

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 17 November 2024

TITLE:	2. Joseph. Thrive where God places you.
THEME:	In a range of different circumstances Joseph trusts Go, works hard and does good.
AIM:	Whatever our circumstances we are to honour God in work and attitude

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Joseph finds himself a slave in Egypt, but instead of being resentful he makes the most of his situation and rises up the ladder to become the head of the household slaves. The Lord was with him and other people noticed! Even when in prison for a crime he did not commit, he did not forget God. The Lord was with him there too. He used his gifting to help others. He prospered and ultimately he becomes great in Egypt. Where once again, he uses his abilities and his faith to help the nation and rescue his family.

WARM UP

Two/three teams depending on numbers: build the highest tower with paper cups (packs of cards?) as you can whilst other teams try to knock it down with paper balls. (Teaching point Satan loves to distract us and use up our energy. When we fight him off rather than focussing on building we will not build as

MAIN TEACHING

Read Genesis 39:1-6 and watch clip from [Joseph King of dreams](#)

1. Is Joseph's behaviour surprising? Why didn't he rebel or try to escape back home?
2. God does not help Joseph escape, but makes His presence known in other ways? What does this teach us about God in our own lives and personal situations?
3. What must have it been like living in exile, away from home? How would he have felt? Why do you think he needed to trust God so much?

Key teaching: The hero of the story is not fighting his way to freedom, slaughtering all in his way like an action hero. He is obedient to his master, works hard and wins favour. This is the way God works, counter to the way we think we should do things. Because God was with Joseph it enabled him to thrive and prosper. As Christians, wherever we find ourselves, whatever our situation we know that the Holy Spirit is with us. He will guide us and help us thrive. As Christians we are in exile (our true home is heaven) how might this help us cope with challenging situations?

Read Genesis 39:19-40:23 Quite a long passage or watch another clip from [Joseph king of dreams](#)

1. What does 39:21-23 tell us about Joseph's prison experience?

2. How did Joseph help others whilst in prison?
3. Was he right to tell the baker the truth even though it was bad news?
4. What can we learn from the Butler's forgetfulness?
5. Look at ch 41:1. How long did he have to wait for release? Did God forget him?

Key teaching: Joseph's situation gets even worse! Yet he still has the Lord with him. Just because things go wrong in our life does not mean the Lord is not with us. Sometimes challenging circumstances prepare us for something else that God has in mind for us to do. Joseph uses his gifts to bless and warn others. We have a responsibility to use our gifting, even if it is difficult for others to deal with. We must remember that God is in control not people around us (the Butler who broke his promise).

Read Genesis 44:16– 45:8 watch [Joseph King of Dreams clip 3](#)

1. How does the story end? (forgiveness and reconciliation)
2. Why does Joseph forgive his brothers?
3. What does Joseph realise about his whole life?
4. Can you see any comparisons between Joseph and Jesus?

Key Teaching: God had been with Joseph his whole life. He had gifted him, taught him and prepared him to be the one who would rescue his family from death. His whole life had been a training for the purpose God had for him. As a Christian we must understand that no life experience is ever wasted by God. He uses them to prepare us for the role He wants us to play in His kingdom. We must learn to thrive where God places us, however challenging it may be. The character of Joseph is a foreshadowing of Christ. Rejected by his own, thought to be dead but rescues his people from death. Joseph becomes ruler and able to save. Christ is given authority by God to save and rescue us.

TAKEAWAY

God was with Joseph in every situation, teaching him valuable lessons and preparing him for his destiny. In the same way, God is with us at all times. He is with us to give us strength, wisdom and courage to persevere through trials and serve Him faithfully. **MEDITATION COLOURING ACTIVITY**

Activities and resources

Paper cups/ scrap paper for game

Meditation colouring activity for the end of the session