



Joseph, A Hero's Journey- An 8-Week Series

Lesson 1: THE HERO'S CALLING

The **it**



The **it** of the lesson is that ONE THING you say over and over so they understand it. If their parents ask, "What did you learn at church?", you want them to answer with the **it** of your lesson. If YOU ask the kids, "What am I trying to get you to learn/understand?" and they answer with this phrase, you can say, "That's **it**!"

THE **it** THIS WEEK IS:

God has a plan for your life!

Story: God gives Joseph a dream of his future!
Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11



Things you might need for this lesson:

FIND/GATHER/BUY:

- Costume for Whyit (all 8 weeks)
- Stacking Cups for Play it
- Screen and 4D Glasses for Tell it
- Joseph Costume for Tell it (First 7 weeks*)
- Lego Kit for Teach it

FROM DOWNLOADS:

- Scarabs and Cats Signs for Play it
- Pyramid Verse Tool for Hide it
- Take home tool for parents
- IMAGES and VIDEO for projection

*NOTE: Week 8 drama will have a special appearance by the other Prince of Egypt, Moses!



Whyit (Pronounced Wyatt)

For this series, have Whyit dress up as if he's going to the movies. Have him wearing 3D (or 4D) glasses and carrying a large popcorn bucket and a giant soda (which he could intermittently sip loudly while talking with Leader). For added affect, he could have a large box of Milk Duds or other movie snack hanging out of his shirt or pants pocket.



Each week, Whyit introduces a "Super Star" of the Bible, but it's never Joseph. It is always someone who kinda, sorta, might relate to the story, but he repeatedly gets it wrong. It's a way to illustrate another Bible hero who went through something similar, but the leader always reminds him that in *this* series, we are learning about Joseph.

This week Whyit comes out and describes the story found in Acts 10 of when Peter had a dream about animals being lowered from the Heavens in a blanket. The leader can comment that Peter's story was in the New Testament and was teaching that we should accept all people and not call bad what God calls good. But today we are learning about a dream that Joseph had, way back in the Old Testament.



The Pyramid Games!

Each week some kids will compete to create a Pyramid! Some will be competitions for individuals, some for team, and a few will involve the entire audience!



PREPARATION: This week the kids compete to build a pyramid out of CUPS! You can use plastic cups, Styrofoam or even stacking cups if you have those. It is the tallest and best-looking pyramid that will win by audience applause!

Resource link: speedstacks.com

PLAYING: Choose two teams to compete. If you want, use the Scarabs and Cats (Boys vs. Girls) team signs from your downloads. Depending on the size of your group and the number of cups

available, form two or more teams. Have the kids compete for the highest pyramid in a set time limit or have them do a relay style race where kids race down to a place where they add one cup at a time. To speed up the relay, you can have two lines of kids on opposite sides of the room racing to the center so that two boys and two girls are running and building at the same time. It's important that the finished product looks like a pyramid, and not just a tower. The shape is important to winning!

THE POINT: As the kids built, it was important that they quickly formed a plan for their pyramid. The larger the base, the higher the pyramid could go, but if they made it too large, they wouldn't have the time to build it high enough. Today's lesson is about how God has a plan for our life. When we are kids, God is building the base. It may not seem like He is making a lot of progress with our life, but the bigger the foundation God builds, the higher and bigger the impact our life will make!

WATCH it A video that sets it up



PREPARATION: Video included in your Download
The screenshot to the right is also included in your Download to display on screen before playing video.

SUMMARY: The Heavenly Rewards Show – Humility

Host Mr. Rich Richards greets Stan and Molly, contestants on the **Heavenly Rewards Show**. The theme of the day is Humility as they compete to see who is worthy of Heavenly Rewards. Only one will be shown to be worthy of Heavenly Rewards. Who will it be?



Featured Verse: Matthew 23:12

THE POINT: Ask the kids why Molly won. Ask them what they thought of Stan. Then talk about how we'll be learning about Joseph during this series. He is a Bible Hero who earned great rewards in heaven, and one reason was his humility. As you'll see in the weeks ahead, his humility through hard times was one of the reasons God eventually elevated him to a very high position!



