

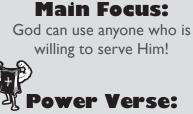




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"JOSEPH - Living The Dream" - LESSON 1 "Nobody's Perfect"



"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17



"No Matter Who You Are Or What You've Done, God Can Use Us -Everyone!"



Many of us think that our past, our family history, or our supposed lack of ability exempts us from being eligible to be used by God. If we use those items as a checklist, MOST of us would most certainly be eliminated from consideration.

God, however, doesn't see things the way we do. God looks beyond the outward appearance and present circumstances to see what we can become. If we allow Him, God can take our lives and use them in a big way.

In this lesson, the kids will learn that Joseph's past, family, and situation was less than perfect. Yet, God used Joseph in a mighty way, just as He will use each child who is willing.



"The Spark" Intro Video God Can Use Anyone



"Watt's Up?" Teaching Video Skittles teaches "Watt's Up?"



Character Skit "Snoozin' Susan"



ffering Time



Game On! "Q-Tip Torpedos"



Bible Story "Joseph's Dysfunctional Family"



Power Verse Video

"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

- 2 Corinthians 5:17



Call To Action

"Nobody's Perfect"



Brain Drain PowerPoint Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

God can use anyone who is willing to serve Him!

Power Verse:

"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17



"No Matter Who You Are Or What You've Done, God Can Use Us -Everyone!"

"The Spark" Intro Video

God Can Use Anyone

"Watt's Up?" Teaching Video

Skittles teaches "Watt's Up?"

Character Skit

"Snoozin' Susan"

Offering Time

Game On!

"Q-Tip Torpedos"

Bible Story

"Joseph's Dysfunctional Family"

Power Verse Video

"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Call To Action

"Nobody's Perfect"

Brain Drain

PowerPoint Review Game

Small Group Experience



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Character: "Snoozin' Susan" (a happy-go-lucky girl who dreams a lot and has a tendency to fall asleep at the most innopportune moments)

- **Susan**: (Enters to her theme music dressed in pajamas with a sleep mask draped around her neck. She comes out looking around like she's lost, stretching and yawning) Um...Where am I?
- Leader: Oh, hello there! You're in church. Did you sleep in or something?
- Susan: What makes you say that?
- Leader: Well, you're kind of in your pajamas.
- **Susan**: I am? (looks down at herself) Oh, dear. I've done it again.
- Leader: What have you done?
- **Susan**: You see, sometimes I just kind of randomly fall asleep in different places I don't know why it just sort of happens and (head drops and begins snoring loudly)
- Leader: Oh, wow. Um...excuse me...ma'am?
- Susan: (talking in her sleep) No, Grandpa, I'm not hungry.
- Leader: (laughs) I think she's talking in her sleep! And, she seems to be DREAMING!
- **Susan**: (still asleep, reaches over and feels around on the leader's face) Did you shave off your beard, Grandpa? (feels the top of their head) And grow hair?

Leader: PLEASE, wake up!

- Susan: (suddenly awakens, looks at the leader and smiles) Oh, hello there. Where am I?
- **Leader**: We've been through this before. You're in church. You just fell asleep!
- **Susan**: Oh dear I did it again. Hi, I'm Susan. But my Grandpa calls me Snoozin' Susan. *(looks to the leader)* You remind me of him for some reason. I was having a dream about him.
- **Leader**: We know we saw the whole thing!
- **Susan**: You did? Sorry about that! I'm always falling asleep and...and...(head drops, snores,) Grandpa, leave (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



that giraffe alone. He doesn't owe you any money.

