Once Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent his sons to Egypt, except for Benjamin. No one in Canaan knew how long the famine would last, and later clues lead us to believe that it was early into the famine when Jacob sent his sons to Egypt.

Joseph recognized his brothers immediately, but they did not recognize him. Through several rounds of tests, Joseph determined that his brothers’ hearts had changed and that they were sorry for selling him into slavery.

Jacob was hesitant to let his sons return to Egypt for more grain, especially with Benjamin in tow. He reluctantly let Benjamin go with Judah’s promise of protection for him. Can you imagine Jacob’s fear after losing Joseph?

Joseph’s final test involved Benjamin; it played heavily on his brothers’ concern for their father and Jacob’s desire not to lose another son. Unable to hold his composure any longer, Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers.

Focus now on Genesis 45:4-8. Joseph explained why God allowed him to be taken to Egypt. Even though his brothers intended this for his harm, God actually intended this for good. Have you ever struggled to see how bad situations in your life can lead to positive results? Joseph told his brothers they would be set apart as a remnant for “a great deliverance.”

God told Abraham many years before about what would happen. (See Gen. 15:13.) Little did Joseph know that his brothers and their families would be in Egypt for the next 400 years.

Joseph was to go to Egypt to prepare a place for his family to survive and become a great nation—the nation of Israel. God’s plan of redemption through Jesus Christ was sustained through the remnant left in Egypt for 400 years.
**Preschool BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW**

**Session Title:** Joseph’s Dreams Came True  
**Bible Passage:** Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15-21  
**Big Picture Question:** Why did God send Joseph to Egypt? God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.  
**Key Passage:** Genesis 28:15  
**Unit Christ Connection:** Despite difficult circumstances, God remained faithful to the people to whom His promise was given, in preparation for the salvation that would come through Jesus Christ.

**Small Group Opening**  
(15–20 minutes)

**Large Group Bible Study**  
(10–15 minutes)

**Small Group Activities**  
(20–25 minutes)

**Snack and Transition**  
(20 minutes)
A great famine occurred in many countries. Not enough grain grew to feed everyone. But in Egypt, Joseph had stored grain for seven years for Pharaoh. Hungry people from all around came to Joseph to buy grain. Joseph’s father, Jacob, sent his 10 older sons to Egypt to buy grain. Jacob kept his youngest son, Benjamin, at home; he didn’t want anything to happen to Benjamin.

When the 10 brothers arrived in Egypt, they had to talk to Joseph about buying grain. They did not know it was Joseph. He was 20 years older than when they had sold him to the traders, and he looked like an Egyptian. Joseph knew who they were. Joseph’s brothers had been cruel to him and to their father, Jacob. Joseph tested them to see whether they had changed. He acted angry. They were afraid of him. “You are spies,” Joseph said. “No,” they said. “We are brothers. Our youngest brother is at home with our father.”

Joseph said, “One of you must go home and bring back your youngest brother so that I will know you are telling the truth.” Then Joseph put his brothers in the dark prison. After three days, he said, “One of you will stay here in prison while the rest of you go home and bring your youngest brother.” He kept Simeon in jail. Joseph’s brothers said to one another, “We are being punished for what we did to our brother.” They did not know that Joseph understood what they were saying.

Joseph sent nine brothers home to bring Benjamin back to Egypt. He also put money in each brother’s sack of grain. When they saw the money, they were really afraid. They thought the Egyptians would accuse them of stealing. “What is this that God has done to us?” they said. The brothers began to think about how mean they had been to Joseph and how sad they had made Jacob. They were changing to become kinder men.

When they returned home, they could not convince Jacob to let Benjamin go. Simeon stayed in jail. Finally, they needed more grain. The brothers said, “We can’t go to Egypt without Benjamin.” So Jacob said, “If you take Benjamin, also take the best gift you can to the man, and take twice as
much money. Maybe he will treat you well.”

When they arrived in Egypt, Joseph saw Benjamin. Joseph told his servant to prepare a meal for them. The brothers did not know what to think. They gave him the gift and bowed down before him, just as Joseph had dreamed when he was young. After the dinner, Joseph sent the 11 brothers home with grain. Joseph made another test to see what his brothers would do. He made it look as if Benjamin had stolen Joseph’s silver cup. The brothers were afraid Benjamin would have to stay in Egypt and be Joseph’s servant. They begged Joseph not to keep Benjamin. One brother, Judah, said, “Let me stay and be your servant instead of Benjamin. Our father could not bear to lose him.”

Joseph could tell that the brothers had changed. He sent his Egyptian servants out of the room and cried loudly. His brothers were frightened. Joseph said, “I am your brother Joseph. You sold me to be a servant in Egypt. But don’t worry. It was God’s plan to save your lives in the famine. It was not you who sent me here. It was God.” Joseph told them to move Jacob’s whole family to Egypt where Joseph could take care of them.

