

YOUTH EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Dreams and Promises

YE2F · Teacher Edition

Primaries · Year 2: Creation

Christian Educational Ministries — a faithful digital edition of the printed program

God's Promise

MEMORY VERSE

"And he (Abraham) believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness." -
Genesis 15:6

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, the children will be able to:

1. Identify the three messengers as being sent from God.
2. Tell what Sarah did when she heard what the messengers said.
3. Give the name of Sarah's son, and tell what his name means.

TOPICS & THEMES

Abraham
Angels
Belief
Children
Chosen
God's Plan
God's Promises
Hagar
Isaac
Ishmael
Laugh
Obedience
Sarah
Tents
Trusting God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stars, music player and music tapes or CD, songbook, construction paper, glue, scissors, stapler, magazines, crayons, table and sheet or fabric

PREPARATION

It only takes one broken promise to erode a child's faith in someone they trusted. In our world of self-absorbed, career-minded adults, promises to children are often considered of little consequence. If some of your kids struggle to believe that God does keep all His promises, understand that they may have been disappointed in the past. Help reestablish their trust by emphasizing the character and attributes of God.

Before class, fill in the reminder on the back of the teacher's book. Include as the assignment for this book for the students to learn the 12 tribes of Israel to recite in ten weeks. They are Dan, Asher, Reuben, Judah, Issachar, Levi, Benjamin, Zebulun, Gad, Naphtali, Joseph, and Simeon. Repeat this assignment on weekly reminders.

Before the children arrive, build a tent by covering a table with a sheet or piece of fabric, allowing three sides to hang down to the floor. Leave one side open for a doorway.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Spend time sharing and talking about promises. Ask the children to tell about a promise they have made to someone. Lead the discussion around to God's promises. Ask them to think of some of the promises that God has made to us. Ask: Does God keep His promises? Emphasize that we can trust God to keep His promises because God is so good and we know Him. We know that He does not lie. We know that He does what He says- we can count on Him. He loves us very much and wants the best for us. And, He has power to keep His promises!

God promised Abraham that he would become a great nation. Yet after years of waiting, Sarah still had no children. So Abraham took matters into his own hands - he became a father by Sarah's servant. Hagar gave birth to Abraham's son, Ishmael. But, that was not part of God's plan. And because Abraham and Sarah ran ahead of God, there has been trouble among Abraham's people until this day. Ishmael's people are the Arab nations. Isaac's people are God's chosen people. They are called Israelites. Twelve tribes made up the nation of Israel. One of them was Judah. Judah is called Jews today. Both Jews and Arabs claim to own the land that God promised to Abraham because they were both his sons.

Seat the children inside the tent or in the doorway as you tell the story. Be descriptive and make the children "feel" the desert heat and fan to keep cool.

Tell the children to look all around them as if looking for someone. Abraham and Sarah didn't recognize the three visitors at first, yet they treated them kindly. They didn't have an air-conditioned house to cool them off. Ask: What would you do to make these visitors feel comfortable? They provided them with water to cool and refresh the men. They worked hard to prepare a special meal, and Abraham waited on the table.

Even when Sarah heard the message that she would have a son, she didn't want to be rude. Ask: How did Sarah react? She laughed to herself instead of laughing out loud. Yet her laughter was heard. And the son that she gave birth to was named Isaac, which means laughter.

There were many times in the lives of Abraham and Sarah when they failed God. There were times when they questioned whether God's promise would ever be fulfilled. But God never failed Abraham and Sarah. God had a perfect plan. And even though it was 25 years from the time God promised to bless Abraham until Isaac was born, God kept His promise! And He will keep his promises to you and me! Ask: How can you show God that you believe He will keep His promises? (By doing what He tells us in His Word - obeying Him.)

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who do you think sent the visitors to Abraham and Sarah? Why?
2. What did Abraham and Sarah do to make the men comfortable?
3. Where was Sarah while Abraham and the men talked?
4. What message did the visitors bring to Abraham?
5. How did Sarah react?
6. Name some promises that God has made to you and me.

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child two pieces of construction paper. Fold the paper in half and staple together on the side to form a booklet. Have the kids cut out pictures from the magazines to show an old man and woman, their tent home, the meal, the three visitors and a baby boy. Glue the pictures inside the booklet to depict their Bible story in a modern setting. Details can be drawn in.

SONG

“Every Promise in the Book is Mine” is on page 15 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer, thanking God for keeping His promise to Abraham and Sarah, and for keeping His promises to us.

Father Abraham

MEMORY VERSE

"Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust Him to help you and He will." - Psalm 37:5
(TLB)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Tell that God always keeps His promises.
2. Define patience as getting things in God's time, not ours.
3. State that God's ways and timing are always best for us.

TOPICS & THEMES

Abraham

God's Law

God's Plan

God's Promises

Isaac

Ishmael

Patience

Sarah

Wait on God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stars, songbook, music player and music tapes or CD

PREPARATION

As the teacher, you are entrusted with the responsibility of gaining the students' attention and teaching the lesson in such a way that they stay tuned in to find out what the lesson is all about. To do this, your lesson must answer the question, "What does this have to do with my life?" Your lessons should not merely inform and transmit facts; each one must have a practical application.

Become a motivator - encourage the children to become actively involved in the lesson. Ask questions, act out the lesson, play a game, have hands-on activities and allow students to share their own experiences. When the children see how their experiences connect to the Bible lesson they will be more inclined to "buy in" to the entire lesson.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Introduce today's lesson with an object lesson demonstrating patience. Begin by placing a stack of heavy books on one end of a sheet of paper. Ask: "How many of you think I can move this stack of books without touching it?" First, take hold of the paper and yank it out from under the books - they shouldn't move. Say: "That didn't work, I must have done something wrong. Maybe I need to have more patience. Replace the paper. This time slowly pull the paper, moving the stack of books.

Sometimes it is difficult to have patience and wait for things we want. When we are thirsty we want a drink of water immediately. We don't want to have to wait for ice to melt to give us a cold drink! Just like the story of Lori in the student's book, sometimes we try to make things happen instead of waiting for God's timing.

