

Joseph's Brothers Are Jealous

Elementary Lesson



Theme: Jealousy can lead to terrible sin.

Scripture: Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Memory Verse: "Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph – a beautiful robe." Genesis 37:3

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

- Different color swatches of fabric - one per child
- Stapler

Get Ready: Give each child a swatch of fabric before you begin. Explain that when you point to them, you want them to bring their swatch of fabric to you. When they bring their swatch to you, staple each swatch one to another to make a long chain of swatches.

Do This:

Say: **Hold up what you each have in your hands so everyone can see it. Oh my! Look at all of these pieces of brightly colored cloth; red, blue, green, yellow, purple, and orange. There's just about every color you can imagine. Wouldn't it be beautiful to take all of these pieces of cloth and sew them together into a shirt or a dress? I imagine that if you had a shirt or dress with so many beautiful colors, everyone who saw it would be very jealous and wish that they had one, too. Listen closely and when I point to you bring your swatch up to me.**

All these beautiful colors remind me of today's Bible lesson about Joseph. There was a man named Jacob. He was Joseph's father, and he had twelve sons. Of all his sons, Jacob loved Joseph best because he was born to him in his old age. (Point to a child to bring their swatch to

you.) **To show how much he loved Joseph, Jacob made him a beautiful coat that had many colors.** (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.) **Joseph's brothers were jealous because it showed that he was his father's favorite son.** (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.)

A few days later Joseph's father said to Joseph, "Your brothers are out tending my sheep. I want you to go check and make sure that they are ok." Joseph did what his father told him to do, but when his brothers saw him coming, they made plans to kill him. (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.)

"Let's kill him and throw him into a pit and say that he was eaten by a wild animal." (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.)

When Reuben, the oldest of the brothers heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not take his life. Instead, let's throw him into this pit here in the desert, but don't harm him. Then he'll die without laying a hand on him." Reuben said this because he planned to come back later and rescue Joseph and take him back to his father. (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.)

When Joseph arrived, his brothers grabbed him, ripped off the beautiful robe he was wearing, and threw him into the pit. Then they sat down to eat their dinner. As they were eating, they looked up and saw a caravan of merchants coming their way. (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.) **The merchants were on their way to Egypt. The brothers asked, "What will we gain if we kill our brother? Let's sell him to these merchants instead." So when the merchants came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him up out of the pit and sold him for twenty pieces of silver.** (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.)

The brothers began to make up a story to tell their father. They killed a goat and smeared its blood over Joseph's coat of many colors. (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.) **They took the bloody coat back to Jacob and said to him. "We found this bloody coat in the wilderness. Look at it and see if it is Joseph's coat."** (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.)

"It is my son's coat!" Jacob cried. "Surely some ferocious animal has eaten him." (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.)

What a terrible thing for Joseph's brothers to do -- just because they were jealous of their brother. I hope that we would never do anything terrible, but we can learn from the Bible that jealousy can cause us to do things that will hurt other people. Jealousy is something we should guard against. We have to learn to be happy with whatever our Heavenly Father has given us. (Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.)

Before we close, I must tell you that this is not the end of the story of Joseph and his brothers. The story does have a happy ending and Joseph is reunited with his father and brothers. But

for today, we learn the lesson of the terrible things that happen because of the sin of jealousy.
(Point to a child to bring their swatch to you.)

Pray: **Dear God, You love all of Your children and You want the very best for them. Help us to guard against feelings of jealousy that might come into our heart. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Virtual Lesson Tip:

Kids can do this activity with their family.

Bible Memory Verse: “Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph — a beautiful robe.” Genesis 37:3

You'll Need:

- [“Coat of Scripture”](#) handout

Do This:

Give each child a “Coat of Scripture” handout.

Have kids follow these steps.

- Cut out the coat puzzle pieces.
- Glue them to fit together inside the coat.
- Color each piece a different color.

Once the colorful coats are finished, have kids read the whole Bible memory verse together.

Say: **Today we heard about a colorful coat, and we learned that jealousy can lead to terrible sin. When Joseph received the colorful coat from his father, his brothers felt a lot of jealousy. Then his brothers did some terrible things to Joseph.**

Ask:

- **Has there ever been a time when you were really jealous of something someone else had? (Allow kids to share openly.)**
- **What helped you overcome your jealous feelings?**

Say: It doesn't feel good to be jealous. And if we do not deal with those feelings, they can lead us to do terrible things. Let's watch a video to learn what it means to be jealous.

"The Green Jealousy Machine" Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- ["The Green Jealousy Machine"](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show kids the video.

Afterward, ask:

- **Why do you think Corey knocked over the gifts?**
- **Why was Corey feeling jealous?**
- **What could Corey have done to stop his jealous feelings?**

Say: If Corey had been thankful for what he had received, that would've helped. Corey could have also stopped thinking about what he didn't get and instead, focused on being happy for his sister. In the same way, Joseph's brothers could have been happy about the gift their father gave their brother.

