

## God speaks through dreams



**Bible verses:**

Genesis 37, 39, 41  
Joseph sold into slavery



**Aim:**

To discover how God is with us even in the most difficult times



**Today's fruit:**

Faithfulness



In today's session we explore the story of Joseph and how his brothers' jealousy brought him from the position of favourite son to a humble slave.

Joseph was sent far away from his family and forced to work as a servant in the house of Potiphar. There are still people today who, like Joseph, are trafficked and sold into slavery. In this session we will remember those who are trapped in modern slavery and see if there is anything we can do to help. This week, on 30 July, was World Day Against Trafficking in Persons, and we will also be thinking about The Salvation Army's Helping-Hand Appeal.

God was faithful to Joseph and Joseph knew God was with him, no matter the situation he was in.

*This week's session is in collaboration with Hayley Still, UK Engagement Co-ordinator for The Salvation Army International Development.*

### Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- Memory verse wristband
- Hand-washing facilities
- A hand-shaped piece of paper – children can trace and cut out their own hand shape; or provide a pre-cut one
- *Explore It ideas* handout



## You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Faithfulness*
- To watch **Human Trafficking by UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime** (1:22) so you can explain what's happening if necessary
- A large sheet of paper with the pencil outline of a heart
- Trays, each with a layer of different poster paint colour
- To know about the **Helping-Hand Appeal** and how to donate – please note the video is not age-appropriate as it is aimed at an older age-group
- Memory verse poster

## Start it

### Say:

The Bible stories for our next two *Explore It* sessions are set in Egypt. So today we're going to start by discovering a bit about Ancient Egypt.

Give each child a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask them to create a question to ask the rest of the group based on the video clip they are about to watch. They can write it during the clip or after it has finished. Afterwards they can ask each other their questions about Ancient Egypt.

## Video

***Ancient Egypt: The Pharaoh civilisation Educational Video for Kids*** by Happy Learning English (4:02)

### Ask:

What was your favourite fact that you discovered about Egypt?

## Sing it

### Say:

Our song this week tells the first part of our Bible story for today. You may not be able to keep up with all the words, but see what you can discover about Joseph's story in the song. (Or perhaps you still remember the song from June last year!)

## Song

**'Joseph's Coat' *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*** by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice (4:02)

## **Say:**

We find Joseph's story in the first book of the Bible in Genesis.

## **Read:**

**'Joseph was born when his father Israel, also called Jacob, was old. So Israel loved Joseph more than his other sons. He made Joseph a special robe with long sleeves. Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than he loved them. So they hated their brother and could not speak to him politely.'**

(Genesis 37:3-4 ICB)

Older Bible translations speak about 'a coat of many colours', but most scholars and translators these days recognise it refers to length rather than colour – possibly 'long-sleeved', making it impractical for work.

## Tell it

## **Say:**

Our story starts off with a family divided. Jacob's sons could see that he loved Joseph more than he loved them. Things got even worse when Joseph shared his unusual dreams.

## **Video**

*Joseph and his coat (Genesis 37)* by Saddleback Kids (3:17)

## **Ask:**

- Why were Joseph's brothers so angry about his dreams?
- What did they do to get their revenge?
- How much money did they get for selling Joseph?
- Where was Joseph taken?

## **Say:**

Even though Joseph didn't get along with his brothers, he never imagined they would do something like this. He must have trusted them as he was willing to visit them alone. However, his brothers took advantage of Joseph as there was no one to help him.

## **Ask:**

How do you think Joseph felt when he realised his brothers had put him up for sale?

## **Say:**

It's difficult for us to imagine a person being sold as a slave, but this is exactly what happened to Joseph. He was outnumbered and alone. There was nothing he could do to protect himself from his brothers' horrible actions. All he could do was trust that God would continue to be faithful to him.

Display the *Faithfulness* sign.

**Say:**

It would have been easy for Joseph to think that God had abandoned him, but instead he trusted that God would see him through this awful situation. When we describe God as faithful, it means he can be trusted. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit and is something that God can grow in our hearts as well. Joseph knew that God could be trusted. Let's find out what happened next in the story.

**Video**

*Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39–41)* by Saddleback Kids (stop at 1:59)

**Watch: 0.00 to 1:59** 'and sent him to prison. [Joseph,] "Oh"'.  
[Joseph,] "Oh".

**Ask:**

- What did Potiphar notice about Joseph?
- How did Potiphar reward Joseph for his hard work?

**Say:**

Potiphar's wife tried to tempt Joseph to do the wrong thing. Joseph refused and remained faithful to God. Despite his innocence, Joseph was thrown into jail.

**Ask:**

- How would you feel if you were in Joseph's situation and were accused of something you hadn't done?
- Do you think it would be understandable if Joseph reacted with bitterness and anger at this point in the story? If so, why?

**Say:**

Despite all the challenges he faced, Joseph continued to trust in God's faithfulness and chose to keep doing the right thing. He knew God would see him through.