There are times in all our lives when we must have patience and wait. It is not easy to wait, but if you practice having patience it will become easier. Patience means getting things in God's time, not yours.

God promised to bless Abraham and Sarah with so many children and grand children that they wouldn't be able to count them all. They waited for 25 long years before God fulfilled His promise. They even tried to help God out. Ask: Do you think God needed Sarah and Abraham's help to keep His promise?

Sarah gave Abraham one of her servants thinking that God might give him a child through her. Hagar did have a son for Abraham. Ask: Why was Ishmael not part of God's plan? God promised to give Sarah and Abraham a son, not Abraham and Hagar. Because Sarah and Abraham were not patient in waiting for God, there would be trouble.

When Sarah heard God's messengers tell Abraham she would have a son, she laughed. Sarah thought she was too old. And, when her son was finally born, she laughed because she was so happy. So, Abraham and Sarah named their son Isaac, which means laughter.

Sorrow came into Abraham's life when there was trouble between his two sons. At a party for Isaac, Sarah overheard Ishmael making fun of her son. She became very angry. Ask: What did Sarah tell Abraham to do? She demanded Abraham send Ishmael and his mother away. She didn't want them around her son. Abraham was sad, but it was his own fault - he didn't wait for God to give him a son.

God knows what is best for us. He knows what we need. And, His timing is always best. When we take matters in our own hands and run ahead of God, we just complicate things. Learn to patiently wait for Him to fulfill our wants and needs.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does "being patient" mean?
2. What was the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah?
3. Which son was the one God promised, Ishmael or Isaac?
4. Why did Abraham and Sarah take matters in their own hands?
5. What did Ishmael do to Isaac that made Sarah angry?
6. What did Sarah tell Abraham to do as punishment ?
7. When God makes promises does He keep them?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Play a game of Simon Says to show the need for doing things God's way and in His time. Line the children up on one side of the room. Give several commands, beginning with "Simon says. " They are to follow the directions as long as Simon says to do it. Now add a command without "Simon says . ". Those who followed that command must sit out. The last one standing is the winner.

SONG

"Father Abraham" is on page 31 of Kids Classic Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in prayer, asking God to help them patiently wait for His timing and thanking Him for knowing what they need and supplying it.

Test of Love

MEMORY VERSE

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. - Proverbs 3:5

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, the children will be able to:

1. State that we pass the Test of Love by obeying even when we don't understand why.
2. Tell what God told Abraham to do with Isaac.
3. Tell what God sent to replace Isaac as a sacrifice for Abraham and Who God sent as our substitute offering.

TOPICS & THEMES

Abraham

God's Provision

Isaac

Loving God

Obedience

Sacrifice and Offerings to God

Trusting God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stars, songbook, music player and music tapes or CD, chalk board and chalk or newsprint pad and marker pen, pan of sand. needlepoint or embroidery piece, construction paper, crayons, glue, scissors, Cheerios, paper plates

PREPARATION

Stepping out and trusting God in everything is not easy. We need to remember that God sees our lives from the view of eternity. His promises can be trusted even when we don't understand them.

This lesson on trusting God even when we don't understand His ways may open up all kinds of questions from the children. Be prepared to help them with their reasoning processes. How you

handle their questions will aid them in understanding the mysteries of God. Before you come to class, enlarge the patterns, found on the pattern page, for today's activity and copy on white construction paper.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin this lesson by saying, "Who can I trust." Let the children offer their suggestions and write or draw a picture on the board. Help stimulate their thinking by starting with: Mom, Dad, policeman, etc. When you have a number of names or pictures on the board, ask the children to think about why they trust these people.

All of these people can be trusted most of the time, but sometimes they make mistakes. But there is Someone who can always be trusted - God! He always keeps His promises; He never forgets. He never makes a mistake. He always knows and does what is best for us.

God made a special promise to Abraham, and He kept that promise. Ask: What did God promise to give to Abraham? Isaac was the long-awaited son. God also promised to make a great nation from Abraham's descendants. There would be more people than there was sand on the seashore or stars in the sky. Place a small pan of sand on a sheet of plastic. Ask the children to try to count the grains of sand in the pan. They will find it nearly impossible. If they can't count the sand in the pan, imagine how hard it would be to try to count all the sand on a beach!

Abraham finally had a son. God's command to offer Isaac as a sacrifice must have come as quite a shock. He may have wondered how God's promise would come true if Isaac was sacrificed. Hebrews 11:19 states that Abraham knew God was even able to raise Isaac up from the dead, if necessary. So, Abraham proved his love by following God's instructions.

Isaac, proved that he trusted his father, Abraham, and his Heavenly Father by obeying them. He went with Abraham to the mountain. He believed that God would provide, even while he was being bound and placed on the altar.

Abraham and Isaac passed the Test of Love. They proved that they loved God by obeying Him even when they didn't understand God's reason. They obeyed, even when obeying was difficult. Abraham was willing to give up his own son to please God. Isaac trusted his earthly father and his Heavenly Father. He would do what they said even when he didn't understand.

When God saw that Abraham and Isaac loved and trusted Him, He stopped Abraham from killing Isaac. God sent another offering. There was a ram, a boy goat, caught in the bushes. This goat would be used as the sacrifice. God has sent another sacrifice to be offered for our sins - His Son, Jesus (Isaiah 53:7, John 1:29).

There are times when we don't understand why things happen to us. Maybe a parent gets sick or even dies. Knowing that our great God sees the whole picture will help us trust Him. Use a

needlepoint or embroidery piece to illustrate this point. When you look at the back, you see strings, the pattern is not very clear or pretty- things look confused. That is the way we see our life- we are looking at the back side. But, God sees it from above. He sees the whole picture! God wants what is best for us. Obeying God will prove your love for Him. Will you pass the Test of Love?

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Divide the class into two teams. Tell the children that you will read the following questions. If they know the answer, they should jump to their feet (not shouting out the answer) and wait for you to call on the first one who jumped up to answer the question. If their answer is correct, give that team a point. If they answer incorrectly, give the other team a chance to answer. Give the children on the winning team a sticker or other small prize.