- **Leader**: Oh, boy! We REALLY need to get on with today's service. Um, kids could you help me wake her up? On the count of three, we're all going to yell "WAKE UP, SNOOZIN' SUSAN!" Ready? (counts to three, yells with the kids)
- **Susan**: (jerks awake) RUN, GIRAFFE, RUN! (shakes her head, rubs her eyes) Sorry! I did it again, didn't I? I was dreaming about the time my grandpa got kicked out of a zoo because he thought the spots on a giraffe were its pockets and that it had stolen his wallet.
- Leader: (digs a finger into their ear) I'm not sure I heard you right. Your Grandpa thought WHAT?
- **Susan**: Grandpa's a little weird. But I mean, I fall asleep all the time in random places. So, I guess that's pretty weird, too. And, my cousin eats cat food sometimes. I guess no family is perfect.
- **Leader**: You know what, Susan? You are EXACTLY right. In fact, there's a famous person in the Bible named Joseph who had a ton of family problems, too!
- Susan: Really? But I thought "Bible-people" all had perfect families.
- **Leader**: That's not true AT ALL. NOBODY'S family is perfect. Nobody's PAST is perfect, either. Joseph had a really hard time before God used him in a big way.
- Susan: Did his Grandpa try to put a giraffe in a choke-hold?
- **Leader**: That sounds almost impossible and no, I don't think that ever happened to him. But a TON of rough stuff DID happen and God used him ANYWAY! It just goes to show you God can use ANYONE!
- Susan: Wow! That actually makes me feel a little bit better. (stretches) I'm feeling awake now! In fact, I think I'm going to go and (head drops, snores) Baby Unicorns...Baby Unicorns ate my sandwich...
- **Leader**: She must be DREAMING again. On the count of three kids, help me wake her up! (counts to three "WAKE UP SNOOZIN' SUSAN!")
- Susan: (suddenly awakens) Whoops. Sorry! I'm gonna go try and find my bed now. I'll see you later, everybody. Sweet dreams! (falls asleep again, sleepwalks away as her theme music plays, bumping into things)



Items Needed For Game:

2 Lg Pkg of "Q-Tip" cotton swabs; two straws; two small garbage cans

Preparation:

Choose one boy and one girl to play in this game. Place each player directly in front of one of each of the garbage cans, approximately 5-7 feet away; give each player a straw and a bag of "Q-Tips"

How To Play:

Take turns giving the players a chance to place a Q-Tip in their straw, then blow into the straw, shooting the "Q-Tip" like a torpedo across the room. Tell the players that they will each have ten shots to try to make as many of the "Q-Tip Torpedos" into the garbage can. The player who makes the most "Q-Tip Torpedos" into their garbage can - that team is declared the winner!



Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson I; begin with the slide that says "Bible Story"; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (as shown)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Genesis 37; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today's Bible Story is found in the book of Genesis, chapter 37. It is a story about a famous hero in the Bible named Joseph. (show pic) Joseph's life didn't begin in a very heroic way at all. He was just a normal, ordinary young man born into an average family.

When Joseph was about seventeen years old, he started taking care of his father's sheep. He did a very good job because he knew how important these sheep were to his father. His brothers also worked in the fields with him. Many times, Joseph saw his brothers do things that were

Joseph knew he couldn't keep what his brothers were doing to himself, so (show pic) he went to his father and told him, "Father, I have a bad report to bring you about my brothers." His brothers got in trouble, so they were very angry at Joseph for telling on them (show pic). His father, however, was very pleased with Joseph.

In fact, Joseph's father loved him much more than his brothers. Joseph was by far his father's favorite son. Now, that wouldn't have been so bad if his father kept quiet about the fact that loseph was his favorite. But loseph's father lacoh did something that really made things hard for

Joseph was his favorite. But, Joseph's father, Jacob did something that really made things hard for Joseph.

(show pic) Jacob had a colorful coat made for Joseph. He placed it on Joseph and made Joseph wear it proudly. Of course, Joseph's brothers did not like this at all. They hated Joseph even more because their father showed Joseph so much special attention. None of them got a colorful coat - only Joseph. The Bible says that Joseph's brothers hated him so much they couldn't even speak a kind word to him - ever!

Can you imagine how hard it must have been to have such a dysfunctional family? It would be easy for us to look at how messed up Joseph's relationship with his brothers was and how messed up his whole family relationships were and think, "There's no way God can use someone like this. Joseph was a tattle-tale from a messed up family."

In your lesson today, you are going to learn that there were even MORE problems with Joseph's family than this. You are also going to learn that, even with all of these problems, God still used Joseph in a great way!

terrible - even sinful.











Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; a large lump of moist clay; a clay pot (the more ornate, the better)

Preparation:

Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled "Lesson One," begin with the slide titled "Nobody's Perfect"



The Message: (title slide)

Have you ever looked at your life and asked the question, "Can God really use someone like me?" You know, you look around and see people doing all kinds of big things for God - pastors, Sunday School teachers, worship leaders, and even other kids. Then, you think to yourself, "Those people must be special. They must have grown up in a special family in order to be used by God like that. God could never use someone like me."

Some kids look at themselves and think that God can't use them because of something that they have done in the past, something they have gone through, or the kind of family they came from. Well, today, we are going to look at the life of Joseph and see some very interesting things.

