

# 09. Plan



## BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Genesis 40-50  
(summary)

Romans 8:28

Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams, becomes ruler of Egypt, meets his brothers again and forgives them



## AIMS

To help the children see how God was working for good through the events of Joseph's story and to reflect on their own situations

To encourage them that God sees the big picture and that he has a plan for good

**Even though Joseph's brothers had meant to harm him, God had a plan and things turned out well in the end. God has a plan for our lives too - he can help us in the hard times and even bring good things out of them if we trust him.**



## PREP FOR LEADERS

If you have time, read through the whole of Joseph's story from the Bible. If not, skim through Genesis 40-50 to remind yourself of the key events. Read Genesis 50:14-21 and Romans 8:28 and reflect:

- Where do you see God working for good through the difficult events in Joseph's story?
- Where have you seen God working good in your life in difficult times?

Take some time to pray for your group.



## GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

Choose one of the following activities to introduce today's theme:

### ▶ Plans for the future

*You will need: pens and paper*

Get the children to think briefly about the plans they have for their life - e.g. what they want to do when they leave school, what they'd like to be doing in 10 years' time etc.

You could let them take turns to draw it Pictionary-style,

either in one group or split into small groups, and see how quickly the others are able to guess. Alternatively, you could simply talk about it and ask the children to share some of their ideas.

**I don't know what Joseph's plans for his life were when he was your age but I'm sure he wasn't planning on how things turned out. At the point where we left his story last week his life looked like a big mess.**

### ▶ Jigsaw Game

*You will need: Joseph pictures cut into pieces*

Have pictures illustrating the different parts of Joseph's story from last week cut into

*(continued overleaf)*

pieces like a jigsaw. (See *additional document: Joseph pictures*) Put all the pieces mixed together in a big pile on the floor or on the table.

Split the children into teams of three or four. Ask each team to find the pieces for one picture and to put it together. You can print multiple copies if necessary.

When all the pictures are completed, see if the children can put them in order to tell the story of Joseph so far.



## EXPLORING THE BIBLE

### ▶ Recap

*You will need: Joseph pictures*

Use the pictures from the jigsaw game above (*additional document: Joseph pictures*) to recap Joseph's story - he was his father's favourite son and he had dreams of people bowing down to him, but then he was sold as a slave by his jealous brothers, taken off to work in Egypt and then put in prison for many years for a crime that he hadn't committed.

**I wonder what Joseph's plans for his life were at that point - maybe he thought he'd be stuck in prison for the rest of his life, but God had a different plan.**

### ▶ Joseph's Story continued

*You will need: equipment to show PowerPoint or printed pictures, Bible*

Tell the second part of the story of Joseph. You could use pictures from [thebricktestament.com](http://thebricktestament.com) to illustrate the story on PowerPoint or by printing the pictures out. Links to the specific pictures can be found at the start of each

section of the script.

**Picture 1: While Joseph was in prison, two of the other prisoners had strange dreams and God helped Joseph to tell them the meanings of their dreams. One of the men was released from prison shortly after that - he went back to his old job working for Pharaoh and he forgot all about Joseph until...**

**Picture 2: One night, Pharaoh had some strange dreams. He wanted to know what they meant, and he asked all his wise men and advisors, but no-one could tell him. That was when the man who had been in prison remembered Joseph's talent for explaining dreams.**

**Picture 3: He told Pharaoh and he sent for Joseph, so he could tell him about his dreams.**

**Picture 4: Pharaoh said, "I dreamed that I was walking along down by the River Nile when seven fat cows came out of the river. Then behind them came seven skinny cows. As I watched the skinny cows ate the fat cows. Then I had another dream. I dreamed that I saw seven fat ears of corn growing on a stalk, then seven skinny ears of corn grew and again the skinny ones ate up the fat ones.**

**Picture 5: I've asked all my wise men and advisors what the dreams mean but no-one can tell me."**

**"Well I can't tell you either," said Joseph, "but God can.**

**Picture 6: The two dreams mean the same thing.**

**The seven fat cows and the seven fat ears of corn mean that there will be seven years of really good crops in the land of Egypt. The seven skinny cows and the seven skinny ears of corn mean that after that there will be seven years of famine when not many**

**crops are able to grow. God is showing you what will happen in the future, so you can prepare. If you organise to store crops during the good years the people will have enough to eat during the famine."**

**Picture 7: Pharaoh thought about it and he said, "You are obviously wise and intelligent, and God is obviously helping you, so you are just the man for the job."**

**Picture 8: He promoted Joseph to be the governor of the whole land of Egypt (imagine a really important job like being prime minister) and put him in charge of organising the crops. So, Joseph worked hard and organised a plan for storing crops so that all the people of Egypt had enough during the years of famine.**

**Picture 9: When the famine came it didn't just affect Egypt - it affected the other lands round about - and so people started coming from other lands to buy food in Egypt.**

**Picture 10: One day Joseph saw a group of people that were very familiar - it was his brothers! He recognised them but they didn't recognise him in his Egyptian clothes. They came and asked to buy some food and they bowed down before him - Joseph's dream from years earlier was coming true! It took a bit of time and we don't have time to go into the full story but Joseph realised that his brothers were sorry for what they had done and that they had changed.**

**Picture 11: Eventually he told them who he was and that he forgave them.**

**Picture 12: He invited the whole family to come and live in Egypt so the brothers went home and got their father**

*(continued overleaf)*

**Jacob and their wives and their children and brought them to Egypt so the whole family was back together again.**

Read Genesis 50:20 - Joseph says to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people." (NLT)

**Think about it - if Joseph hadn't been in Egypt he wouldn't have been able to tell Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams, so no-one would have stored food for the famine and lots of people would have died! So, although Joseph's brothers had done something wrong, God used it as part of his plan for good.**



## REFLECT & RESPOND

### ▶ Reflection and prayer

*You will need: jigsaw, permanent markers*

**Sometimes our lives can seem a bit of a mess like Joseph's. It can be hard to understand why things happen. Sometimes it's only when we look back that we can see that something good came out of something bad. Sometimes we don't see it at all, but here's one of God's promises from the Bible - "We know that in everything God works for the good of those who love him." Romans 8:28 (NCV)**

If you have an old children's jigsaw with large pieces, or you are able to find one in a charity shop, you could give one to each of the children and let them copy the Bible verse onto the back of the jigsaw piece in permanent marker. They can take this with them as a reminder that even when the individual pieces of our stories

don't make sense, God can see the big picture and he can work even those things for good if we trust him.

Lead the children in prayer, thanking God for his good plan for our lives and asking for help to trust him when things look bad.



## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

### ▶ Video

*You will need: equipment to play video*

This video from Crossroads Kids Club summaries Joseph's story in around four minutes and highlights that it is also part of God's big story: <http://crossroadskidsclub.net/gods-story-joseph/>

### ▶ Beanbag Game

*You will need: small beanbags*

Divide the children into four teams with one team in each corner of the room. Place a pile of around 15 small beanbags in the centre of the room. Each team sends one child at a time to pick up a beanbag and take it back to their base. At first they take beanbags from the pile in the centre, but once those have all been taken they can take a beanbag from another team's base instead. The first team to get six beanbags at their base wins.

This game can be linked with Joseph's story as it works better if the children have a plan and keep sight of the big picture - e.g. deciding strategically which team's base to take a beanbag from on each turn.