Joseph told Pharaoh what had happened. Pharaoh was glad for Joseph. He sent wagons to help them move. He promised them good land to live on. When Jacob heard that his son was alive and a ruler over Egypt, he could not believe it. But when he saw the wagons, Jacob was ready to move. God told Jacob that it was good for him to go to Egypt. His family would grow to become a great nation, and he would see his son Joseph again.

Joseph’s father lived 17 years in Egypt. Before he died, Jacob blessed each of his sons and also Joseph’s sons. His family stayed in Egypt for 400 years, as God had said they would. Jesus was a descendant of Jacob. God had saved Jacob’s family. Many years later, Jesus would be born into that family.

Christ Connection: Joseph recognized that though his brothers intended evil, God planned his circumstances for good—to establish a remnant of God’s people (Genesis 45:7). Likewise, though those who crucified Jesus intended it for evil, God’s plan for the sacrifice of His Son was for the good of all people. Through Jesus’ death on the cross, God again saved a remnant of people.
Small Group OPENING

Session Title: Joseph’s Dreams Came True
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Welcome and Session Starter (15–20 minutes)
Welcome parents and preschoolers; follow your church’s security procedures for signing in preschoolers. Guide the preschooler to an activity to set the stage for today’s lesson.

Activity Sheet: Joseph in Egypt
These are two pictures of Joseph. In one picture he is dressed like his brothers. In the other he is dressed like an Egyptian.
Say • Can you see why Joseph’s brothers did not recognize him? Why else do you think they couldn’t tell who he was? (They didn’t expect to see him there; they wouldn’t have guessed he would be so important; he looked and spoke like an Egyptian.)

• Prepare: Play “Starry Night” in the background.
• Set an offering basket near the door.
• Post the allergy alert for the snack ingredients.
• Set out a few favorite toys such as puzzles and blocks.

LOW PREP

• crayons
• “Joseph in Egypt” 1 per kid
Free play
Set out toys or materials such as these suggested for the boys and girls to play with as others arrive. Make conversation about what has been happening during the week—teeth lost, fun times, birthdays, and so forth. Mention the key passage.

Say  • Do you think God knew what you were doing this week? Remember what God said to Jacob, “I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.” God is always with you.

Transition to Bible study time
Gain attention by ringing a bell, clapping a rhythm for children to copy, or playing the countdown video. Remind the boys and girls that Joseph had become a very important man in Egypt. He would have stood tall and straight. Walk to the Bible study location striding tall and straight.
Large Group Bible Study Time (10-15 minutes)

Introduce the Bible story

Tape an index card with a picture or drawing of a silver goblet underneath one child’s mat or chair before the kids arrive. Make sure it is not visible to the naked eye. If children do not sit on chairs or carpet mats at Bible story time, provide a blank index card for each child. Shuffle the goblet card in with the blank cards, face them down, and ask each child to each draw a card and hold it facedown without looking at it.

Say • When I count to three, everyone look to see who has a card with a picture of a special cup. When you find it, stand up and say “I have the cup!” One, two, three! …

(Child’s name) did not know that he/she had the cup card. In our Bible story today, Joseph played a trick on his brothers using a real silver cup. He wanted to see whether they had really changed.

Session Title: Joseph’s Dreams Came True
Bible Passage: Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15-21
Big Picture Question: Why did God send Joseph to Egypt? God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.
Key Passage: Genesis 28:15
Unit Christ Connection: Despite difficult circumstances, God remained faithful to the people to whom His promise was given, in preparation for the salvation that would come through Jesus Christ.
Tell the Bible story or watch the video

Tell the Bible story with your Bible open, or show “Joseph’s Dreams Came True.”

Review

Look at the timeline and point to Joseph. Recall the events of Joseph’s time in Egypt.

Say

• Why did Joseph go to Egypt? (His brothers didn’t like him so they sold him to traders going to Egypt.)
• Who bought Joseph? (Potiphar) Why was Joseph put in prison? (Potiphar’s wife told a lie about Joseph.)
• Whom did Joseph help in prison? How did he help them? (Two prisoners who had been servants to the king; Joseph told them what their dreams meant.)
• How did Joseph help Pharaoh? (He told Pharaoh what his dream meant.)
• What did Joseph’s brothers think when they found out he was Joseph? (They were afraid he would hurt them.)

• Why did God send Joseph to Egypt? God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.

Read the key passage from the poster. Ask where we can read it. (Genesis, in the Bible) Show the verse in the Bible. Say together God’s promise to Jacob. Sing “Look!”

Transition to small groups

Send a few kids at a time to small group activities. Remind them to walk tall.
Small Group ACTIVITIES

Session Title: Joseph’s Dreams Came True
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Small Group Activities Time (20–25 minutes)
During each activity, ask the big picture question or work on learning the key passage verse.

Play “Hide and See”
Show two blocks or dishes. While the rest of the kids cover their eyes, send two of them to hide a block or dish. Then, signal the others to open their eyes and find the hidden items. Repeat, sending two different kids to hide the items.
Say • In our Bible story, Joseph hid money in his brother’s sacks and a cup in Benjamin’s bag. Joseph was testing his brothers. He found out they were sorry for what they had done.