Joseph was born into a pretty messed up home. Joseph had three stepmothers, ten stepbrothers, and a step sister all living in the home at the same time. Now, that is one big and very "different" family. Joseph's father, Jacob, had lied to Joseph's grandfather in order to trick him into giving his birthright to Jacob instead of his brother, Esau. As a result, Joseph's uncle and his dad fought with each other for years, so much so that his dad, Jacob, had to run for his life in order to escape.

Joseph's sister, Dinah, was hurt by a bunch of mean men when she was young. When they saw their father was going to do nothing about it, Joseph's other brothers took matters into their own hands. They came up with a plan and killed not only those men, but all the men that lived in the city. Can you believe that? How terrible! When Joseph's dad found out what his sons had done, he did nothing to punish them.

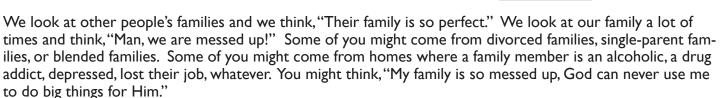
We already learned about how Joseph's dad loved him more than the rest of his brothers, so he treated him a lot better. Plus, his dad gave him a beautiful "coat of many colors," but didn't give his brothers anything. By doing that, Joseph's dad was saying, "This is my favorite son and he means more to me than the rest of you do." Wouldn't that make you mad if your brother or sister were treated so much better than you? Well, it didn't go over very well with Joseph's brothers, either. They hated him so much they couldn't stand him.

Joseph wasn't perfect, himself, either. As we learned in our Bible Story, several times he tattled on his brothers and got them in big trouble. Not only that, but he put it "in their face" that he was Dad's favorite son. Was that the right thing to do? (allow kids to respond) No, Joseph's choices weren't always the best. (CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



So, there you have it...Joseph's situation. Now, when you listen to this description of Joseph's life...would you ever think that he would end up doing something big for God? Probably not. But, as we will find out later in this series, God DOES use Joseph to do AMAZING things for Him. But, how? How can God use someone with such a messed up life, messed up family, and messed up everything? It's very simple...

Nobody's Family Is Perfect (slide)



The truth is, God can use you even if your family situation isn't exactly perfect. Nobody's family is PERFECT. Joseph's wasn't, and neither is yours. (at this time share a quick story about your family that will show your family wasn't perfect either) Even if your family isn't perfect, God CAN use you.



Nobody's Past Is Perfect (slide)

Joseph made some really bad decisions in the way he handled his relationship with his brothers. He showed off his coat of many colors, put it in their face that he was the favorite, and tattled on them all the time. He didn't do everything exactly right all the time. But, God still used Him to do big things for Him.

Boys and girls, nobody's past is perfect. *(tell a quick story of a mistake you made as a child)* The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that we have all sinned and made mistakes. But, God can forgive us and make us brand new. The old life is gone, and we have a new life and a new chance to do something big for God. God forgave Joseph, and He will forgive you.



God Can Use Anyone (slide)

It doesn't matter what your past looks like, what your family looks like, or whatever. (*pull out the lump of clay*) When you look at this lump of clay you probably think it would never amount to much. You look at it and say, "What a boring blob of clay. How useless. It's dirty. It's smelly. That will never be worth anything." But, you are wrong. Sure, by itself it is not that big of a deal. It's just a nasty old lump of clay. But, in the hand of a master potter, it can become something amazing.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



(pull out the clay pottery and show how amazing it looks) You look at this pottery and think, "Whoa! That's beautiful!" But, did you realize this pottery started off as a lump of clay? The potter put it on his potter's wheel and worked with it. He molded it, shaped it, and turned an ordinary lump of clay into a beautiful work of art.

The Bible says that God is the Potter and we are the clay. In Jeremiah 18:6 God says, "As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand."

You might think, "Can God really use me? My family isn't perfect. My past isn't perfect. I'm not perfect." But, God says, "Give your life to me. I will mold you and shape you and turn you into a work of art. You may feel like a dirty lump of clay, but I will make you into someone that I can use to do BIG things for Me." God did it for Joseph, and He will do it for you.

ALTAR RESPONSE (play soft music)

Pray for the children who feel like their past, their family, or their situation would keep them from doing big things for God. Pray that God will give them confidence in who they are in Christ. Pray that God will help them see themselves not as a lump of clay, but as a work of art in the hands of the Master Potter.



