

S1.Patriarchs, Joseph & Moses: Joseph is sold into Slavery

Genesis 37:1-27

Multi-age One-Room Sunday School Lesson Plans

Supplies: 1 or 2 rubber/wooden mallets; The rest of the Supply numbers are listed for 1 cooking station. *You should have 1 cooking station for every 4 children:* 1 Oreo cookie per student; 1 ziplock bag for each student; 1 Dirt Pudding recipe (located at end of lesson plan); 1 small plastic mixing bowl; 1 measuring cup; 1 wire whisk or large spoon; paper towels/handi-wipes; four 6-ounce plastic/paper cups; 4 plastic spoons; 1 small box of instant chocolate pudding (3.9 ounce or so size); 2 cups of milk; 4 gummy worms;

Setup: Each “cooking station” should have enough room for 4 students to stand or sit and should have all the things listed in the “supplies” section except for the Oreo cookies and ziplock bags. Before the class you’ll want to prep by putting one Oreo cookie into one ziplock bag per expected student (its always easier during class to be over-prepared, than under-prepared).

OPENING PRAYER

TELL

- For the opening question, I’m going to ask you a question and then we’ll go around the circle and say our names and then give our answer to the question.
- I’ll ask the question and then I’ll answer first, ok?
- Opening question: *What is your favorite type of cookie?*

GO AROUND THE CIRCLE

TELL

- During this Session (Patriarchs, Joseph and Moses), we've been talking and learning about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and Moses.
- These 5 individuals had a lot to do with the beginning of who we call the Israelites.
- By learning the stories of these 5 individuals, we are also getting the chance to learn and see how the relationship between the Israelites and God starts, struggles, and matures.
- All of these stories that we're hearing and talking about in this Session are from the Old Testament. This means these things happened well before Jesus was born. Between 1600 to 2000 years before Jesus was born. This means some of these stories are 4000 years old!
- Last week we heard and talked about Jacob, who was Isaac's son (and Isaac was Abraham's son). Jacob, who reunited with his brother Esau.
- In today's story, we're going to hear about Jacob's sons, and one in particular: Joseph.
- But before we do that, we have to talk some more about cookies.

ASK/TELL/DO COOKIE DEMONSTRATION

- In our opening question, we answered what our favorite cookies are.
- Well, one of my favorite cookies is the Oreo.
- And I like them so much, that I'm passing one Oreo out to each of you in a ziplock snack bag.
- I like the cookies so much that I don't want you to actually touch the cookie, so please do not take the cookie out of the bag.
- Now, does anyone else like Oreo cookies? (*Wait for responses*)
- Would anyone like to eat the Oreo cookie that they have right now?
- Do you have a favorite way of eating an Oreo cookie?
 - How many of you like to pull it apart and eat the filling first?
 - How many of you like to dunk it into milk?
- If Oreo cookies are not your favorite cookies, I want you to think of your favorite cookie and pretend that it is in the bag in front of you.
- So, pick up the cookie bag and see if you can smell the cookie through the bag. Mmmm. Smells good, yeah?
- Now lay the cookie bag back down on the table.
- I don't know about you, but I really want to eat this cookie right NOW!
- But what if something happened to our cookie?
- Perhaps someone sat on it.... or you dropped it on the floor...or YOUR TEACHER DESTROYED IT WITH A MALLET! [at this point pull out a mallet and crush the cookie that is in your bag with the mallet]
- Actually, as sad as that makes me, it was also a lot of fun! And for later on, I need you to do the same thing with your cookie. Here's some mallets to help you out, be sure to watch out for fingers! [everyone smashes their Oreo cookie – keeping them in the bag the whole time, of course]

CRUSH OREO COOKIES

ASK/TELL

- So, how do you feel about having your cookie crushed? (*Surprised, angry, crushed, disappointed...*)
- Let's pretend that this wasn't a cookie, but that it was something very important in your life...you're your home or your friends or your parents and that important thing was just "crushed" like this cookie.
- How would you feel? (*sad, crushed, really down, depressed...*)
- Then what would you do? (*Get angry at someone, blame someone, stomp off to your room, cry, or...pray, ask for God's help, talk to a trusted adult or parent...*)
- So now, finally, I am going to read to you today's about Joseph and his brothers.
- As I read it to you, I want you to hold up your bag of crushed Oreo cookie every time that you hear Joseph having a "crushing time."
- OK...ready? Let's see how many "crushed Oreo cookies" Joseph experienced in his life.

READ Genesis 37:1-27.

1 Jacob (now named, Israel) after reuniting with Esau, settled in the land where his father, Isaac, had lived, in the land of Canaan. 2 Jacob's second-to-youngest son (there were 12 sons, altogether), Joseph, was seventeen years old and was helping his older brothers herd sheep and cattle. In the evenings, Joseph would bring bad reports of his brothers to Jacob. Joseph was telling on his brothers. 3 Jacob

loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. So Jacob made Joseph a fancy coat. 4 When Joseph's brothers realized that their father loved Joseph more than them, they grew to hate him - they wouldn't even speak to Joseph. [crushing moment?]

5 Soon after this, Joseph had a dream. Then he told it to his brothers, and they hated him even more. 6 Joseph told them, "Listen to this dream I had. 7 We were all out in the field gathering bundles of wheat. All of a sudden my bundle stood straight up and your bundles circled around it and bowed down to mine." 8 His brothers said, "So! You're going to rule over us? You're going to boss us around?" And they hated him more than ever because of his dreams and the way he talked. [crushing moment?] 9 Then Joseph had another dream and told this one also to his brothers: "I dreamed another dream - the sun and moon and eleven stars bowed down to me!" 10 When he told it to his father and brothers, his father reprimanded him: "What's with all this dreaming? Am I and your mother and your brothers all supposed to bow down to you?" 11 Now his brothers were really jealous and his father brooded over the whole business.