1. What was God's promised gift to Abraham?
2. What did God ask Abraham to do with Isaac?
3. How did Abraham show God that he trusted Him?
4. What stopped Abraham from killing his son, Isaac?
5. What did God send for Abraham to offer on the altar?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child a paper plate, ½ cup of Cheerios and a sheet with the pattern pieces on it (patterns for this activity can be found on the pattern page). Have them color Abraham, Isaac, and the goat. Next cut out the figures, folding the tab on Abraham and Isaac along the dotted line. Glue a small circle of Cheerios in the center of your paper plate adding rows to build an altar about 2 inches tall. Glue Abraham on the plate beside the altar. Have the children retell the story, first placing Isaac on the altar, then the goat.

SONG

"He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" is on page 54 of Kids Classics Collection. For verse 2, sing "He's got Abraham and Isaac in His hands."

CLOSING PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer asking God to help us to obey Him.

Decisions, Decisions

MEMORY VERSE

“The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results.” - James 5:16 (TLB)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, the children will be able to:

1. Retell the story of how the servant found a wife for Isaac
2. Tell that God led the servant to the right girl.
3. State that God wants them to ask for His help in making hard decisions.
4. State that God's ways are always the best.

TOPICS & THEMES

Bride

Choices

God's Law

God's Provision

Isaac

Prayer

Prayer, answered

Rebekah

Water

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stars, songbook, music player and music tapes or CD, costumes, small boxes, gold colored earrings, pillowcase, table, sheet, pitcher, marker, tape

PREPARATION

Early childhood is a great time to begin teaching children to go to God in prayer when they need help deciding what to do. A great way to learn this is by observing the adults in their lives, both parents and teachers. Often children's prayers are self-seeking; they ask for things they think will make them happy.

Help them venture beyond this point by modeling prayers. Provide opportunities for them to make choices, and teach them to ask for help when the decisions are difficult. Emphasize that God is all wise; He always knows what is best. His answers and timing are not always what we may want.

This will be a good lesson for the children to act out. Provide robes to be used as Bible-time clothes. Put several small boxes inside a pillowcase to represent gifts, one containing some gold colored earrings. Build a tent for Abraham by covering a small table with a sheet.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

You will need someone to play the part of Abraham, Isaac, Rebekah, the servant, and Rebekah's father. If your class is large, some of the children can play the part of the camels. You, as the teacher, can narrate and interview the characters as you retell the story.

Abraham (sitting in the "tent") was getting very old. Isaac was a grown man. It was time for him to get married and start a family. He called one of his trusted servants (Abraham calls, servant comes to Abraham).

Abraham told the servant to go on a long trip back to the land where his relatives lived. He told the servant to make him a promise. The servant had to promise to go and find a good wife for Isaac. She should be one who loved and worshiped the true God. (Show them how they promised by placing the servant's hand under the thigh of Abraham) Ask: Abraham why can't Isaac just marry one of the women who live here? (Because they don't love and worship God.)

So, the servant took ten camels and a bag full of gifts and started on his trip. (Servant leads the "camels" around the room) Finally, after several weeks, they came to a well and stopped. Ask the servant: After all your walking, how do you feel? (Hot and tired!) Ask the camels: And how do you feel?

The servant was worried about how he would find the right wife for Isaac. So he prayed to God and asked for His help. (The servant kneels and bows head.) The servant asked God to send the right woman to the well. She should offer a drink to him and his camels. (Rebekah walks up carrying a pitcher.) She saw that the servant looked hot and tired. She dipped her pitcher in the well and gave the camels a drink. She also gave the servant some water. (Rebekah pretends to dip water.)

Abraham's servant was very happy. Ask: Sir, why are you so happy? (Because God answered his prayer) He gave Rebekah a golden earring (Takes out box with an earring.) and asked her to take him to her father. (Rebekah leads the servant to her father.) When the servant asked Rebekah's father if he would let him take her back to marry Isaac, Rebekah's father said, yes. (The father

says, yes.) Then her father asked Rebekah if she wanted to go, and she said, yes. (Rebekah says, yes.)

So, the servant, the camels and Rebekah made the long trip back to Abraham and Isaac. (The servant leads them back around the room.) (Isaac and Rebekah hug.)

Ask the children to think of some times when they need to pray and ask God to help them make a hard decision.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why did Abraham send his servant on such a long trip?
2. Why didn't Abraham want Isaac to marry any of the women who live nearby?
3. Where did the servant find Rebekah?
4. How did the servant know that God had answered his prayer and Rebekah was the right woman for Isaac?
5. How is this different from the way people do things today?
6. What should you do when you have a hard decision to make?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Divide the memory verse into five parts: 1) The earnest prayer 2) of a righteous man 3) has great power 4) and wonderful results 5) James 5:16b. Write these with a marker pen on five separate sheets of paper. Mix them up and tape them to the backs of five children. Have the rest of the class put the verse in order by moving the children to the right spots. Or the verse can be taped to the front of the five children and allow them to move around to put the verse in order.

SONG

“God is So Good” is on page 87 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Have the children stand in a circle holding hands. Ask them if they would like to pray and ask God to help them with anything specific today.

The Stolen Blessing

MEMORY VERSE

"Do not steal. Do not tell lies. Do not cheat one another." - Leviticus 19:11 (NIrV)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Tell what Esau traded for something to eat.
2. Explain what the birthright was.
3. Explain that the blessing was different from the birthright.
4. Describe what Jacob did to get the birthright and how he tricked his father to get the blessing.
5. State why it is best to obey God's commands.

TOPICS & THEMES

Birthright

Blessings

Consequences of Sin

Esau

Isaac

Jacob

Laban

Lying

Obedience

Rebekah

Wait on God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stars, songbook, music player and cassette tape or CD, construction paper, fabric scraps, fun-fur pieces, glue, crayons, poster board, push pins

PREPARATION

Kids may think of God as a fierce judge ready to punish their wrong-doings. Sometimes their family situations only heighten their fear of God. Seek to help your children learn to obey out of love rather than fear.

Obedience at any age can be difficult. We have our own thoughts and ideas, and we choose them rather than obedience to God. Children are no exception. Helping them understand that heartache and consequences follow disobedience will give them a new reason to obey happily. The ultimate reason to obey is to show their love to God.