Bible Interactive Experience:

You'll Need:

- 7 colorful swatches of fabric
- Write one of these scripture references on each of the swatches of fabric:
 - Song of Solomon 8:6
 - 1 Corinthians 13:4
 - Philippians 2:3
 - James 3:14-15
 - Psalm 37:1-3
 - James 3:16
 - Proverbs 14:30
- Bible one per child

Do This:

Hide the swatches in the room and invite the students to hunt for the seven missing swatches. When all seven swatches are found, explain that the swatch each person found has a Scripture they need to look up. (If you have more than seven kids in your class, give a couple of kids the same Scripture.)

Invite kids to look up each verse. Then have them read it aloud. As a class, discuss what each verse teaches them about jealousy/envy.

Ask:

- **What is your biggest lesson about jealousy today?**
- **How can you seek God's help when you feel jealous?**

Pray: **Dear God, You know our hearts better than we do. You know when we are jealous and envy something that someone else has. Help us keep our eyes focused on You so that we will not have jealous hearts. When we do see jealousy in ourselves, help us run to You for forgiveness. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Virtual Lesson Tip:

Kids can do this activity with their family.

Colorful Coat Snacks

You'll Need:

- Graham Crackers (two per child)
- Marshmallow cream
- Jelly beans
- Paper plates
- Napkins

Do This:

Say: **Today we learned about jealousy. Joseph's brothers were jealous after their dad presented him with a coat of many colors. Let's make some colorful coat snacks now.**

Have kids follow these steps to make their Colorful Coat Snacks.

- Lay one graham cracker vertically on the plate.
- Break the other graham cracker in half and put it on each side as sleeves.
- Coat the graham cracker with marshmallow cream.
- Use the colorful jelly beans on the marshmallows cream to create a colorful coat snack.
- Enjoy.

Pin the Coat on Joseph

You'll Need:

- An outline of Joseph on large newsprint
- Multicolor sticker dots - one per child
- Tape

Get Ready: Draw a heart on the Joseph outline.

Do This:

Tape the outline of Joseph on the wall. Give each child a colored dot.

Say: Today you get the chance to give Joseph a coat of many colors. Let's see who gets the closest to Joseph's heart with their eyes closed. No peeking.

Have kids line up six feet apart on the other side of the room from the Joseph outline on the wall.

Play the game as follows:

- One by one, call on kids and have them close their eyes tightly.
- Spin each child around three times and then release them to try to put the dot on the outline of Joseph.
- After every player has gone, see who got the closest to Joseph's heart.

Say: **Joseph's father gave him a coat. This caused great jealousy among his brothers and jealousy can lead to terrible sin. We all need to watch that we don't let jealousy get close to our hearts.**

Virtual Lesson Tip:

Kids can do this activity with their family.

Colorful Coats

You'll Need:

- Brown grocery sacks - one per child
- Glue
- Colorful Pom poms
- Paint and paintbrushes
- Markers

Do This:

Say: **Today you will get to make colorful coats, but we will write a very helpful reminder on the back of our coats.**

Have kids follow these steps to make their Colorful Coats.

- Cut the brown paper bag down the center on one side.
- Cut a head hole and arm holes so you can wear the coat.
- Write, "Jealousy can lead to terrible sin" on the back of their coats.
- Then decorate their coats and make them as colorful as possible.

When every child is finished, have kids put on their coats for a colorful coat fashion show.

Pure Heart Prayers

You'll Need:

- Long thin balloon - one per child

- Sharpie markers

Do This:

Say: **Jealousy is a heart problem and it can lead to terrible sin.**

Lead children in these steps:

- Give each child their balloon and instruct them to inflate it. (You may have to help children tie off their balloons.)
- Then children can twist the long inflated balloon to form a heart. Remember, practice makes perfect.
- As you are twisting and making your balloon heart, ask God to rid your heart of any jealousy you may have toward others.
- When you are through praying silently, write on your heart balloon "Lord give me a pure heart."

Time to Praise God

You'll Need:

- Song: "Praise Him All Ye Little Children"

[Words and Music](#)

[MP3](#) Accompaniment Track (right click to save to your computer)

- Song: "Love One Another"

[Words and Music](#)

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This song is in the public domain and may be freely downloaded and reproduced for religious or educational use by churches, schools, home schoolers, and other non-profit organizations.

Do This:

Say: **Jealousy can lead to terrible sin. But instead of being jealous, we learn to love one another by the example of love Jesus sets for us.**

Lead children in singing "Praise Him All Ye Little Children" and "Love One Another."

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

[Joseph and His Brothers Crossword](#)

[Joseph and His Brothers Decoder](#)

[Joseph and His Brothers Word Search](#)

Complete Supply List:

- [Graham Crackers](#)
- [Marshmallow cream](#)
- [Jelly beans](#)
- [Multicolor sticker dots](#)
- [Brown grocery sacks](#)
- [Glue](#)
- [Colorful Pom poms](#)
- [Paint](#) and [paintbrushes](#)
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- [Long thin balloons](#)

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Joseph's Brothers Are Jealous

At-Home Lesson

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