BRAIN DRAIN

Materials Needed:

The Data Disc; The DVD

Preparation:

Play the "Brain Drain" Video Intro off the DVD; Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data Disc titled "Lesson One," begin with the slide titled "Brain Drain"; there is a slide for each question

- I. Watt's Up today? Answer: "No Matter Who You Are Or What You've Done, God Can Use Us - Everyone!"
- 2. What is the name of the young man in our Bible Story today? Answer: Joseph
- 3. What did Joseph's father give him as a present? Answer: Colorful Coat
- 4. Did Joseph's brothers appreciate it when Joseph told on them? Answer: No
- 5. Which of his sons did Jacob choose as his favorite? Answer: Joseph
- 6. According to our lesson today, "Nobody's Family Is _____." Answer: Perfect
- 7. According to our lesson today, "Nobody's _____ Is Perfect." Answer: Past
- 8. According to our lesson today, "God Can Use _____." Answer: Anyone
- 9. Did Joseph always make the right decisions with his family? Answer: No
- 10. Where was our Power Verse found? Answer: 2 Corinthians 5:17

Small Group Experience

LESSON 1 - "Nobody's Perfect"



)- Watt's Up:

"No Matter Who You Are Or What You've Done, God Can Use Us - Everyone!"

Power Verse:

"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

-2 Corinthians 5:17

SUPPLY LIST:

* What To Wear Print Piece (provided; print enough so that each kid has either a set of Joseph or a set of the brothers & Jacob)

* Scissors (several pair for the group to share)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the What To Wear Print Pieces. Once small group begins, pass out the print pieces. Assign half of the group to be Joseph and the other half of the group to be Joseph's brothers and Jacob. Tell the kids to cut out the two heads that correspond with their part. They will use these during the Bible Story review. To review the Bible story, read the provided lesson excerpt aloud. When the kids who have Joseph hear you talk about HAPPY Joseph, they should hold the HAPPY Joseph print piece over their face. The same goes for SAD Joseph, Angry Brothers, and HAPPY/PROUD Jacob. Pause throughout the story to allow time for the kids to change faces. Help and give cues as needed. Continue on this way until the lesson is complete.

Say - It can be hard to decide what to wear. The people in our story had a hard time deciding what to wear. They went back and forth between different options. What am I talking about? I am not talking about clothes! I think we need to review the story to find out the answer. I am passing out some pictures and scissors. Each of you will be assigned a part. You will either be Joseph, or the Brothers and Jacob. If you are Joseph, cut out the two Joseph heads. If you are the Brothers and Jacob, cut out those two heads.

-Allow time for the kids to complete this task-

Say - Now we are ready to review our story and find out who is wearing what! I will read the lesson aloud. Listen for your character in the story and hold up the corresponding face. For example, if I talk about the brothers, those of you with brother faces should hold them up in front of your face. We will continue on this way until the story is complete!

-Read the provided lesson excerpt aloud pausing for the kids to respond with the correct faces-

Say - Today's Bible Story is found in the book of Genesis, chapter 37. It is a story about a famous hero in the Bible named Joseph. Joseph's life didn't begin in a very heroic way at all. He was just a normal, ordinary young man born into an average family.

When Joseph was about seventeen years old, he started taking care of his father's sheep. He did a very good job because he knew how important these sheep were to his father. His brothers also worked in the fields with him. Many times, Joseph saw his brothers do things that were terrible - even sinful.

(Continued on next page)

Joseph knew he couldn't keep what his brothers were doing to himself, so he went to his father and told him, "Father, I have a bad report to bring you about my brothers." His brothers got in trouble, so they were very angry at Joseph for telling on them. His father, however, was very pleased with Joseph.

In fact, Joseph's father loved him much more than his brothers. Joseph was by far his father's favorite son. Now, that wouldn't have been so bad if his father kept quiet about the fact that Joseph was his favorite. But, Joseph's father, Jacob, did something that really made things hard for Joseph.

Jacob had a colorful coat made for Joseph. He placed it on Joseph and made Joseph wear it proudly. Of course, Joseph's brothers did not like this at all. They hated Joseph even more because their father showed Joseph so much special attention. None of them got a colorful coat - only Joseph. The Bible says that Joseph's brothers hated him so much they couldn't even speak a kind word to him - ever!

