United Church of God • *An International Association*

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 2 • Unit 6 • Week 1

JOSEPH AS A YOUTH

OBJECTIVE:
To show that jealousy, such as Joseph's brothers had, can lead to a horrible act.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Supplies: Two large sheets of paper (newsprint, butcher paper, etc.)
Markers or crayons
Stapler

Prepare: Make a "coat" for yourself before class. This will be used both as an example and used during the lesson.

Note: You can use paper grocery bags instead of paper. The children may keep their "coats." The teacher will rip his/her "coat" off at the appropriate time.

Do: Give each child two large sheets of paper and markers or crayons. Tell them that they will be making beautiful coats that they will wear during the lesson. Let the children color the paper with various patterns. After the children have colored them, staple the two sheets together at the top edge, leaving a neck opening. Leave the sides and the bottom open so that the children can slip the "coats" over their heads at the appropriate time.

Say: Today we will hear about a big family who allowed jealousy to lead to hatred, causing them to commit a horrible act. A coat similar to the ones you made played an important part in this story.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: The Bible story is taken from Genesis 37:1-36.

There was a man called Jacob who had 12 sons. Of all his sons he loved his 11th son,

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Joseph, the best. Jacob made Joseph a beautiful coat that showed all the colors of the rainbow. To be given a coat like that meant that you were a specially favored child. His brothers did not get a coat like Joseph's.

Ask: How do you think the other brothers felt?

Say: They hated him. They knew that their father loved Joseph very much, but this was more than they could handle. Here was Joseph constantly in their sight wearing this beautiful coat.

Do: Let the children put on their coat at this point. You put on yours as well.

Say: One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him even more. He said to them, "I dreamed that we were in the fields tying up wheat. My sheaf of wheat stood upright while your sheaves bowed down to my sheaf."

Ask: How do you think the brothers reacted?

Say: They were very angry! They said, "Do you think that you shall rule over us? Who do you think you are?"

          Later Joseph had another dream. This time he told it to his father and his brothers. He said, "Look, I have dreamed another dream. This time, the sun, the moon and the 11 stars bowed down to me."

          His father sharply answered him, "What is this that you have dreamed? Shall your mother and I and your brothers indeed come to bow down to the earth before you?"

          Although his father was upset, he kept this matter in his mind. Perhaps he wondered if this could really happen.

          And the brothers? Well, their jealousy grew. A few days passed and they went to feed their flocks a distance away from home. Jacob sent Joseph to see if all was going well with his brothers. When they saw him coming towards them in his beautiful coat of many colors, they plotted to kill him. They said, "We could kill him, throw him into a pit, and then tell our father that a wild animal killed him. We shall see what will become of his dreams!"

          However, one of Joseph's brothers, Reuben, had a kind heart. He told the brothers that instead of killing Joseph they could throw him in the pit and leave him there. The brothers agreed to this. They did not know that Reuben's secret plan was to get Joseph out when the others were gone.

          When Joseph reached his brothers, they ripped off his coat and threw him into a pit.

Do: Rip off your coat.

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Say: The brothers sat down to eat a meal. Soon they saw a group of people called Ishmaelites approaching. These people were traders who sold spices and people. They were on their way to Egypt to sell their goods. Judah, one of the brothers, decided that they should sell Joseph to the Ishmaelites. That would allow them to get rid of their brother without having to kill him.

         Joseph was pulled out of the pit and sold for 20 pieces of silver. The Ishmaelites went on their way, taking Joseph with them to Egypt.

         The brothers then took a young goat, killed it and dipped Joseph's coat in it. They showed the coat to their father, explaining that they had found it. Jacob recognized the coat as Joseph's. He believed that a wild animal had torn Joseph to pieces.

Ask: How do you think Jacob felt?

Say: Jacob was heartbroken. He tore his clothes and wept. No one was able to comfort him.

Ask: What do you think happened to Joseph?

Say: We will hear all about Joseph's life in Egypt next time.

LESSON APPLICATION:
Supplies: Crayons
           Joseph's coat activity sheet (see end of lesson)

The children will use a color guide to color a handout that resembles Joseph's coat.

MUSIC:
Sing the following words to the tune "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

Let's watch out for jealousy,
It can cause such misery.
Learn to like what you have got.
Even when it's not a lot.
Let's watch out for jealousy,
It can cause such misery.

MEMORY VERSE:
1 John 3:15 (first part) "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer…."

Joseph's father gave him a coat of many colors.
Use the color guide below to color it yourself.

1=Red   2=Yellow   3=Purple   4=Green   5=Orange   6=Blue

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family activity

THE POINT:
Jealousy, such as Joseph's brothers had, can lead to a horrible act.

ASK ME...
Whose family did I learn about today?

How many sons did Jacob have?

Who was his favorite son?

What did he give to his favorite son?

How did the other sons feel?

What did jealousy cause Joseph's brothers to do to him?

What do you think will happen to Joseph?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:
Discuss the harm that jealousy can cause. Explain that parents should do all that they can not to cause their children to harbor feelings of jealousy. Discuss Jacob's role in his children's feelings towards Joseph. Be sure to let the child know that despite the father's shortsightedness the brothers were wrong in their actions toward Joseph.

MEMORY VERSE:
1 John 3:15 (first part) "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer...."

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