

Session # 5 Joseph

Overview

The tale of eleven brothers who sell their favored brother into slavery is a story about envy, greed, and power, but also a story about love, compassion, and forgiveness. A bitterly divided family is drawn together and in the process changes the course of nations.

Goal: Share a tale which includes sibling rivalry and dreams as well as explore the look of a desert tribe and ancient Egypt.

Principle: Each person is worthwhile.

Source: Jewish and Christian teachings

Belief: We learn best in community.

UU Identity: Resourcefulness.

Holiday/Theme: Sibling rivalry

Supplies:

Book

Copies of Take Home Page

Do Re Mi Principles as a wall hanging

Supplies for the activities you chose

Décor for the room- Principle and Sources posters in adult language, optional.

Sharing circle supplies –

chalice

candle

match

match holder

snuffer (optional)

polished rocks

bowl of water

decorative tray

talking stick – a prop from the story this time- something Egyptian, or Joseph's silver cup, or a sack of grain(rice) or a camel figurine.

Set Up:

Make or copy the Do-Re-Mi Poster

Order a Principles and Sources Poster from the UUA Bookstore with adult language, optional.

Copy the Take Home Page

Supplies for the activity(ies) that you choose.

Entering Activity:

Use the enclosed coloring pages of Egyptian scenes.

Sharing Circle:

After the children have arrived, invite them to tidy up and gather in a circle around the chalice for the chalice lighting and the story.

Chalice Lighting:

Bring out the chalice and candle, matchbook, match holder, and snuffer. Set out the chalice and the water bowl with rocks to drop in for sharing “Joys and Concerns.”

Invite the children to recite with you the following chalice lighting words:

“To this quiet place of beauty we come from busy things, pausing for a moment for the thoughts that quiet brings.”

Light the match and hold it to the candle wick.

“We light this chalice for the warmth of love, the light of truth and the energy of action.”

Invite the children to share important things that have happened in their lives, passing a talking stick, shell or rock to indicate whose turn it is to share. This would be a good session to use a sack of rice, something Egyptian, a silver cup, or camel figurine as a talking stick. Have each child share a joy or a concern by dropping a small polished rock into the water bowl.

Say something like: “We will now share our joys and concerns in our sharing circle. Each of us will have a turn to speak while the rest listen. You don’t have to share, you can always say, “pass.”

After everyone has shared who wishes to, add one more rock and say, “For all the joys and concerns which remain unspoken, we add this rock.”

You may prefer to extinguish the chalice flame with the snuffer at this point saying “Though we extinguish this flame, we kindle the flame to carry in our hearts together.”

Read “**Joseph.**”

UU Identity teachable moment:

Ask the children for their reflections on the story. Say something like, “Our first principle states that “Each person is worthwhile.” Show them the poster of the Do-Re-Mi Principles with the Principles in children’s language. Sing it if you wish. “In this tale, Joseph and his brothers do not treat each other well. Joseph is made a slave, is thrown in a dungeon, and finally finds a place for himself. When his brothers come before him, he seems to play games with them and make them feel confused. Finally, he is ready to forgive and tells them who he is - their brother. We Unitarian Universalists know that it is sometimes hard to treat each person as worthy. We too pick favorites and do bad things to others, like teasing. But we remind ourselves when we get together that each of us is worthwhile. We will live in a better world if we try to treat every person as worthwhile.” Describe the activities that you have prepared and invite the children to engage in them.

Activities: Choose from the following options.

1) Make a sugar cube pyramid.

The royalty of Egypt were buried deep in a secret compartment in the pyramid, with secret passages and hidden dangers. Build your pyramid with a mummy deep in the center.

For a 10 x 10 cube large pyramid:

Sugar cubes, at least 250 plus a few for eating.

1/2 c. White icing or white glue as mortar (depending on whether you wish to eat it later)

Strong cardboard base or dinner plate.