Story: Joseph's Childhood Dreams
Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11

4D Bible Story Experience!

*Experience the Bible like never before
in a fully immersive 4D Experience!*



For this series, the Story of Joseph will be told via a **4D Movie Experience!** Kids have had 3D experiences at the theater or at amusement parks. What is a 4D Movie Experience? It's the next level of interactive Bible Story Telling! Of course, it's all make-believe and requires kids to use their imaginations but present it enthusiastically as though this is the latest, greatest technology that you have been granted access to. Maybe there is a scientist that goes to your church who you can credit with sharing it with you. We have a military base by our church, so we usually claim someone in the R and D (Research and Development) Department on the base is loaning us test equipment. Just have fun with it and the kids will play along.

PREPARATION: You'll need some sort of "4D" screen for the kids to "watch". We ordered a multi-colored shower curtain to represent Joseph's coat of many colors. (See image.)

You'll need "4D Glasses" for the kids to wear as they view the "4D" screen. You can use whatever you want for the glasses. We purchased online some plastic glasses with slats in them. You can pass them out and collect them each week, and let the kids keep them after the final week of the series. (See image.)



The "4D" represents Joseph in person as he comes off the pages of Scripture to bring the Bible Story to life. A volunteer will dress as Joseph and come out from behind the screen to tell a segment of the Bible Story in the first person. Chose a man who can act well and have him wear a coat of many colors. While the coat is only featured in the story during the first lesson, it's fine to wear it the entire series as a symbol of who Joseph was. You can also modify the costume each week to fit the story, but if "Joseph" tells the story well, you don't need many props.

It is important to tell the story while ignoring the audience as much as possible as this is a “movie” they are watching, not a “live time traveling” Joseph. As much as possible, try to keep up that perception. Another leader can hit “pause” with a remote while Joseph “freezes” if they need to address the kids to quiet down and not interrupt the “presentation”. First-person storytelling can be powerful. Have your actor really know and get into the story as he tells it. The more he tells it like it is real, like he experienced it, and gets emotional as he describes it and how it impacted him and how he felt, the more powerful an impact it will have on the viewers... the children.

PRESENTATION: Joseph will wait behind the screen until the kids have been instructed to put on their 4D glasses. (There is a reminder slide in the Every Week folder to use on screen.) Joseph will come out from behind the 4D screen and tell a segment of his story in first-person.



THIS WEEK: Joseph comes out and tells the segment of his story from **Genesis 37:1-11**

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY: Joseph comes out and introduces himself. He talks about his older brothers and a little about what it’s like to be the youngest brother. He mentions how he is his parents’ favorite kid and how that annoys his brothers. In fact, he could even say they practically hate him for it. Then, he explains that the real reason they probably hate him is because of the dreams he had. Maybe he shouldn’t have told them about them, but he didn’t think of that until after he saw their reaction. Even his parents seemed a little bothered by his dreams, but he really does think they were a real message from God, so he wanted to share them. He goes on to share the dreams in detail. (Be sure to be familiar with the dreams from the biblical text, so they can be described IN DETAIL to the kids.) Joseph explains that he doesn’t really understand the full meaning behind them, but his parents and brothers seem to think that they mean that somehow, for some reason, they will all bow down to him. While his parents just seem curious or baffled by them, his brothers just hated him all the more because of them. They started to get really mean and often when he would walk up to them, they would be whispering and stop talking when he arrived and seemed to be up to something. If things weren’t bad enough, one day his dad gave him a very expensive coat made of many colors – most robes in his day were just one color. A coat of many colors was costly – and just seemed to make his already-irritated brothers even more upset. Joseph explains how he was starting to feel uneasy and uncomfortable around them, though he really couldn’t explain why. Let’s just say, it was getting really tense around the house.

NOTE: Always end on a cliffhanger: “I was starting to think maybe I should talk to my dad about maybe getting them coats or having a family game night or something, when it happened. Not even sure if I should say what happened... this is a kids service after all... but it was bad. Do you want to know? (Allow kids to respond.) OK, I’ll tell you, but don’t say I didn’t warn you, it’s pretty bad. Ready? Oh, wait, that’s part of the next lesson. See you next week!” (Exit.)