- Say Wow, what a confused and mixed up family and a confused and mixed up story. You all were switching which faces you wore like crazy! Thank you for helping me! Let's stop with the crazy face switching and move on with our time together.
- Ask How do you think Joseph felt when his father made him the special coat?
- Ask How do you think Joseph felt when his brothers treated him unkind?
- Ask Was it Joseph's fault that his brothers treated him unkind? Why?



SUPPLY LIST:

- * What Not To Weat Print Piece (provided; print one per team)
- * Color Blocks Print Piece (provided; print one per team)
- * Scissors (several pair for the group to share)
- * Glue (several for the group to share)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Before small group begins, print the What Not To Wear and Color Blocks Print Pieces. Once activity time begins divide the group into teams and give each team a set of print pieces and supplies. Tell the teams to cut out the color blocks. Once this is complete, begin asking the review questions. If a team thinks they know the answer, they should raise their hand and say, "Don't wear that!" If they answer correctly, allow them to glue one color block on Joseph's coat. Continue on this way until all of the review questions are asked. The team with the most color blocks on the coat wins!

- Say Joseph learned some very tough lessons about what NOT to wear. He could have allowed his life to be covered with lots of negativity, but he didn't wear that at all! The Joseph in your picture needs help with his coat. He is showing us what NOT to wear, and we want to cover up as much of that negativity as possible! I will ask the review questions. If your team thinks they know the answer, you should stand and say, "Don't wear that!" Answer correctly and you will get to glue one color block to Joseph's coat. The team with the most color blocks in the end wins!
- Q. True or False: Joseph started out in life as a hero?A. False
- Q. When Joseph was about 17 years old he began taking care of his father's _____? A. Sheep

(Continued on next page)

"JOSEPH - Living The Dream" LESSON 1

- Q. Joseph told his ______ about his brother's sinful actions? A. Father, Jacob
- Q. True or False: Joseph's father loved him more than he loved the other brothers.A. True
- Q. What gift did Joseph's father have made for him?A. Colorful coat
- Q. True or False: Joseph's brothers loved him very much and treated him fairly.A. False
- Q. _____ past is perfect. A. Nobody's
- Q. God can use _____? A. Anyone
- Q. "...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a _____ ." A. New Person
- Q. True or False: Joseph always did the right thing? A. False

Group Sharing

SUPPLY LIST:

- * Construction paper (enough for the group to share)
- * Pencils, crayons or markers
- * Scissors (several pair for the group to share)
- * Glue (for the group to share)

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS:

Once group sharing begins, pass out the supplies and begin.

Say - Joseph went through a lot in his life. He didn't have a very successful start in the world of being a hero. He could have chosen to wear his feelings of shame and guilt. He could have chosen to wear the labels he was given of unloved, spoiled, and reject. He could have chosen to wear the mistakes he had made, his mess ups, and his sins. Joseph could have worn all of these things, but he knew what NOT to wear. Joseph didn't let his past hold him back or define his future.

Ask - What do you think that means?

-Allow time for the kids to answer; discuss their answers with the group-

(Continued on next page)

Say - Each of us has a story. Maybe your life had a pretty easy start, things have gone well. Maybe your life hasn't been the best so far, and you've faced some tough situations. Maybe you have messed up, and you're feeling shame over your past. No matter what your story, God still has a plan to use you. Don't wear the past. Wear your FUTURE with God. We are going to use the supplies to deign our coat of what we CAN BE with God. Your coat can be any color, any shape, and any size. What are some things God has done for you? What awesome things has God created you to be? Write them on your coat!

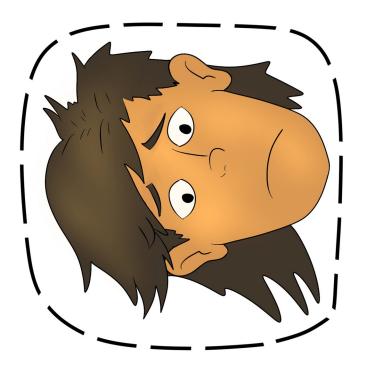
-Allow time for the kids to complete the task-

