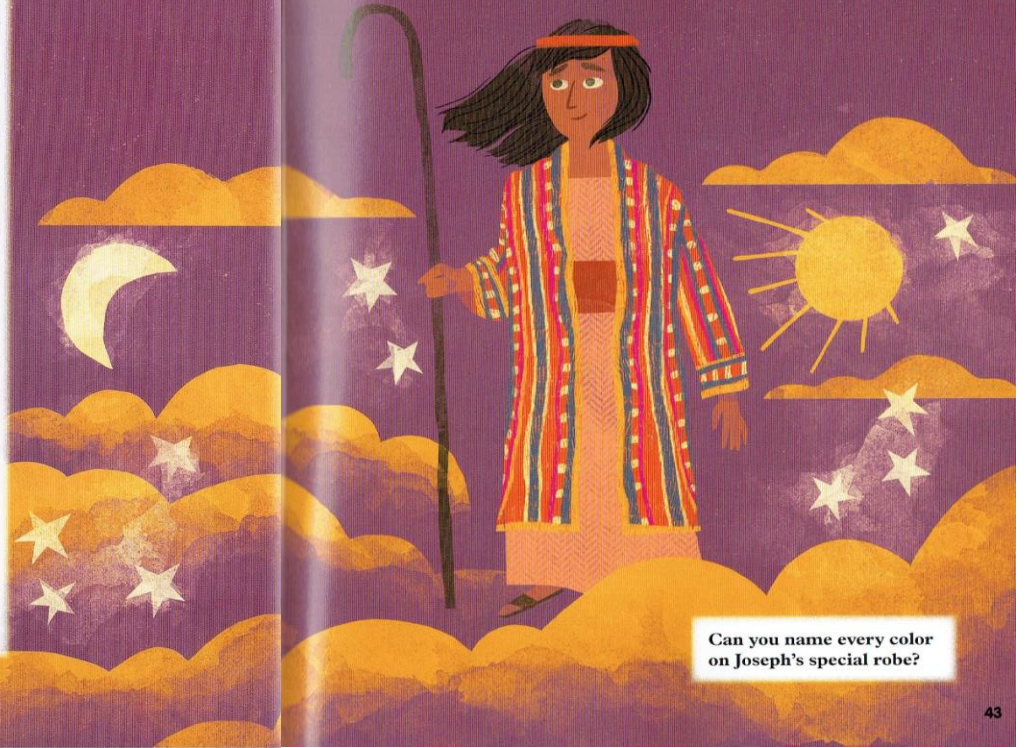
Joseph and His Brothers

Genesis 37:1-36

Jacob got older, got married, and had twelve sons—one was Joseph. He was Jacob's favorite son. Jacob gave Joseph a special robe. None of the brothers had a robe like it. It made the brothers angry.

Joseph also had special dreams. Joseph's dreams made his brothers even angrier. "I dreamed that we were bundling grain. Your grain bundles bowed down to my bundle. I also dreamed that the sun, the moon, and the stars bowed down to me. It means that you will all bow down to me," said Joseph. None of his brothers wanted to bow down to him.

The brothers went out to the fields to herd the sheep. Jacob sent Joseph to check on them. The brothers saw Joseph and came up with a plan to get rid of him. They took his robe and threw him into a pit until some traveling traders came by. The brothers sold Joseph to the traders and told their dad he was dead.



Can you name every color on Joseph's special robe?

Color Sheet for all



Faith Word—Unit 1

RECONCILIATION



Preschool Activity

Song and Activity Sheet

Supplies: copy of the preschool activity sheet below.

Teach your child the following song about our Bible story today to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell”

(Sing) Joseph had a robe. His brothers, they were mad.
Joseph had a robe. His brothers, they were mad.
The robe had many colors because of Joseph’s special robe.
Joseph had a robe. His brothers, they were mad.

Say: We know that Joseph’s brothers were mad that Joseph received a coat from his father and that he had a dream his brothers bowed down to him. That made them very angry!

Wonder: What do you think a dream showing the brothers bowing down to Joseph might mean? Why would that dream make his brothers mad?

Joseph and His Brothers – Coloring Page

Jacob gave his son, Joseph, a colorful coat to wear. What colors do you think Joseph's coat should have? Color the coat using lots of colors. Then color the rest of the page.



Early Elementary Activity

Joseph's Coat & Word Search

Supplies: copies of the activity sheets below

SAY: **Jacob gave his son Joseph a special coat to wear. Enjoy one or both of these activities!**