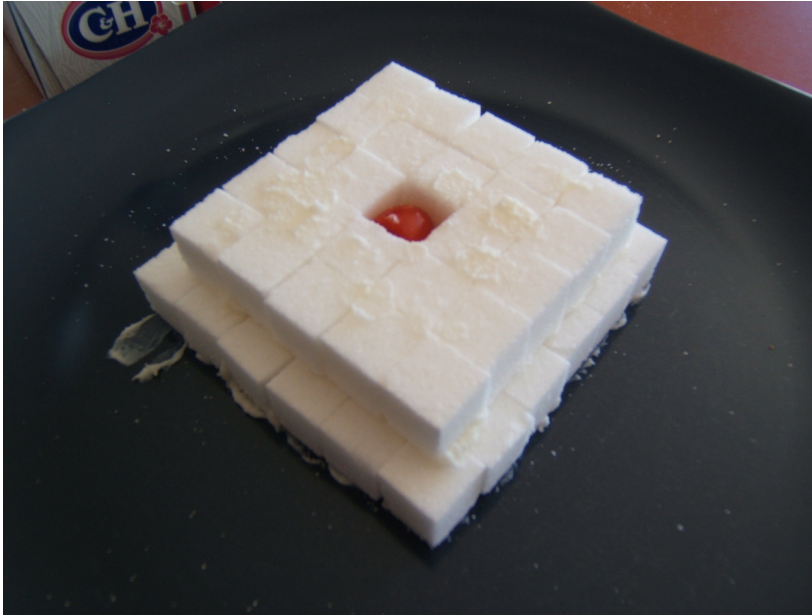
A “mummy” object, such as 1/2 a small cherry tomato, as I have used, or a prune, dried apricot or a few raisins glued together with the frosting (a “dried” up prune, apricot or raisins like a dried up mummy!), anything that will fit into the space of one cube.

Start with 10 rows of 10 cubes each, glued to the cardboard base. Glue the rows to form a square. Use either the white icing or the white glue. For the second layer, add 9 rows of 9 cubes and glue them in place. Set the cubes about 3 cm. in from the edge of the rows of 10 cubes. For each subsequent row, decrease the number of cubes by 1 each time, adding 7 more layers. Place a “mummy” (such as 1/2 cherry tomato, or small dried fruit) in the second row by leaving one cube out. This sized pyramid could be built by a group of children.



Variations:

1) To allow for individual or paired builders of pyramids, try a 6 x 6 cube base or even less. The photo shows a 6 cube x 6 cube pyramid. You will use 91 sugar cubes (including the one left out for the mummy) and less than 1/3 cup of white frosting. The sample mummy in the bottom photo is 1/2 a small cherry tomato, buried deep inside the pyramid!



2) Instead of solid cubes, try filling the inside of the pyramid with sand (the pyramid will be non-edible of course) or granulated sugar. Remove the sugar at the end once the glue has dried.

3) Some like to paint the pyramid.

2) Hieroglyphics

Write your name in hieroglyphics.

See <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/Ancient%20Egypt%20alphabet.pdf> for a great printout of letters and hieroglyphics.

Create a bookmark of a strip of paper with hieroglyphs on it.

4) Egyptian feathered or palm fans.

Look for the fans throughout the story illustrations. This was the air conditioning for the Egyptian royalty. Perhaps you would like to use these as props for a Joseph story skit, or perhaps just for fun.

Tongue depressors or dowels or twigs

Feathers in a variety of colors, at least 5 for each tongue depressor or leaves. (Use shorter narrow leaves such as ash or locust to mimic short palm fronds.)

Colored duct tape

Permanent markers in a variety of colors.

Create a geometric pattern on the stick with permanent markers. Use the illustrations in the book as ideas. Arrange the feathers or palms in a fan shape at the top of the tongue depressor. Tape the feathers to the stick with the colored duct tape to make a fancy fan.

5) Egyptian Mummy

Ancient Egyptians believed that when you died, your **soul went to the underworld** to be judged by Osiris, Lord of the Underworld. If he judged you to have been a good person, then your soul would re-unite with your body and you would live in eternal paradise. But in order for your soul to **recognize** your body, you had to look the way you had while you were alive, which is why corpses were mummified. Now that you know why bodies were mummified, you can make your own mummy - but instead of wrapping your little brother in sheets, try using a Barbie doll.

- Take the doll and wrap it in **damp toilet paper or cloth strips** until it's completely covered. You may want to start at the feet and work your way up to the head.
- Insert **amulets** (special charms) between the wrappings. You can use anything from jewelry to coins.

4) Act out the Joseph story

People: Joseph

His brothers and father (especially Benjamin)

Baker and Butler

Pharoah

Pharoah's soldiers

Potifar's wife

Other creative parts the children identify, such as Joseph's pet Cheetah! (see the cover!)

Props: Bathrobe in many colors for Joseph's coat

Simple shepherd headdresses for Joseph's brothers (square of cloth and headband)

Twenty pieces of silver (twenty quarters)

Pharoah and Egyptian props (headdress, collar, tunics, feathered fans)

Food trays with a big one for Benjamin, the brother.

Silver cup and a few sacks.

Places: Desert and well

Pharoah's prison

Pharoah's house

Joseph's house

Re-read the Joseph story and invite the children to choose a character to act out. Set up the room with the various places designated. Find or make props, as desired.