12 Later, Joseph's brothers went off to Shechem where they were pasturing their father's flocks. 13 Jacob said to Joseph, "Your brothers are with flocks in Shechem. Come, I want to send you to them." Joseph said, "I'm ready." 14 Jacob said, "Go and see how your brothers and the flocks are doing and bring me back a report."

So Joseph took off, tracked his brothers down, and found them in Dothan. 18 They spotted him off in the distance. By the time he got to them they had cooked up a plot to kill him. 19 The brothers were saying, "Here comes that dreamer. 20 Let's kill him and throw him into one of these old dried-out wells; we can say that a vicious animal ate him up. We'll see what his dreams amount to." [crushing moment] 21 Reuben heard the brothers talking and intervened to save him, "We're not going to kill him. 22 No murder. Go ahead and throw him in this empty well out here in the wild, but don't hurt him." Reuben planned to go back later and get Joseph out and take him back to their father.

23 So when Joseph reached his brothers, they ripped off the fancy coat he was wearing, [crushing moment] 24 grabbed him, and threw him into the well. [crushing moment] The well was completely dry; there wasn't any water in it. 25 Then they sat down to eat their supper. Looking up, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites on their way from Gilead, their camels loaded with spices, ointments, and perfumes to sell in Egypt. 26 Judah said, "Brothers, what are we going to get out of killing our brother and concealing the evidence? 27 Let's sell him to the Ishmaelites, but let's not kill him - he is, after all, our brother, our own flesh and blood." And so they sold Joseph to into slavery. [crushing moment!]

ASK (about the story)

- Did Joseph's brothers like Joseph? (No, not at all)
- Why didn't they like Joseph? (He told on them, he told them dreams where he ruled over them, his father liked him more than the rest of them)
- Joseph *does* sound a little annoying, doesn't he?
- What do his brothers decide to do about Joseph's annoying ways? (kill him)
- This seems pretty extreme. Can you remember a recent story, though, where one brother wanted to kill the other brother? (Esau wanted to kill Jacob)
- This solution of killing one's brother seems to run in the family, then, doesn't it?

- In last week's story, Jacob and Esau reunite because God told Jacob to return to Esau. What does God tell Jacob (aka Israel), Joseph or his brothers to do? (Nothing. God is not mentioned in this story even once)
- So without God, the family of Israel doesn't do very well, does it?
- What finally happens to Joseph in this story? (His brothers sell him into slavery)

ASK (about the Oreos)

- So how do you think Joseph is feeling as his brothers attack him and then sell him into slavery? (horrified, confused, crushed)
- Going back to our crushed cookies, can we put the crushed cookies back together again? (not really, not the way they were)
- Do you think we should just throw the cookies away? Or feed them to the birds...? Or maybe there's something we can still do with the Oreos.

EXPLAIN ACTIVITY

- Today, we're going to use our crushed cookies and make some "Dirt Pudding."
- The recipe for Dirt Pudding actually calls for crushed Oreo cookies.
- So these crushed cookies which seemed at first to be a very bad situation will instead become part of something pretty wonderful.
- Here's how we'll make it.
- We have 3 cooking stations all set up for you.
- I'm going to split you up so that we are evenly placed at the three stations.
- [do that]
- At each station, there will be a printed-out Dirt Pudding Recipe.
- Each group is going to have to work together at these stations.
- And, no one is to eat their Dirt Pudding until EVERYONE is done and I've let you know that you can eat your dirt pudding.

DO Dirt Pudding ACTIVITY

TELL

- When hard things happen to us, we can often feel discouraged, upset, defeated and crushed.
- Even though God doesn't keep bad things from happening to us, like with Joseph, if we keep seeking God even while hard things are happening, then we'll be able to hear what God is telling us, which will be the best way to move through what is happening.
- And, if we keep listening to God and doing what God is telling us to do, then God will lead us to where we need to be.
- Joseph, though, didn't do that in this story, but he will in the stories that we'll be reading about in the next few weeks.
- At this time, you may eat your dirt pudding!

CLOSING PRAYER

Dirt Pudding Recipe

1. **Measure out** 2 cups of milk and pour into a mixing bowl.
2. **Open** the pudding box. One person **pour** the pudding mix into the milk while a second person **stirs** as it is being added.
3. **Stir** with whisk or spoon 2 minutes. Someone **count** to 120 slowly for the person who is stirring.
4. Pudding should be thick!
5. **Put** some of your crushed Oreo cookie on the bottom of a plastic cup. Everyone in the group should do this.
6. **Spoon** in some pudding into your cup. Make sure everyone in your group gets equal amounts.
7. **Add** a layer of crushed Oreo cookie on top of the pudding.
8. **Add** a gummy worm.
9. **Wait** until your teacher says to eat.

Checklist of things to include at each Cooking Station:

- 1 Dirt Pudding recipe
- 1 small box of chocolate instant pudding, 3.9 ounce size
- 1 small mixing bowl, plastic
- 1 cup measuring cup
- 1 wire whisk or large spoon
- Paper towels or handi wipes
- 6 ounce plastic or paper cups, 4 needed at each station
- Plastic spoons, 4 needed at each station
- 1 small box of instant chocolate pudding
- Milk, 2 cups
- Gummy worms, 1 worm per each child