Make a signet ring
Measure a rectangle of foil long enough to fit around a preschooler’s finger. Fold it to give it strength and glue it into a ring. Cut a circle of foam for each child or punch a circle out with a sharp-edged bottle cap. Each child can inscribe a design on a piece of foam, using a ball point pen and pressing into the foam. Glue the circle onto the rectangle. Show how to color the foam circle with washable markers.
marker and press it on paper. The design should appear as it would with a signet ring.

**Say** • When Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all the grain in Egypt, Pharaoh gave Joseph his signet ring. When Joseph pressed the ring into hot wax or into clay and then onto paper, it was the same as signing Pharaoh’s name.

   Pharaoh gave Joseph fine clothes, put a gold necklace around his neck, and had him ride in Pharaoh’s second-best chariot with a servant telling people on the street to bow to Joseph. God had made Joseph the second most powerful man in Egypt.

**Match “Feast or Famine”**

Use the game cards in one of the following ways.

   (1) To play the memory game, print the cards on heavyweight paper or back them with construction paper. Place cards facedown in four rows of four cards. Players turn over two cards at a time, keeping them when they make a match, until all matches have been made.

   (2) To play a matching game, match the “feast” picture to its “famine” version.

   (3) To play a sorting game, sort each card into a “feast” pile or a “famine” pile.

**Say** • Life in a famine was hard. Joseph’s family needed food during the famine.

   • **Why did God send Joseph to Egypt? God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.**
Paint to music
Place each color of paint into a plate or shallow pan with a couple of sponges. Cover the table with newspapers; give each child a large sheet of paper. Dampen the paper with a sponge. Either spoon paint onto the paper for children to spread with a sponge or let them use a sponge from the pan, using each sponge for one color only. Dab the sponge over netting or drag the fork tines through the paint for texture. As kids work, talk about Pharaoh’s dream or about their dreams.

Say • God told Joseph what some dreams meant. Joseph always remembered to tell people that it was God who had told him what the dreams meant.

Make a chain necklace
Show the boys and girls how to make a loop, overlap the ends, and tape it together. Loop the second loop through the first one and secure it the same way. Continue until the chain is long enough to be a necklace, and make the last loop connect the two ends of the chain. Children may wish to decorate the strips with markers before making them into loops.

Say • Why did God send Joseph to Egypt? God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family. Pharaoh gave Joseph a signet ring and a gold chain necklace to show how important Joseph was. God used Pharaoh to give Joseph the important job Joseph needed to save his family.
Snack Time and Transition (20 minutes)
Secure kids’ attention and instruct them to put away supplies, take a bathroom break, and wash hands or use hand sanitizer before snack time.

Set the table or recruit helpers with clean hands to help set napkins and cups of water on the table. Remind kids to say thank you to helpers and to wait until the blessing has been said before eating. Thank God for the snack.

Distribute 12 snack items to each child. Talk about Joseph’s brothers, and how they had become kinder men.

Say • Joseph was able to forgive his brothers because he knew God had planned for him to live in Egypt.

Transition
When a child has finished his snack and thrown away his trash, he may select a book or puzzle to look at, draw on his journal page, color the Bible story coloring page, or work at something else quietly. Suggest drawing on the journal page something from the timeline that is particularly interesting. Print on a kid’s page the title she suggests.

Softly greet parents or the next session teachers.
The Covenant Renewed

Key Passage: Genesis 28:15

Session 1: The Promise Reaffirmed
Genesis 25:19-26; 26:1-6; 28:10-22

Session 2: The Stolen Blessing
Genesis 25:27-34; 27:1-45

Session 3: Jacob’s New Name
Genesis 32–33

Session 4: Joseph Sent to Egypt
Genesis 37:1-36; 39:1–41:57

Session 5: Joseph’s Dreams Came True
Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15-21
Why did God send Joseph to Egypt?

God sent Joseph to Egypt to save his family.
Look, I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go.

Genesis 28:15
And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest.

Genesis 28:15
UNIT 3 • Session 5 • Joseph’s Dreams Came True
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OK TO PRINT

The Covenant Renewed
Joseph’s Dreams Come True
Genesis 42:1–46:34; 50:15-21
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**Joseph in Egypt**

*Instructions:* Joseph’s brothers might have recognized him if he had been dressed like them. But Joseph was dressed like an important Egyptian; he wore different clothes; he probably wore a wig and make-up. Color Joseph dressed like his brothers and Joseph dressed like an Egyptian to see how different he would have looked.
Feast or Famine Cards

Instructions: Print and cut apart these cards. If you print them on heavyweight paper, they can be used for a memory game. Otherwise, use them for matching the same things in feast and famine or for sorting into a “Feast” pile and a “Famine” pile.
Today your child will be tasting/touching/sniffing

Please notify a teacher if your child should not participate in this activity.

Instructions: Print this poster, or laminate it and reuse it throughout the quarter. Use a dry erase marker to fill in the necessary information when bringing food, animals, things to smell, or nature items that might cause allergic reactions. Display the poster where parents can see it when they arrive with their children.