Remember that the birthright and the blessing are two separate things. Before the birth of Esau and Jacob, God told Rebekah that the younger would serve the older.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

The following object lesson brings home the point that sin leaves scars. Take a piece of white poster board. This board has never been used, it is white and clean. Let's pretend that the colored push pins are the bad things you've done - cheating, lying, stealing, etc. They are sins. (Push several pins into the poster board Each time you lie or steal the sin leaves a mark on your life. If you confess those sins to God, He has promised to forgive them (I John 1:9). (Remove the push pins) The sin is gone, but look what remains - the scars! These scars may stay with you for the rest of your life. Wouldn't it be much better to obey God and avoid the scars?

Twin Boys - Jacob and Esau were twins, but they didn't look alike. Esau was born first and had lots of red hair all over him - even his arms were hairy! (Place two pieces of "fun fur" on the arms of one of the children. Allow the others to feel his arms.) He loved being outdoors and was a hunter. Isaac liked Esau the most because he loved to eat the meat that Esau brought home. Rebekah loved Jacob the most because he liked to stay close to home with her.

Starving to Death - Ask: Have you ever been so hungry that you thought you would starve to death? Was it on the Day of Atonement when you were fasting? Or, were you on a car trip and couldn't find a place to stop to eat? (Allow the children to talk about a time when they were very hungry.) Esau had been out hunting one day. He was so hungry he thought he would starve to death. (Bring in some food that has been heated and gives off an appealing aroma for the children - like pizza or finger foods.) Ask: Doesn't this smell good? What would you trade me for some of this food? (Allow the children to think of something. Then give each one a sample to eat.) Jacob was cooking a big pot of stew. When Esau asked if he could have some, Jacob said he would trade him some for his birthright.

The Birthright - Explain that in Bible days, when a father died, his oldest son got the larger part of everything his father owned. He got more of the land, cattle and money. Isaac was wealthy because he had inherited the bulk of his father Abraham's flocks and herds. Ask: Who was the

oldest son in Isaac's family? Jacob traded Esau out of his birthright. Did Esau make a mistake by trading his birthright for a bowl of stew?

The Plan - Rebekah heard Isaac tell Esau that he was going to give him a special blessing. She wanted Jacob to get this blessing and told Jacob to kill two of the goats which she cooked the way Isaac liked. Ask: Do you remember what Esau looked like? She sewed fur around Jacob's arms and neck and told Jacob to take the meat to his father, pretending to be Esau.

The Lie - When Jacob entered the tent, Isaac asked who it was. Isaac was almost blind, so he asked Jacob to come close so he could feel him. Ask: What do you think happened? Isaac felt the hair on Jacob's arm and neck and Jacob's lie fooled his dad into believing it was Esau.

The Stolen Blessing - In addition to the birthright, there was a special blessing Isaac wanted to give to his oldest son. Isaac blessed Jacob thinking that he was blessing Esau. Now the birthright and blessing were Jacob's. Even though Jacob stole the blessing, this was the way that God intended that it be. God wanted Jacob's family to eventually become many nations.

Esau Gets Mad- When Esau returned from hunting and preparing his father's favorite venison, the lie was revealed. Esau was mad! He begged his father to give a blessing to him also. Once Isaac gave this blessing, he couldn't take it back. So Isaac gave him a lesser blessing. He told Esau that he would live off the land and by the sword. Jacob would rule over him. This caused Esau to hate his brother so much that he planned in his heart to kill Jacob.

Sin Leaves Scars- Esau was hungry and wouldn't wait until he cooked himself a meal. He wanted what he wanted when he wanted it. He didn't appreciate his birthright. He sold his birthright and gave up receiving his father's wealth for a bowl of stew.

Jacob was rightly named: supplanter or schemer. Because of his lie, His brother hated him and threatened to kill him. Jacob was sent from his home. And, as we shall later see, he would reap what he had sowed.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What did Esau trade for something to eat?
2. What does the person with the birthright get?
3. How did Jacob trick his father into blessing him?
4. How did Esau feel when Jacob stole his blessing?
5. Why is it always best to obey God's commands?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child a sheet of skin colored construction paper. Have them draw the outline of Jacob and cut it out. Small fabric pieces can be glued on for his clothes. Give each child a small piece of

"fun fur" to glue on his arms to show how he deceived his father.

SONG

"O Be Careful Little Eyes" is on page 93 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask if one of the children would like to lead in prayer, asking God to help them learn not to cheat, lie and steal.

Heavenly Dream

MEMORY VERSE

".. God has said, I will never leave you. I will never desert you." - Hebrews 13:5

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, the students will be able to:

1. Explain what Jacob saw in his dream.
2. Tell what Jacob did to help him remember God's promise.
3. Give examples of how God blessed Jacob.
4. Tell how Laban tricked Jacob.

TOPICS & THEMES

Blessings

Dream

God's Promises

God's Voice

Jacob

Laban

Leah

Obedience

Rachel

Tithes

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stars, songbook, music player and music tapes or CD, grocery bag, old newspapers, tape or stapler, costumes: 2 children's robes, white T-shirts, 2 pieces fabric or sheets

PREPARATION

God designed us and understands the development of young children. He knows that a child learns best by doing. Parents were instructed in Deuteronomy 6:4-7 to teach God's laws with everyday experiences. They were to teach them on the road, at home, going to bed and getting up. He used everyday items and the physical senses as tools for learning. A pile of rocks could

mark the place where God fulfilled a promise. Take advantage of these everyday items to create visual reminders of great events.

One of the fears of both children and adults today is the fear of abandonment. The dissolution of the family and tragic events (like death) are suffered by too many in our society. Physical hardship, mental stress, and a lack of a support network often leaves a parent unable to provide a healthy emotional environment for the child. It is comforting to know there is One who will never leave us (Hebrews 13:4).

Fill a grocery bag with crumbled up newspaper and staple or tape the top closed. This can be used to represent the rock that Jacob used for his pillow. You will need some simple costumes and props - a child's robe for Jacob and Laban, large white T-shirts for the angels, fabric or sheet draped around Rachel and Leah, cloth for veil.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin by asking the children to tell about a dream they recently had - this can be a good or a bad dream. Explain that dreams are not reality. When you wake from a bad dream it makes you feel good when your mother or dad turns on the light and you can see that everything is okay. You are safe in your bed, everything is in its place - there are no monsters in the room!