**Watch: 1:59 to end.**

**Ask:**

- What do you notice about the way Joseph shared his dreams with Pharaoh, compared to the way he shared them with his brothers?

**Say:**

It was never OK for Joseph's brothers to do what they did. But as he grew older, Joseph learned how to share his special gift from God in a kinder way. He helped other prisoners understand their dreams and eventually this caught Pharaoh's attention. Joseph always made it clear that his ability to interpret dreams was because of God.

## Action it

### Say:

Sadly, slavery has always been a part of this world. Joseph's situation was awful, and he was treated terribly by the people he thought he could trust. Despite this, he was able to move into a position of power in Pharaoh's palace.

### Say:

There are many people in our world today who are sold into modern slavery and forced to do things they don't want to do. This is called 'human trafficking'. Unlike Joseph, there is no way for them to climb up the ladder to a position of power.

### Say:

People who are trafficked today are often powerless. All their money and security is taken away and they are unable to make decisions for themselves.

Watch the following clip with the children and discuss how people are tricked into situations by people they thought they could trust. Explain how videos like this are used to warn people about the tricks traffickers use. Give the children the opportunity to ask questions about the clip and modern slavery.

## Video

### ***Human Trafficking by UNODC United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (1:22)***

Explain that the children are going to create a display that can be used in the wider church to promote The Salvation Army's Helping-Hand Appeal. The Salvation Army uses money raised to support people who are victims of human trafficking. The task is to let their church know where they can find out more information and donate.

Use a large sheet of paper with the outline of a heart drawn on it in pencil. Ask the children to press their hands on the coloured trays of paint, then fill the heart with their brightly coloured handprints. While the paint is drying, they can make signs to add to the picture that let people know about the Helping-Hand Appeal and where they can donate. These signs can be added to the picture and displayed at the church.

## Pray it

### Say:

Joseph faced so many challenges caused by the bad behaviour of others, and yet he continued to trust God. He showed kindness to others, and they discovered God's faithfulness through Joseph's actions. Our memory verse for this month reminds us that God works in situations in

our lives for good when we trust in him.

Display the memory verse for this month and read it with the children. Give out the memory verse wristbands.

## Memory verse

**‘And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.’**

(Romans 8:28 *NIV*)

### Say:

There are many people in the world that are caught up in human trafficking and we are going to pray for them. We are going to ask God to work in these horrible situations and bring freedom to those who are suffering.

Give each child a hand-shaped piece of paper to write a prayer on, for those who are suffering as modern-day slaves. They could pray for the people involved in The Salvation Army’s anti-human trafficking work. They could ask God to change the hearts of those who are hurting others.

A suggested music track is provided below that can be used as the children write their prayers. Ask the children to read their prayers to bring the session to a close. They will need to take their handprint prayer home with them, as it is part of one of the *Explore It ideas* activities.

## Listen

‘God of Mercy’ by Lou Fellingham (3:51)

## Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



## God speaks through dreams

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



### Bible verses:

Genesis 37, 39, 41  
Joseph sold into slavery



### Aim:

To discover how God is with us even in the most difficult times



**Today's fruit:**  
Faithfulness



### Pray

In today's *Explore It* session you wrote a prayer to support people involved in modern slavery. Find a place at home to stick up your handprint prayer and take time each day to read it aloud.



### Share

The Salvation Army's Helping-Hand Appeal raises awareness and money to fight against modern slavery. How could you help with this? Could you share what you have discovered with people at home, or even with your class at school? If so, how?

Find one way to support the Helping-Hand Appeal this week.



### Song for the week

'Joseph's Coat' *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice (4:02)



### Memory verse

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*Kids Alive!* Online – [salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive](http://salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive)

*Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children & Youth

# God speaks through dreams

**Bible verses:**

Genesis 41  
The King's dreams

**Aim:**

To learn that Joseph helped  
Pharaoh with his bad dreams

**Today's fruit:**

Faithfulness



## Memory verse

**'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'**

(Romans 8:28 *NIV*)



## Sing It

**'If I were a butterfly'** (lyrics and music)

**'The butterfly song'** by Brian Howard,  
uploaded by Unreached Corners (3:09)

**'Wonderful Lord'** (official video) by Doug  
Horley (3:13)



## Start it

Today we are going to hear about how Joseph helped the king when he had bad dreams.

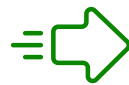


## Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Genesis 41.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- How long do you sleep at night?
- When is bedtime and what helps you to fall asleep?
- Do you know anyone who can explain your dreams?
- What do we do when we have bad dreams?
- What helps you to wake up in the mornings?



## Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Mime different 'getting ready for the day after sleep' actions (stretching, eating breakfast, yawning, brushing teeth, getting dressed) while others guess the action.
- Act out those moments when Pharaoh gave Joseph a ring, dressed him in a fine robe and gave him a chariot to ride in.
- Play statue or sleeping games like 'dead lions'.