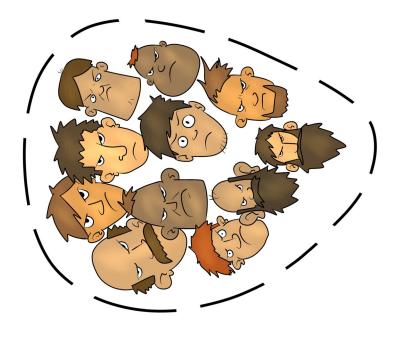


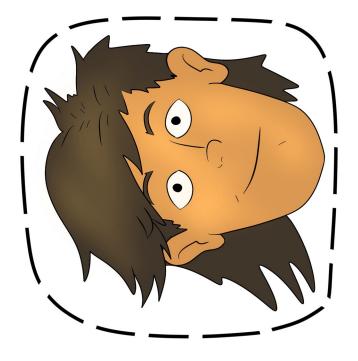
Say - God can use anyone to do great things for him. Pray and ask God to show you the great things that he has planned for you! *(PRAY)*

Closing

Say - Joseph had a pretty messy family life. Joseph made mistakes. Joseph could have gone through life wearing all that hurt and bitterness. He could have believed he was worthless. He could have been full of anger. Joseph could have missed his chance to be God's hero, but he knew what NOT to wear. He let all of that go and moved forward with God's plan for his life. God can use anyone, no matter their family situation or past. God has a plan for you and me! Thank you for coming today! I will see you again soon.



