

**June 4th**

**Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37:1-11)**

**Aim:** To be assured that God knows about us and will be with us in everything we do.

**Introduction:** Allow children to dress up and make a costume, using material. Could work in pairs. Get them to do a catwalk to show off their new costumes. Award prizes to best dressed. Ask the children how they felt getting dressed up. How do they feel when they get to put on their best dress for weddings, christenings etc?

**Story:** Children can keep on their costumes if they want for when you tell the story. Mention that the story today is about a young man who got a special coat from his father and he really liked wearing this coat as it made him feel important and loved. (Read Genesis 37:1-11) Have actions for children to follow:

- Jacob: stroke chin as if you have a beard
- Joseph's coat: smooth hand down coat and show off costume
- Joseph's brothers: screw face up and frown
- Dream: lie down

**Application:** Ask the children why they think the brothers got upset? Do they ever get upset with their brothers or sisters? Mention that sometimes we may think the other child is the favourite and most of the time that is not the case but in this story Joseph was clearly the favourite with his dad. God on the other hand loved each and every one of the brothers the same. However, he did have a special job especially for Joseph. God also loves each one of us the same

**Bible verse:** *1 John 4:19 - "We love because He first loved us"*

Explain that God loved us before we were even born and because He loves us we should also show His love to others by loving them.

**Craft/Activity:** Decorate Joseph's coat using patterns.

**Close:** Get the children to think of their own families and how much they love them (even if they are unhappy with them at times) and remind the children that God loves us even better than we love our own families.

**June 11th**

**Joseph goes to Egypt (Genesis 37:12-36, Genesis 49, 40)**

**Aim:** To know that God is looking after us, even when things seem to go wrong.

**Introduction:** Recap previous week and how we talked about the brother's jealousy. Ask the children if they get in arguments at home with brothers/sisters. What about? How do they solve the conflict?

**Story:** Mention that today's story is about what Joseph's brothers did to solve the problem (Read Genesis 37:12-36) Stop at various points in the story and ask the children how they think the characters felt.

**Application:** Explain to the children that although everything seemed to be going wrong for Joseph he had someone watching over him all the time. God was there to protect and him (although at times it might not have seemed like it). This was all part of God's plan for Joseph and he has a plan for each of us. If we feel at times things are going wrong we need to remember that God is with us at all times.

**Bible verse:** *Romans 8:31 - "As long as you know that God is for you, it doesn't matter who is against you"*

Mention that God will protect us and at the times we need Him most He will protect and help us.

**Craft/Activity:** Joseph Game - show children various pictures of Joseph in a random order. As a group put the pictures in order of the story and get children to tell story in their own words using actions from the picture and copying the actions as they tell the story. Colour in pictures and make a story strip.

**Close:** Get the children to think about things they find hard in their lives. Have they tried asking God for help? Challenge children to try and remember to ask God for help at difficult times. See what difference it makes to their lives.

**June 18th**

**Josephs important job (Genesis 41)**

**Aim:** To know that God is looking after us and will help us when we need it.

**Introduction:** Ask the children if they dream. What types of dreams might they have? Have they ever had a silly dream? Tell the children about a silly dream you have had. Mention that today's story is when Joseph interpreted a dream.

**Story:** Tell story using Pharaohs dream song from Joseph musical

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51f9uEYGeKw>

Finish by telling the children what they dream meant (Genesis 41). Make the children aware that not all dreams are from God but in this circumstance they were.

**Application:** Explain to the children that God had a special job for Joseph and this was all part of His plan. God gave Joseph the ability to interpret dreams so He could do this very important job for Him.

**Bible verse:** *Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord. Plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future"*

Mention that God knows what we are good at. He knows what we will be when we grow up. He has it all mapped out for us so we do not need to worry.

**Craft/Activity:**

**Close:** Remind the children the God cares for us and will look after us. He will help us if we ask and will guide us when we need direction in our lives.

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Joseph helps his family (Genesis 42:1-13; 45:1-13)**

**Aim:** To realise we all need help from someone at some point in our lives and that we need to remember God even when things are going right.

**Introduction:** Teamwork challenge:

Mention that the last few weeks we've been looking at Joseph (how things weren't going too good for him) and how God helped him through his difficulties. This week we are going to look at how things turned out for Him.

**Story:** (Read Genesis 42:1-13; 45:1-13) Children can act it out as you read.

**Application:** Explain that when we look back at the life of Joseph it is easy to see how God stayed with him and helped him. Joseph also remembered God in everything he did and when things finally went well for him he knew it was part of God's plan.

**Bible verse:** *1 Thessalonians 5:18*) " give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"

Mention that God wants us to remember Him at all times. In the bad time and the good. Sometimes it's easier to forget God when we don't need Him and when things are going well but we need to remember that things are only going well because God helps us at all times.

**Craft/Activity:**

**Close:** Get the children to think of a good time in their lives. Remind the children that God was still with them and he plays a big part in all the good things that happen to us.