Allow the children to act out this lesson. Try to involve everyone. For small classes you can have each child play several parts, taking time to change costumes between scenes.

The Journey - Jacob left his home and family because his own brother wanted to kill him! (Have Jacob pick up his bundle and begin walking around the room.) He was going to his uncle Laban's house for a while.

The Dream - One night Jacob lay down on the ground to sleep. (Jacob lays with head on the "rock".) He, no doubt, was feeling alone and forsaken. Jacob used a large rock for his pillow. He was experiencing, first-hand, that when you do bad things like lying or cheating you get hurt.

As he slept Jacob had a dream. This was not a dream like you usually have. It wasn't a nightmare. This was a message from God Himself! In the dream Jacob saw a ladder or stairway reaching from heaven to earth. There were angels walking up and down on the stairway. (Have the angels pretend to walk up stairs, away from Jacob, and down, back to Jacob.) They were God's messengers who would go from Jacob to God and from God to Jacob. Jacob was not alone!

Then Jacob heard a voice - it was the voice of God! (Teacher: "Jacob, this is God. Remember the promise I made to Abraham and to your father? Well, I am making this same promise to you. I will give you this land and bless you with many children. And, I want you to know that I will never leave you. I will never desert you.")

When Jacob awoke, he remembered his dream. He took the rock he had used for a pillow and stood it up for a reminder of God's promise. (Jacob stands the "rock" up on end and kneels and prays.)

The Trick - When Jacob got to Laban's house, he saw his beautiful cousin, Rachel. Jacob walks up to Laban, Leah and Rachel.) He was in love! Jacob told Laban he would work for him for seven years if he could marry Rachel. But, on their wedding night Laban played a trick on Jacob. He switched girls. (Jacob lying on the floor under a table. Laban places veil over Leah's head and takes her to Jacob.) It was dark, so Jacob couldn't see very well. But, the next morning he was surprised. He had the wrong girl! Jacob had to work for seven more years to get the beautiful Rachel.

God's Blessings - While Jacob was working for Laban, everything he did went right. His garden grew lots of vegetables and grain. His flock of sheep grew and grew. His cows had many calves. And now his family was growing, too.

Even though Jacob was sent away from his home and family, God didn't forget him. He was keeping His promise to Jacob. God was blessing Jacob.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Begin the review by tossing your "rock" to one of the children and ask them a review question. After the child answers, have him toss the "rock" to another child and ask another question, etc.

1. Why did Jacob leave his home and family?
2. How do you think Jacob felt?
3. Where did Jacob sleep while he was traveling?
4. What did he use for a pillow?
5. In Jacob's dream, what reached from the heavens to the earth?
6. What was going up and down the stairs?
7. Whose voice did Jacob hear?
8. What did God tell Jacob?
9. What kind of mean trick did Laban play on Jacob?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child a sheet of construction paper and ask them to draw a picture of some places they might go. Remind them that God is with them where ever they go. He will never leave them.

SONG

"Every Promise in The Book is Mine" is on page 15 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask if one of the children would like to lead in prayer, thanking God for His blessings and for always being there for them.

The Favorite Son

MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16 (NIV)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, the children will be able to:

1. Tell how many sons Jacob had.
2. Describe what Jacob gave Joseph to show his love.
3. State that God doesn't like us to be jealous.
4. Tell what God gave to show His love for us.

TOPICS & THEMES

Dreams
Envy/Jealousy
God's Gifts
God's Love
Hatred
Jacob
Jesus, Savior
Joseph
Joseph's Brothers
Joseph's Coat
Rachel

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stars, songbook, music player and music tapes or CD, grocery sacks, crayons, markers or fabric strips and glue, box, construction paper, fruit, gift wrap and bow

PREPARATION

In order to fulfill the objectives of any lesson you must first gain the ear and attention of the children. Today we will introduce the lesson with a "teaser" that will not be revealed until the end of the lesson. The object is to keep them listening to find out what is in the gift box.

Inside a medium size box, place the following items: Bible, a construction paper heart with the word "Jesus" on it, a magazine picture of a house, a piece of fruit, a picture of a family, a yellow construction paper circle with the words "live forever" written on it. Wrap the box in colorful gift wrap and place a ribbon on it.

Cut the grocery bags up the middle of the back seam (see diagram). Cut a neck hole in the bottom of the bag and arm holes on each side.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Show the children the gift box. Tell them that this is a special gift that you would like to give to someone. Ask: Who would like this gift? Tell them that you will decide at the end of class who will get the gift. (Now you will have their attention!) In today's lesson we will learn about a father who gave his son a very special gift.

Twelve Brothers - God kept His promise to bless Jacob. His family grew and grew until he had 12 sons! Ask: How would you like to have 12 kids in your family? You could have your own baseball team, with extras. You could have your own football team. You would have enough to make two teams to play basketball. You would always have someone to play with. Ask: Can you think of some bad things about having so many in your family? (You may have to prime the pump: share toys, wear hand-me-down clothes, etc.)

Father's Pet - Of all Jacob's sons, he loved Joseph the most. Joseph wasn't the oldest boy, but he was the oldest son of Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel. All the other boys knew that his father loved Joseph most, and they were jealous!

The Gift - One day Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat of many colors. This was much different from what the other boys wore. It was the kind of coat that a prince or wealthy person wore. The other boys thought Jacob was going to make Joseph the head of the family, and he wouldn't have to work in the fields anymore. Now they were mad; they hated Joseph!

The Dreams - Joseph began having some funny dreams. In one dream there were 12 bundles of wheat. One of the bundles stood up tall while the other 11 bowed down to it. Ask: What does that make you think of? In another dream, the sun, moon, and 11 stars bowed down to Joseph. Joseph told the dreams to his father and brothers. This really made the boys mad. They didn't like the idea of bowing down to Joseph. But, Jacob thought these dreams must be from God - remember, he had a dream too.