5) Take digital or Polaroid pictures for the session on "Our Own Picturebook."

Digital or Polaroid camera

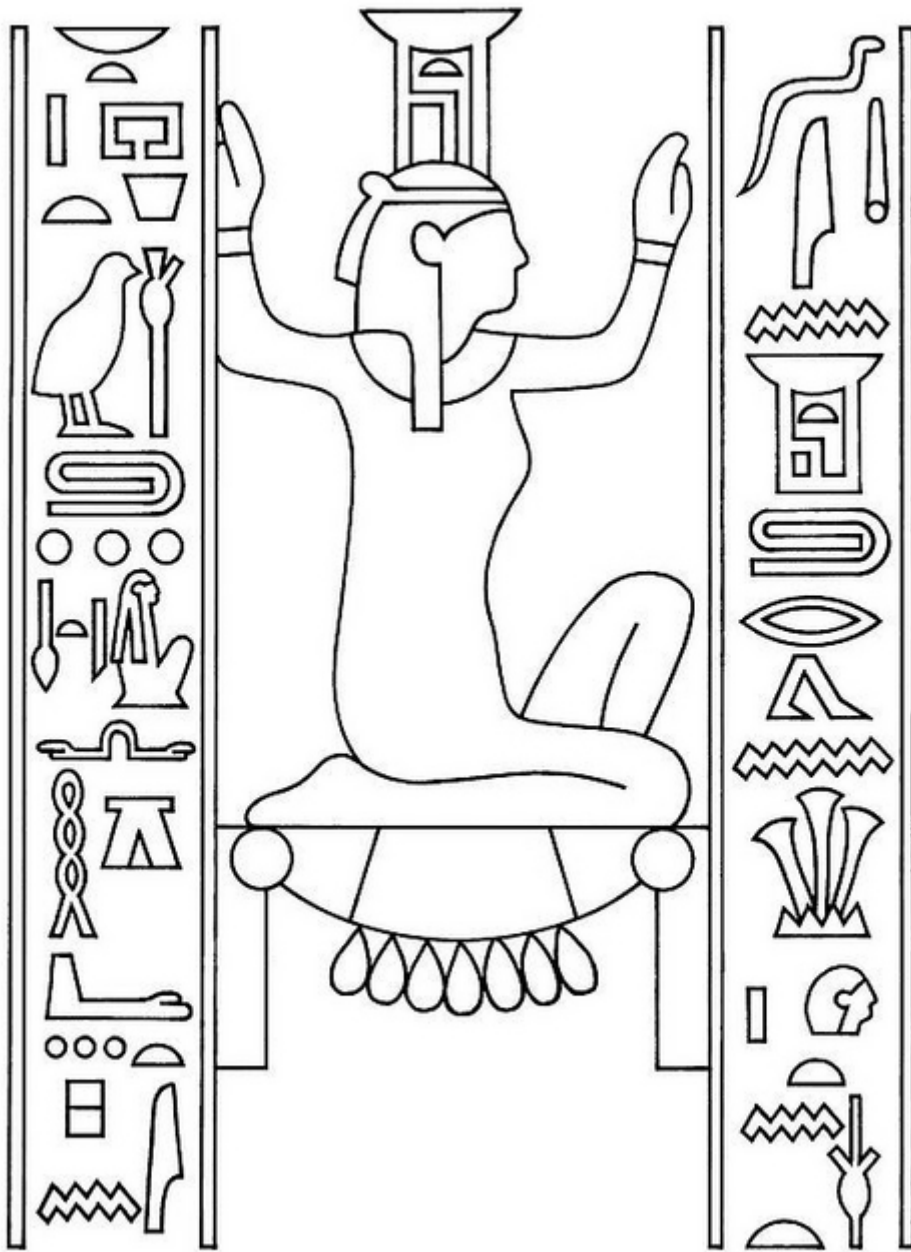
Film or photo developing

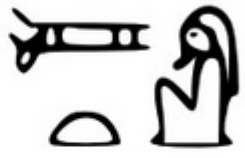
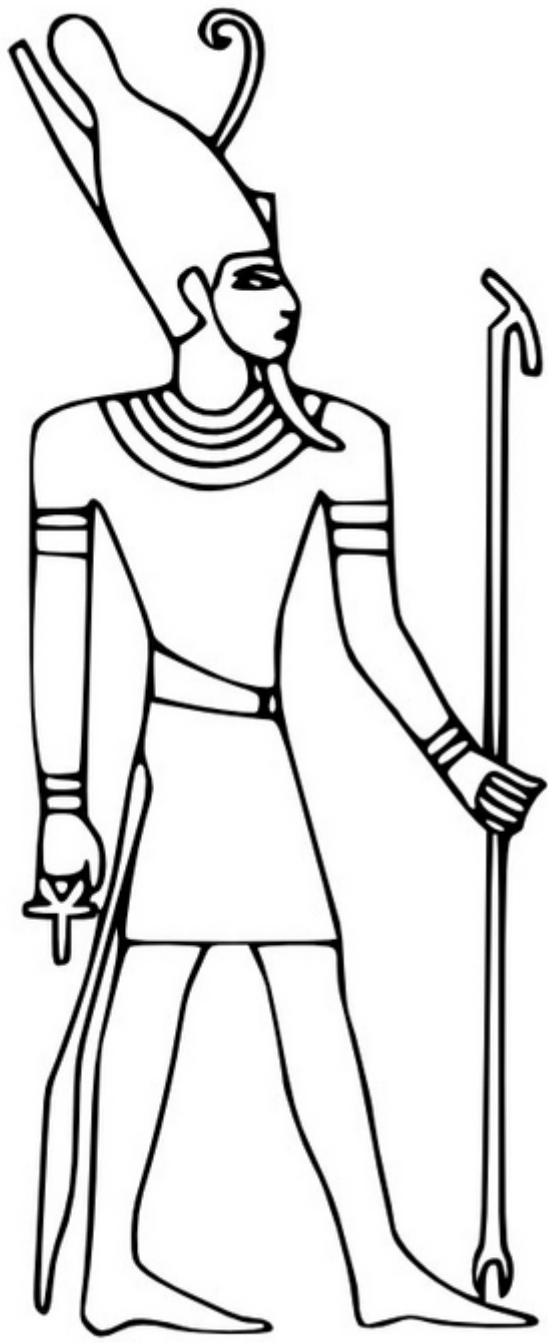
Take pictures of the participants and their activities for inclusion in their own storybook at the end of the session.

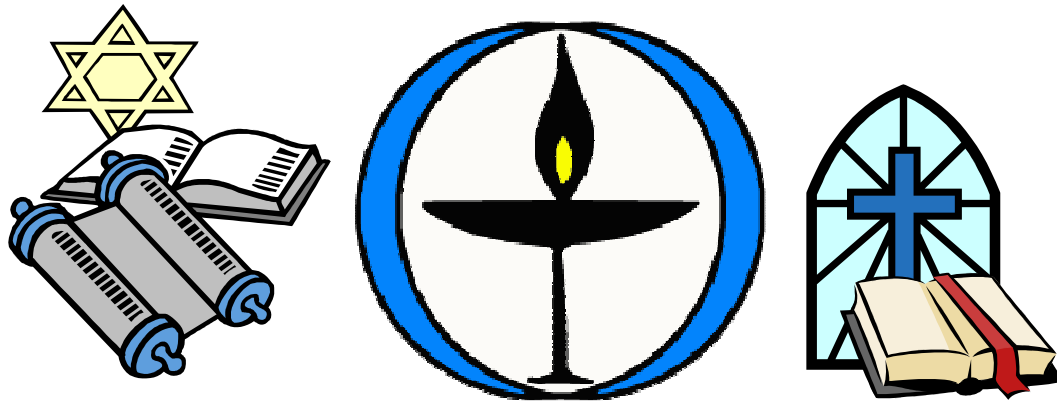
Background for Teachers:

Joseph and Joseph's brothers do not treat each other well. The bitterness shows up in the convoluted way that the story unfolds. It seems Joseph must make his brothers sweat and suffer before he is ready to welcome them and reveal his identity. And yet, Joseph continues to hide gifts for them and give them feasts. The fact that this story is not straightforward reminds us that compassion, forgiveness and love is not easy to practice. There are deep hurts that all of us maintain, and which must play out in their own time and place. Life was and is not easy.

In addition, Wildsmith's art conveys the nomadic desert life of Joseph's family and the splendor that was ancient Egypt. These were the times of the formation of the tales in the Jewish Scriptures. You may wish to go back and share some of the illustrations with the children again, so that they can spend time finding the detail and pointing out life in Egyptian times.







Picture Book Bible Tales: **Joseph**

Today we read **Joseph** by Brian Wildsmith. The tale of eleven brothers who sell their favored brother into slavery is a story about envy, greed, and power, but also a story about love, compassion, and forgiveness. A bitterly divided family is drawn together and in the process changes the course of nations.

Goal: Share a tale which includes sibling rivalry and dreams as well as explore the culture of a desert tribe and ancient Egypt.