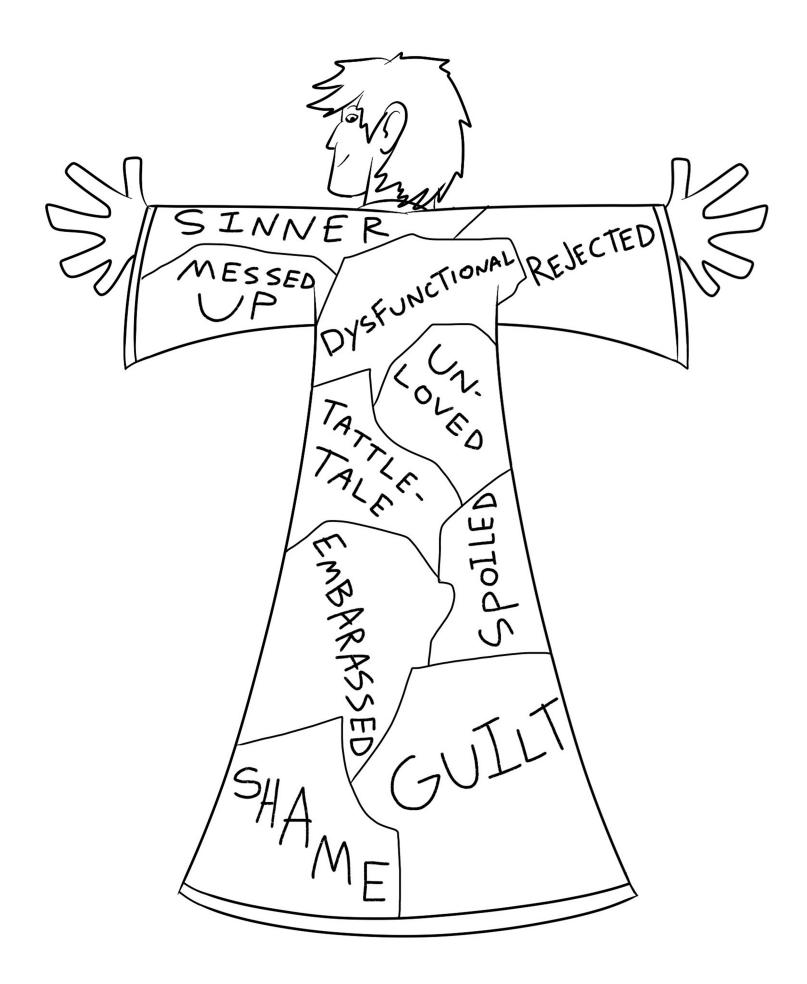


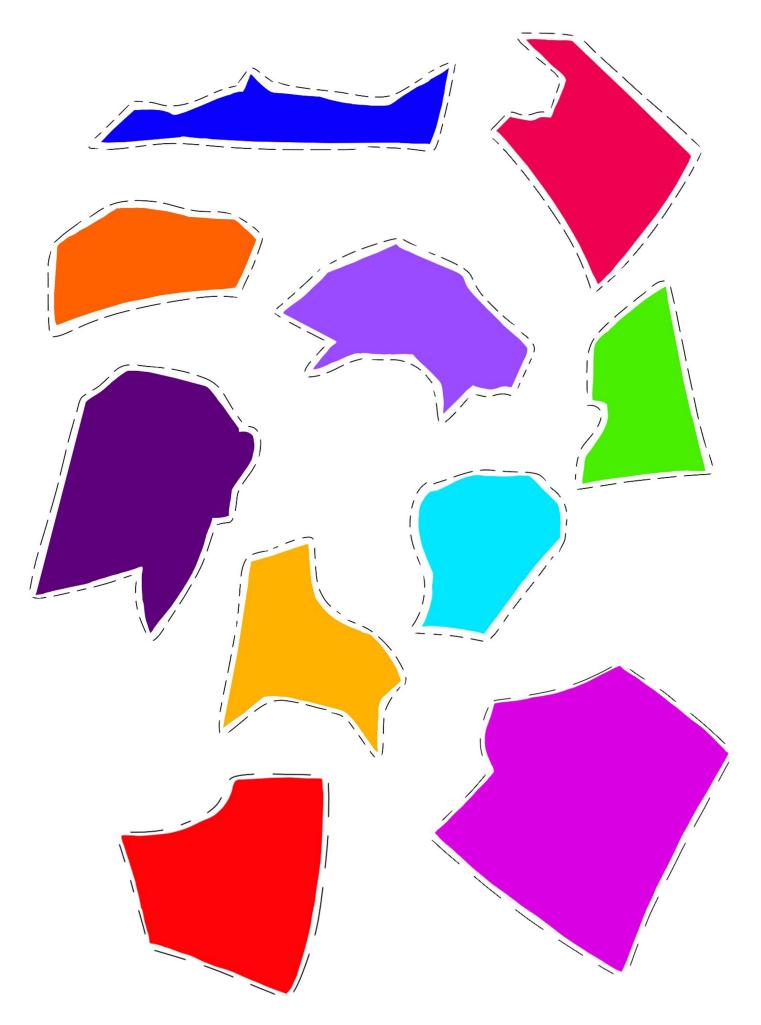




"JOSEPH - Living The Dream" LESSON

"Nobody's Perfect"





"JOSEPH - Living The Dream" LESSON (

"Nobody's Perfect"



"Nobody's Perfect"

"No Matter Who You Are Or What You've Done, God Can Use Us - Everyone!"



"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" – **2 Corinthians 5:17**

Read:

Read the story of Joseph in Genesis 27 and discuss how Joseph's life was full of things that were "not so perfect."

Ask:

- What are some of the good things and bad things that happened to Joseph as he was growing up?
- Did Joseph respond well to everything that happened to him? What could he have done differently?
- Do you think Joseph deserved the treatment he received from his brothers? Why or why not?
 - How would you feel if your family treated you the way Joseph's brothers treated him?
- Do you think it's possible to grow up in a dysfunctional family and not be dysfunctional yourself? Why or why not?

Say:

Talk to your kids about how people may be tempted to act in certain ways because of the way they were raised and the things that happened to them as kids, but God can help them overcome their past.

Emphasize that the problems in their past, whether other people caused them or they caused them themselves, don't have to determine their future. God can and will use the events of our pasts to change us into people who can live healthy, productive lives for Him.

Pray:

Pray that each member of your family will feel loved by the other members, and that each person will learn to show his or her love to others even better. Then pray for other families who may be struggling. Ask God to spread His love, peace, and forgiveness to them.

FAMILY DEVOTION

"Nobody's Perfect"

"No Matter Who You Are Or What You've Done, God Can Use Us - Everyone!"



"...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17

Read:

Read the story of Joseph in Genesis 27 and discuss how Joseph's life was full of things that were "not so perfect."

Ask:

- What are some of the good things and bad things that happened to Joseph as he was growing up?
- Did Joseph respond well to everything that happened to him? What could he have done differently?
 - Do you think Joseph deserved the treatment he received from his brothers? Why or why not?
 - How would you feel if your family treated you the way Joseph's brothers treated him?
- Do you think it's possible to grow up in a dysfunctional family and not be dysfunctional yourself? Why or why not?

Say: ⊤alist

Talk to your kids about how people may be tempted to act in certain ways because of the way they were raised and the things that happened to them as kids, but God can help them overcome their past.

Emphasize that the problems in their past, whether other people caused them or they caused them themselves, don't have to determine their future. God can and will use the events of our pasts to change us into people who can live healthy, productive lives for Him.

Pray:

Pray that each member of your family will feel loved by the other members, and that each person will learn to show his or her love to others even better. Then pray for other families who may be struggling. Ask God to spread His love, peace, and forgiveness to them.