God's Gift - Jacob had 12 sons. He chose to love and give a gift to one of his sons, Joseph. God had only One Son, Jesus. He loved Him very much. But, God loves you and me, too. He chose to send His Son as a love gift to us.

(Hold up the gift box. Ask: Now who should I give this gift to? Let's look inside and see what it is. (Let the children unwrap the box. Take the items out, one at a time.) This is a love gift to all of you from God. The Bible is God's message to us. When we read it. He speaks to us. The heart shows us that He loves us and sent Jesus to show us how much. He gives us food to eat (fruit), a place to live (house) and a family to take care of us (family). And lastly, He wants to give us eternal life (circle). God wants us to live with Him forever in His Kingdom.

Isn't this a wonderful gift? You don't have to be jealous. This gift is for everyone!

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How many sons did Jacob have?
2. Why were Joseph's brothers jealous?
3. What did Jacob give Joseph that he didn't give the other boys?
4. What were the two dreams that Joseph had?
5. Why did the dreams make the brothers mad?
6. How did God show how much He loved us?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

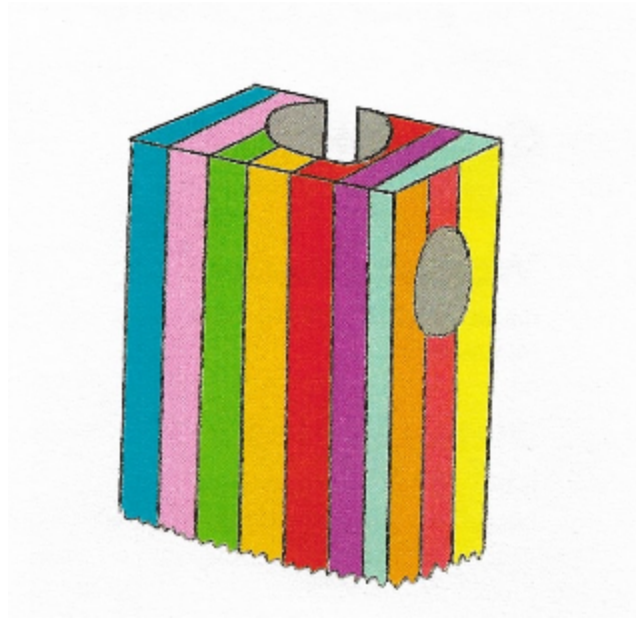
Give each child a grocery sack. Allow them to decorate it with crayons or markers, or by gluing on strips of fabric, etc. They can wear their "coat of many colors" home.

SONG

"Jesus Loves Me" is on page 6 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Have the children hold hands in a circle. Ask each one to thank God for something He has given them.



It's the Pits!

MEMORY VERSE

"The eyes of the Lord are everywhere. They watch those who are evil and those who are good." - Proverbs 15:3 (NirV)

OBJECTIVES

At the end of the lesson, the children will be able to:

1. Tell why Joseph's brothers hated him so.
2. Describe the bad things they had planned for Joseph.
3. Recite the memory verse.
4. State that God can take something that is meant for evil and use it for good.

TOPICS & THEMES

Dreams

Egypt

Envy/Jealousy

God's Omniscience

God's Protection

Hatred

Joseph

Joseph's Brothers

Slavery

Trusting God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, stars, songbook, music player and music tapes or CD, toilet tissue tubes, construction paper, glue, crayons, stickers, stapler, yarn, binoculars, blanket, coins and metal detector (if possible).

PREPARATION

When bad things happen in our lives, we often feel like we have been forsaken. We may even feel that God doesn't care about us. Knowing that God sees and knows everything that comes our

way, whether good or evil, and reassurance that He is working all things for our good can reinforce the fact that we can trust God.

What happened to Joseph in today's lesson was definitely not good. But, God saw the bigger picture. He had a great work for Joseph to do. The education in the arts and law he would gain while in exile in Egypt would prepare him to be a blessing to his family and to God's people.

Cut construction paper into 4 ½ × 6 inch strips. Collect enough toilet tissue tubes for each child to have two. Cut yarn into 20 inch pieces, one for each child.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Bring in a pair of binoculars and, if possible, a metal detector. Show the class how the metal detector works. Scatter some coins on the floor and cover them with a blanket. As you pass the metal detector over the blanket it should beep, indicating where the coins are located. Allow the children to look through the binoculars to see how they can see things up close.

Our eyes - It takes special tools to find coins that are hidden in the sand or under a blanket. There are many things that we cannot see with our naked eye - things that are far away or that are very tiny. We must use binoculars or a microscope. But, God's eyes can see everything and everywhere. He sees the good things we do and the bad. There is nowhere you can go to hide from His all-seeing eyes.

Joseph's brothers - When Joseph's brothers put him in the pit, he was out of sight. They might have left him there to die. Chances are, no one would find him. But God knew exactly where Joseph was.

Joseph is Sold -When his brothers sold Joseph to the slave trader to be taken to Egypt, they thought they were finally rid of him. They took his beautiful coat and soaked it in the blood of one of the goats. They took it home to their father and told him that surely a wild animal must have killed him. They could fool Jacob, but God cannot be fooled!

God's Eyes- Once again, God's eyes were on Joseph. God was not only watching Joseph, but He was protecting him along the way. God had great plans for Joseph. He would use Joseph to save the lives of his family and even use him in the land of Egypt.

God's eyes also saw the evil things that Joseph's brothers did to him. Their hearts were filled with hatred and lies. Their actions showed it. They meant it for evil, but God would use it for good.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Where were Joseph's brothers when he found them?
2. Where did Reuben tell the brothers to put Joseph? Why?

3. Who did the brothers sell Joseph to?
4. What did they do with Joseph's beautiful coat?
5. What did they tell their father?
6. The brothers had evil plans for Joseph, but what did God plan?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Give each child two bathroom tissue tubes and two pieces of construction paper cut to 4 ½ × 6 inches. Allow the children to decorate the paper with stickers and crayons. Glue the paper around each of the tissue tubes. Staple the two tubes together. With a hole punch, make a hole in each tube ½ inch from the end. Tie the ends of a piece of yarn through each hole.