Older Elementary Activity

Joseph's Coat & Word Search

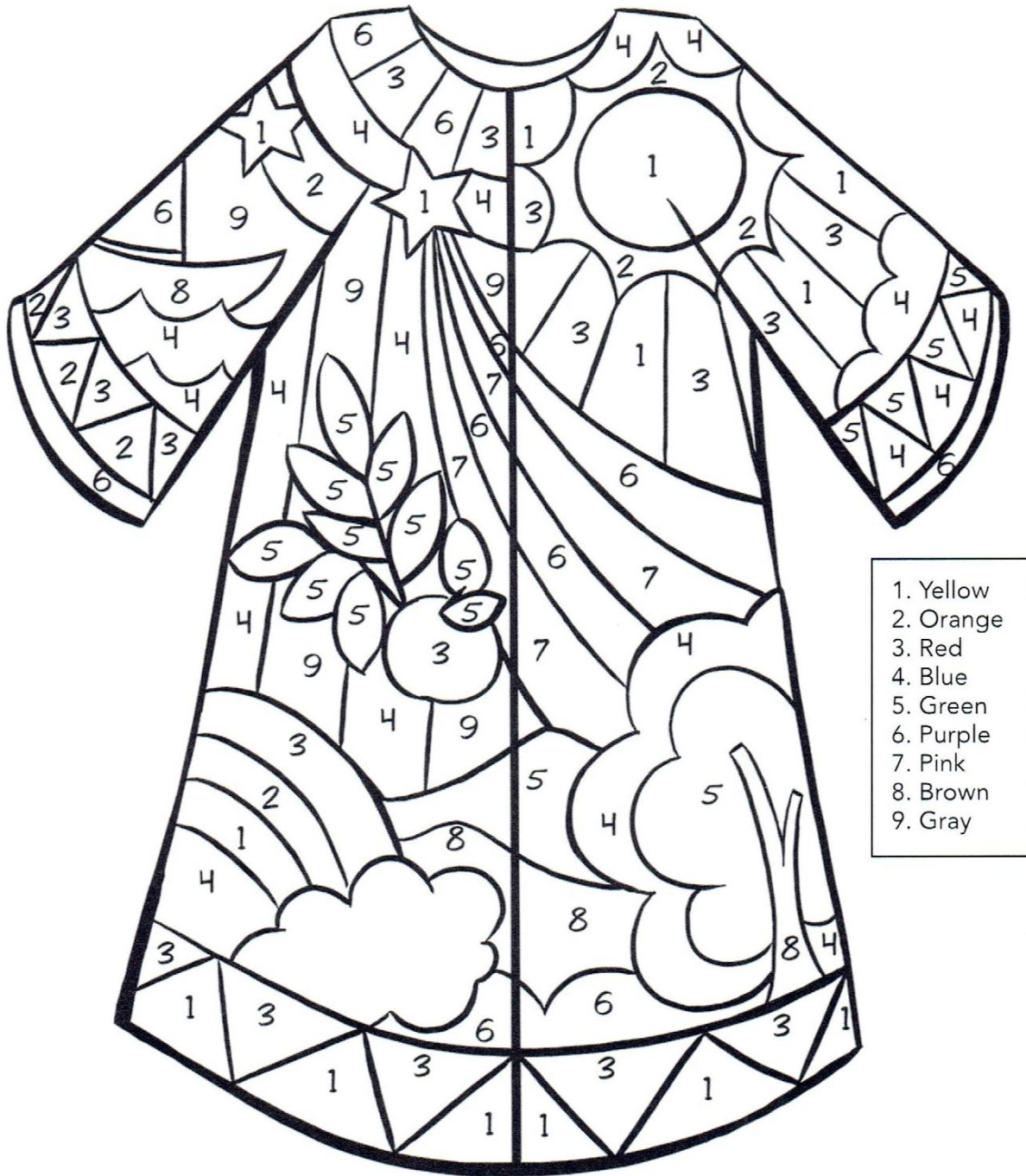
Supplies: copies of the activity sheets below

SAY: Jacob gave his son Joseph a special coat to wear. Enjoy one or both of these activities!

1B

Joseph's Coat – Coloring Page

Jacob gave his son, Joseph, a colorful coat to wear. Use the number code below to color Joseph's coat.



Session 1 Fall 2021

Art: Tatevik Avakyan/Deborah Wolfe, Ltd.

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Joseph's Brothers Word Search – Puzzle

In today's Bible story, Jacob gives Joseph a special coat. Jacob's other sons were jealous. Joseph was Jacob's favorite son. Find the names of Joseph's brothers hidden in the word search below. One brother's name is missing. Follow the directions at the bottom of the page to see which name is missing.

B	N	Y	V	M	D	D	J	A	N	L	H	P	G	L
R	E	E	B	G	K	L	T	N	A	N	E	A	J	Q
A	I	N	B	D	W	Z	D	V	P	O	D	V	X	J
L	U	B	J	U	R	I	A	W	H	E	C	E	I	D
U	R	U	P	A	E	O	N	W	T	M	B	U	M	U
J	U	D	A	H	M	R	H	D	A	I	O	N	H	X
F	Z	Y	A	Z	M	I	G	Y	L	S	W	C	S	V
Q	R	R	C	L	T	H	N	T	I	I	L	R	U	P
J	H	X	J	S	N	Z	V	F	Q	Q	E	W	Y	G
V	V	Y	Y	Z	E	V	Q	Z	R	H	K	G	F	V
U	Y	W	X	B	N	H	P	E	S	O	J	X	X	L
G	Y	K	U	M	W	G	H	A	O	T	M	G	X	J
Y	Z	L	R	G	B	R	T	V	G	P	N	X	Y	E
E	U	E	S	C	V	E	Z	V	L	F	O	H	O	S
N	X	V	K	X	F	L	L	P	Z	C	X	D	U	Q

ASHER
BENJAMIN
DAN
GAD
JOSEPH
JUDAH
LEVI
NAPHTALI
REUBEN
SIMEON
ZEBULUN

One brother's name is missing from the puzzle.

Use Genesis 30:18 to find the answer.

The missing brother's name: _____