The Hero's Calling

We love blockbuster movies! And the biggest and most successful movies feature a hero we can cheer for. If you pay close attention to these epic movies, you'll begin to notice a pattern to them. The hero doesn't just show up and "save the day." There is usually a journey that the hero must go on before they are ready to be the hero we long for in the story. While each story is different, there are some aspects of this journey that appear in almost every hero story.



It is good to review the stages of the Hero's Journey each week, even if briefly. During this first week, you can cover them all as you are setting up the Hero's Journey. In future weeks, you can review briefly the previous stages of the journey and just hint at the stages to come, but focus on the stage that Joseph is in that week.

Overview of the Stages in the Hero's Journey:

- **The Hero's Calling** – Some event or person that calls them to some higher purpose for their life.
- **The Hero's Plight** – Before our hero can save the day, they always have a setback. It can be a villain, but often it is something within them that holds them back that they need to overcome.
- **The Hero's Test** – Next, our hero usually must face some kind of test to determine whether he or she is worthy of being the hero we hope they will be. They must decide if they will be honorable and noble, or if they will cheat or lie or take a short-cut. We cheer when they make the right decision. It makes them worthy of rooting for.
- **The Hero's Trial** – After our hero passes the test, there is always a trial that causes them to second-guess whether they made the right choice. They have a chance to cheat up, turn around, or quit. If they are to be a hero, they must pass the trial.
- **The Hero's Hope** – Finally, things start to look up for the hero. They meet a mentor, or find a map, or make some friends who join them – something happens that shows them that they are on the right path. There may still be a battle ahead, but they know they will win if they press on!
- **The Hero's Triumph** – We jump out of our seats and cheer when the hero finally wins! Evil is defeated and the hero saves the day. The victory is sweet because of the tests and trials the hero has been through. Without the hard times, the victory wouldn't be as enjoyable. It is because of the difficulty that we celebrate the triumph.

- **The Hero's Return** – Often, there were those who doubted the hero at the beginning. They spoke words of doubt or disbelief. We love when they are proven wrong. We want them to see what the hero accomplished, and we want the hero vindicated!
- **The Hero's Legacy** – The true mark of the hero is when they are remembered. When a hero's story is told long after they are gone, then they truly were a hero. There are books telling their story, statues erected in their honor, songs sung about them, and little kids dressing up and pretending to be them. They leave a legacy behind them for future generations to be inspired by.

As we follow the story of Joseph, we will see this familiar journey in his life. Each week, we are going to look at one of the stages in the Hero's Journey and what that looked like in the life of Joseph. Yes, he was the hero who saved the lives of millions of people when a famine came upon Egypt, but his journey started many years before – in fact, way back when he was a young boy and God gave him a dream. A dream is a vision of what could be or what will be.

Did you know God has a dream – a vision – of what YOUR LIFE can be? God knows what it will be if you dedicate your life to following Him as Joseph did!

NEEDED: A Lego set (a small kit works fine), ideally with the box and instructions. If the box isn't available but you have a completed set, find a picture of the box online to display on screen.

God gave Joseph a dream that hinted at His plan for Joseph's life. God has a plan for each of our lives. Sometimes that plan is very clear to us, other times, that plan is revealed to us slowly over time, but either way, we can trust that God has a wonderful plan for our life that we will discover if we are trusting God and walking with Him.

OBJECT LESSON: A Lego Kit

The box shows the picture of what it will be when it is complete, but when you buy a Lego kit, it is in pieces. It takes time to put it together. The bigger the kit, the longer it takes. But it comes with a manual. Sometimes we make mistakes and have to go back and see what we did wrong, but eventually, if we follow the instructions, we figure it out and end up with a completed kit.

READ: Jeremiah 29:11 *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

God has a plan for your life. It is a good plan! It's a plan that takes time to finish. You don't even know now how big a kit it is – how long it will take for the plan to unfold – but you can know that God will finish it.

READ: Philippians 1:6 *being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

The Bible assures us that God will complete the plan He has for us. It may take a while and there will be ups and downs, but that's what makes life exciting.

