

SEPTEMBER

**EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM
FOUR YEAR OLDS - KINDERGARTEN**

Bottom Line

God Has A Plan
For Me



Week

Bible Story

Sep. 18

Joseph and His Time In Egypt
Genesis 39 - 46



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you, not to harm you...” Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

SUGGESTED CLASS SCHEDULE:

9:35 & 11:35	Activity to introduce the story
9:50 & 11:50	Story & Snack
10:05 & 12:05	Activity to reinforce the story
10:15 & 12:15	Line up to travel to the Island
10:20 & 12:20	Island
10:40 & 12:40	Playtime until parent's arrive

NOTE: If you wish to serve a snack, children are only to receive ONE cup of snack, not an unlimited supply.

SEPTEMBER

LEADER DEVOTIONAL

One of the Hebrew names for God is Immanuel, which means “God with us.” This name is most commonly used in reference to the birth of Christ but is not reserved just for Christmas. You see, Immanuel speaks to the character of our God and reminds us He is present among us— all the time.

Stop for a minute and consider that the Most High God, the Creator of everything that ever was or ever will be, is also a personal God who is with us in everything we go through. It’s amazing to think we’ll never have to be alone because God is Immanuel.

What have been the defining moments when God has reminded you He is with you? In hindsight, were there times when you didn’t recognize His presence but now see it clearly? How has God used your faith community to come alongside you and support you in your times of greatest need? What are words you would use to describe who God is to you?

Grab a permanent marker and some river rocks or paper. On each rock or piece of paper, write a word that describes who God has been to you in times of trial and triumph. Place your rocks in a place where you can be reminded of His continual presence. Then spend some time thanking God for being Immanuel.



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STORY BACKGROUND

Through the life of Joseph and his myriad struggles, we can learn about God being with us and working through us. So much so, biblical scholars make a case for Joseph being the Old Testament archetype of Jesus Christ. Both were obedient sons who were beloved by their fathers. Joseph was rejected and sold into slavery by his brothers. Similarly, the Jewish community rejected Jesus and the message He brought. Both were falsely accused and unjustly punished. Yet in the end, both were elevated to a place of powerful position and saved their people from death.

The sin and brokenness within Joseph's family is present throughout all of humanity. But God Himself is present. He has made a way for all who would receive Him to be adopted into His family. In God's family we're part of a faith community that stretches beyond our own lifetime, into eternity past and present.



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SEP. 18

Make It Fun:

It's All In The Beans

It's All In The Beans

God used the famine as a means to reunite Joseph and his family. Today children have the opportunity to explore a sensory table with rice and beans.

What you need: Bin, uncooked pinto or lima beans, uncooked rice, measuring spoons and/or cups, funnel, plastic drop cloth

What You Do:

Fill bin halfway with uncooked rice and beans. Set the bin and other materials on the table. Place a drop cloth under the table. This will help catch any rice or beans that miss the bin and will aid in cleanup after the activity.

What You Say:

Ask the kids to gather around the table. Participate with children as they're playing by following their lead and example. Ask children questions about their observations and experiences. What's in the bin? Where do you usually find rice and beans? What do you do with them? What are some other types of food you like to eat? Who wants to help me fill this cup with rice and beans? How many scoops do you think it will take? As children answer, interact with their responses.



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Make It True

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Bible Story

What You Need: Bible marked at Genesis 39-46

What You Say: Today we find out what happened to Joseph while he was in Egypt. First let's review. Who owned the coat of many colors? (Joseph) Who put Joseph in the big hole? (his brothers) Where did Joseph go? (Egypt) When Joseph arrived in Egypt, God had a plan for him. God did not leave him—not for one moment! The pharaoh, or king of Egypt, began having dreams he couldn't understand. Pharaoh shared his dreams with

Joseph and God told Joseph what the dreams meant. Joseph explained to Pharaoh what God was telling him. For seven years Egypt would grow lots and lots of food. And then for seven years there would be a famine. What's a famine? (Children answer.) A famine is a time when there isn't enough food for everyone. The famine that was coming was going to be really bad. Many people wouldn't have enough to eat. But God had a plan for Joseph. He gave Joseph a plan to care for the people during the seven years of famine. Joseph told Pharaoh the plan and Pharaoh listened. He even put Joseph in charge of the land and people of Egypt because he could tell the Spirit of God was with Joseph!

Just as God said, for seven years the land of Egypt grew lots and lots of food. Joseph made sure to save enough food to last through the famine. Then after the seven years of plenty came the seven years of famine—just as God said. Because Joseph and the people of Egypt saved for the time of little food, they had enough to feed all their people.

When the people from distant lands heard there was food in Egypt, they began traveling from their countries to buy food. Joseph's brothers and father heard the news and went to Egypt. They needed food for their family. Joseph saw them coming and made a plan to bring his entire family to Egypt. He wanted to take care of his family and have them live together again. But how could this happen? Joseph's brothers had been so terrible to him. Didn't Joseph remember? Do you think Joseph remembered? (Children answer.) Yes, he did. But Joseph knew God was with him now, and had been with him all along. Joseph told his family God planned to use him to care for them during the famine. God healed Joseph's life that had been hurt by his brothers. God brought his family back together again.

How do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers? (Allow children to answer; interact with responses.) God was with Joseph and gave him everything he needed to forgive them. Who helped Joseph forgive his brothers? (Children answer.) God did, that's right! Sometimes people do things that



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(continued on next page)



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are unkind or hurt us. Sometimes we do things that are unkind and hurt others. When this happens, who is with us? (Children respond.) God is with us! God is always with us and will give us everything we need to forgive people when they hurt us. He gives us everything we need to ask other people for forgiveness when we have hurt them. In the times when you're sad, who is with you? (Children answer.) God is with you. Or when you're happy, who is with you? (Children answer.) God is with you. When is God

with you? (Children answer.) He is with you all the time. No matter where you are or what's happening, God is with you and you can always trust in Him.

Handwriting practice area with multiple sets of blue top lines, dashed midlines, and red bottom lines on a light green background.



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Make It Stick:

From Home To Egypt

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What You Need: masking tape, and square shapes

What You Do: Using the masking tape, make a hopscotch course. Each square needs to be able to fit three children shoulder-to-shoulder. At the end of the course, place one large square shape. Place the beanbags in the center of this square.

What You Say:

Invite the children to join you at the hopscotch course. Today, we learned about the ways God was with Joseph throughout his life. We heard how God was with His people during a time of famine, and how He helped them get from their home to Egypt where they could get food for their family. Today we're going to play a big game of hopscotch. Break children into groups of three. Let's call the starting line "home" and the finish line "Egypt." In this game of hopscotch, you have to work together to leave home and get to Egypt. When you reach the end and you're in Egypt, one person from your team will pick up your bag of beans and all of you will hop back home. Remember, I said you're going to work together.

So, to get from home to Egypt, everyone in your group needs to link arms. Be sure to keep your arms linked together as you're hopping across the squares. Consider modeling how it's done for the children. Are you ready? Let's go!



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