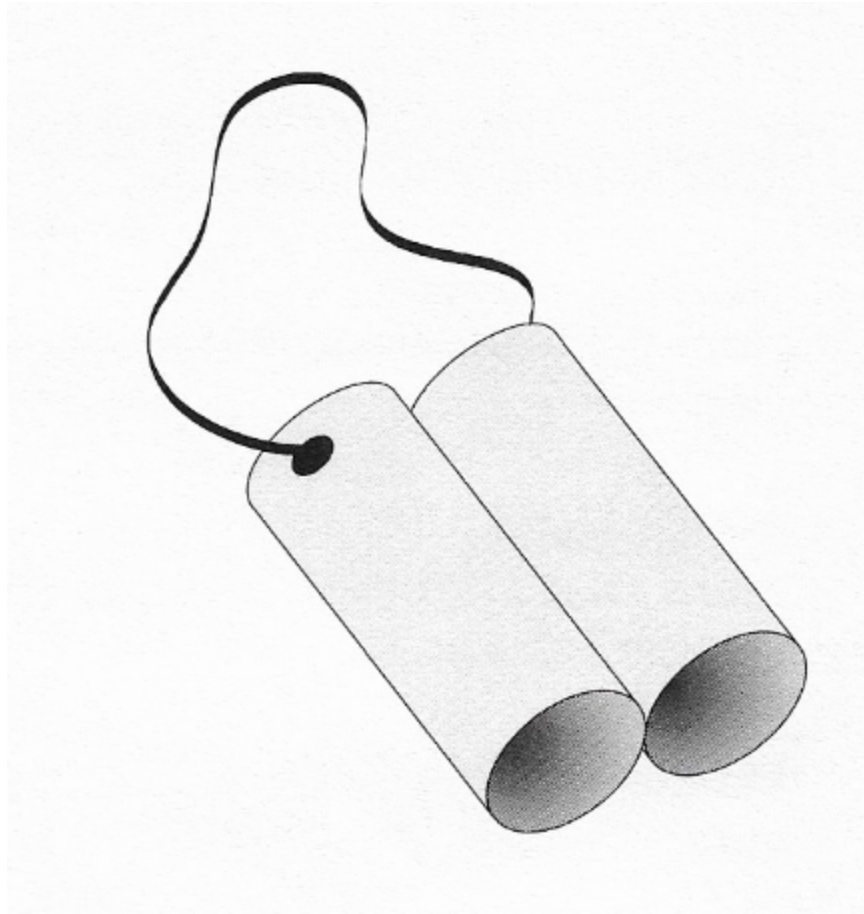
If time and space allow, take the children outside and ask them to use their binoculars to discover something interesting, like a ladybug, a pretty rock, butterfly or flower.

SONG

"He's Got The Whole World In His Hands" is on page 54 of Kids Classics Collection. For verse 2, sing "He's got Abraham and Isaac in His hands."

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask one of the children to lead in prayer, thanking God for His all-seeing eyes that saw and protected Joseph. Ask Him to help them to always do what would be pleasing to Him.



Potiphar and Prison

MEMORY VERSE

"Don't let evil get the upper hand, but conquer evil by doing good." - Romans 12:21

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, the children will be able to:

1. Make wise choices when confronted with temptations.
2. State that God wants us to trust Him, even when things are going bad.
3. State that Satan wants us to make bad choices.

TOPICS & THEMES

Choices

God's Omniscience

Joseph

Lying

Obedience

Potiphar

Potiphar's wife

Prison

Satan

Slave

Temptation

Trusting God

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse charts, stars, songbook, music player, cassette tapes or CD, grocery bag, nuts, leaves, string, crackers, ball, mitten, coins, dog bone, feather, pencil, paper, small book, book, table, video game, TV remote control, construction paper, crayons or marker pens, scissors

PREPARATION

“Dramatics can play an important role in the spiritual development of this age group. Role plays involving people in both biblical and contemporary settings can provide opportunities to

practice applying Bible truth to social interaction. When a concept such as forgiveness has been practiced in a controlled situation monitored by a teacher, the learner will have a basis to apply the concept in daily life" (Teaching on Target, by Dr. Robert and Jane Willson Choun).

Before you come to class, enlarge and color the pictures on the pattern page. Cut them out and hide them around your classroom. Make them easy to find but not in plain view.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin today's lesson by having the children act out the scenarios in the student book activity. Choose two students at a time to come to the front of the class. Provide appropriate props (book and table, video game, TV remote). As you read each scenario and the choices, ask the children to act out the right choice .

Joseph's choices - Our memory verse says, "Don't let evil get the upper hand, but conquer evil by doing good." This means there is a choice to be made. Will you repay evil with evil, or will you choose to be good to someone who treats you badly? Joseph had to make this choice many times in his lifetime.

Give the following situations in which Joseph found himself. Allow the children to choose how they would react if they were in Joseph's shoes.

1) Joseph's brothers hated him. They wanted to kill him. Instead, they threw him into a pit. Would you:

- a) Get mad and call them bad names.
- b) Trust God to take care of you.
- c) Threaten to get even with them.

2) Joseph was a slave in the home of a rich soldier, who was his master. Would you:

- a) Plan a way to escape.
- b) Steal things from your rich master.
- c) Work hard to try to please your master.

3) Mrs. Potiphar liked Joseph and flirted with him. Would you:

- a) Get away from her as fast as you can.
- b) Flirt back, because your master will never know.
- c) Make fun of her and tell everyone.

4) Mrs. Potiphar lied to her husband. She told him Joseph attacked her. Would you:

- a) Call her a liar and try to get her into trouble.
- b) Get mad at Potiphar and at God for being in prison.
- c) Be the best prisoner you can be, knowing God is with you.

God's goal - God wants you to trust Him - even when things are going bad for you. Not everything that happens in your life will be good. But, God sees the big picture. He knows how the story will end. And, He will be with you through it all.

Satan's goal - Satan wants you to get mad, to hate people who are mean to you, to call them bad names, to threaten revenge. He wants you to repay evil with evil. He wants you to disobey your parents, your teachers and God. You have choices to make. Will you make the right choices?

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Why was Joseph living in Potiphar's house?
2. What did Potiphar do for a living?
3. How did Mrs. Potiphar get Joseph into trouble?
4. What did Joseph do when Mrs. Potiphar grabbed his sleeve?
5. How did Joseph end up in prison?
6. Where was God while all these bad things were happening to Joseph?

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

Tell the children that there are pictures that relate to today's lesson hidden in your classroom. Have the children search for the pictures - crown, Joseph running, queen, prison bars, bag of money, Joseph's coat, "R" rated video. (The patterns for the activity are on the pattern page.) When all the pictures have been found, have the children arrange themselves in the order that these items appear in the story. Ask the children holding the pictures to retell the part of the story that their picture represents. For larger classes, the children not holding a picture can retell the story.

SONG

"Thy Word Have I Hid In My Heart" is on page 75 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask if one of the children would like to lead in prayer, thanking God for being with Joseph, and asking Him to help them to make the right choice when they are tempted to do bad things, and to run away from the bad things.

Pharaoh's Dreams

MEMORY VERSE

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” - Psalm 111:10

OBJECTIVES

At the end of this lesson, the children will be able to:

1. Describe the dreams that Jacob, Joseph, the butler and king had.
2. Tell that in Bible times God sometimes spoke to people in dreams.
3. Emphasize that God gave Joseph wisdom to tell what the dreams meant.
4. State that Joseph loved and obeyed God - even when things were going against him.

TOPICS & THEMES

Dreams

Egypt

Grapes

Honor God

Jacob

Joseph

Loving God

Obedience

Pharaoh

Pharaoh's Cupbearer

Trusting God

Wisdom

MATERIALS NEEDED

Bible, YEA students' and teacher's books, attendance and memory verse chart, songbook, stars, music player and music tapes or CD, cardboard or poster board, black construction paper, yarn, metal paper fasteners, tape, glue, scissors, white construction paper, double stick tape or flocked paper, flannel board, awards

PREPARATION

"Why?" is a popular question in the lower elementary classroom. You need to be there with answers that will steer their developing reasoning abilities in the right direction. The conclusions they come up with on their own can often be off base.

Help children in this age group understand that Joseph could interpret dreams only with God's power. Dreams were a way of conveying God's message through a man who was empowered by God's Spirit. Joseph didn't take credit for his ability, but gave glory to God for using him.

Enlarge and copy the "dream" pictures from the student's book onto white construction paper. Cut out the four individual "dreams" and back with flocked paper or double stick tape.

Write or type the memory verse on paper (one for each child) and cut into strips. Cut 18x12" black construction paper into 5" wide strips (one for each child in class). Cut 9"x12" black construction paper into 9" squares, and cut enough 9" squares of cardboard or poster board for each child to have one. Make tassels out of colored yarn: Cut yarn into 12" pieces. Group 3 pieces of yarn together, fold in half and tie together with another piece of yarn, leaving a tail of at least 6" to attach to the mortar board.

HOW TO TEACH THIS LESSON

Begin by asking the children to tell about a dream they have had. Ask: How did you feel when you awoke from your dream? Were you afraid? Did you think it was real?

God speaks through dreams - The dreams we will talk about in today's lesson were special dreams. They were not nightmares. They were special messages from God. And, only a man who loved God and served Him could tell what the dreams meant.

(Place the "dream" pictures on a flannel board.) Ask: What did Jacob's dream about the stairway to heaven mean? God's voice spoke to Jacob and told him that he would make great nations from his family. God also said that He would give Jacob a large land to live in. God promised to bless Jacob's family.

Joseph's dreams about the bundles of wheat, and the sun, moon, and stars bowing down to him made Joseph's brothers very mad. They thought Joseph was a smart aleck, wanting them to serve him. They didn't know that God had plans to use Joseph in a special way.

Ask: What did the butler's dream about the grape vine mean? God used Joseph to tell the butler that his job would be restored to him. Then God would use the butler to have Joseph released from prison.

Finally, ask: What did the king's dreams about the fat and skinny cows, and the fat ears and the dried up corn mean? God was warning the king about a famine, a time when there wouldn't be enough food to eat. First there would be seven years of plenty - lots of corn and food. During this

time, the people would store up their extra food. Then when the bad times came, they could eat the food they had stored,

God uses Joseph - The butler and the king were upset and even frightened by their dreams. They couldn't understand what they meant. But, God used Joseph to help them understand. Joseph loved God and obeyed Him, even when he was in prison. He didn't forget God when it seemed like everything was going against him. Joseph knew that God was always with him. And, because he obeyed and honored God, God made him wise.

God can make you wise. - Our memory verse says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." This means that if you will obey God's commands, love Him and worship Him, you will begin to be wise. God's Word, the Bible is our greatest teacher. This is how He speaks to us today. If you will read it and listen to what God says, you will know how you should behave. God will show you how to be happy. He will show you how to have friends. Obeying God's Word will help you in everything you do. Do you want to be wise?

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Review questions have been included in the lesson. In their place, have the students recite the Twelve Tribes of Israel that was assigned the first class. Give an award to those who can.

TEACHER-DIRECTED ACTIVITY

The children will be making mortar board hats for this lesson's activity. Give each child an 18x5" strip of black construction paper, a 9" square sheet of construction paper, and a 9" square of cardboard (or poster board). Glue the square paper to the cardboard square. Fold the top of the paper strip 1/3 of the way down. Turn the strip over and glue the memory verse to the wide section of the construction paper strip. Cut slits along the folder edge of the strip, about 1" apart. Tape the ends together forming a band. Fold the tabs to the inside of the band. Cover the tabs with glue and invert in the center of the cardboard side of the square. Press down firmly and allow to dry. Using a metal fastener, attach the tassel in the center of the top of the mortar board.

SONG

"Praise Him, Praise Him" is on page 76 of Kids Classics Collection.

CLOSING PRAYER

Ask one of the children to lead in prayer, asking God to help them be wise as they obey Him.

Extra Assignment

Memorize the names of the 12 Tribes of Israel and then color the picture:

DAN, ASHER, REUBEN, JUDAH, ISSACHAR, LEVI,
BENJAMIN, ZEBULUN, GAD, NAPHTALI, JOSEPH AND SIMEON.