It's like riding a roller coaster. It's the ups and downs that make it exciting. If it went slow and straight, it would be boring. We might scream and cling to our seats, but when it's over we say, "That was aaawesooooome!"

BONUS: There are two roller coaster videos provided in your Every Week download folder. One is a countdown video your kids will enjoy before service. For during the lesson, you can show the "video only" version (without the countdown timer) while you talk about life being like a roller coaster ride, filled with "ups" and "downs," but that is part of what makes life exciting. (Feel free to mute the music while you talk.) These videos are free with this curriculum. If you'd like to share them with others, refer them to Kidology.org/coastercountdown

SHOW it An object lesson or activity that illustrates it



ACTIVITY: The Pyramid Puzzle

PREPARATION: Print out the Pyramid Puzzle from your lesson downloads. There is also an image you can put on screen at the end to show the solution. Tape is optional.



PRESENTATION: The Egyptians were known for their pyramids. Each week, your kids will be challenged with a Pyramid Word Scramble that reveals a character quality of Joseph that we can learn from and work to add to our own lives.

For large groups, you can print it extra-large and have two teams compete to complete the puzzle. If you have a small group, you can let all the kids participate by getting into groups of 3-4 kids and providing the puzzles in a zip lock bag, or you may give one to each child if you'd like. It's up to you on how many puzzles you want to prep. Consider printing on card stock so that they are firmer for working with. Optionally, you can print the blank pyramid with the sand and sky for them to do the puzzle on. It's already fairly easy and that would make it even easier, but you can have them tape the pieces to the pyramid before they are done to add some time to the challenge, and if there's a tie you can judge by who did it the neatest.

This week's puzzle reveals the word: **LOVING**

Bible Verse to look up and read together: **Mark 12:30-31**

NOTE: There is no slide with the verse. The intent is for the kids to look up the verse in their own Bibles and read it.



Have the children get their Bibles out and race to find these verses. Encourage all the kids to look up the verses. After a student reads it, put it up on the screen and read it together. Briefly discuss the passage and explain it as it relates to the lesson.



Psalm 33:11

The plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations.

Jeremiah 1:5

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Psalm 32:8

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.



This is the THEME VERSE

Challenge the kids to memorize this verse during this series. You may want to have a fun prize or treat for the kids who memorize it!

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Pyramid Verse Tool

This is a longer passage so learning by repetition during your service will be more challenging than most. Therefore, a Pyramid Verse Tool is provided in your downloads that the kids can take home to keep on their desk, kitchen table, or anywhere that will remind them to be working on the verse throughout the series.



LIVE *it* The practical life application challenge so the kids can live *it* this week!



Each week, conclude the lesson with a prayer and practical challenge for the kids. Encourage them to be like Joseph in a way that relates to this week's lesson.

LIVE IT: This week, at the beginning of each day, pray and ask God to help you live for Him. And at the end of the day, when you get into bed, pray and thank God for the day and tell Him you are looking forward to what He has planned for you tomorrow.



(If you used the Show it segment)

Ask God to help you to be **LOVING** toward everyone, even those who are unkind to you, so you can Live Like Joseph.

TAKE *it* Take home tool to help parents review *it* with their kids



PREPARATION: Included in your download.

The TAKE IT for this series is formatted two per page. Print on regular paper or cardstock. Cut the printed sheets in half diagonally to create triangles.

INCLUDED FOR PARENTS:

- **READ IT** - Bible verse of the week
- **LEARN IT** - the *it* for the week
- **HIDE IT** - theme verse in full to review
- **DISCUSS IT** - discussion questions for parents
- **FIND IT** - verses they can look up
- **LIVE IT** - application from the lesson



LOOKING AHEAD

Here is next week's lesson topic:

Lesson 2: The Hero's Plight
God Gives us strength when we are weak.



BONUS IDEAS!



it is always growing and adding NEW IDEAS!

Be sure you are a member of the **Kidology.org Facebook Group** so you don't miss out on BONUS IDEAS or COACHING VIDEOS that Pastor Karl or Doug often post to help make your Sunday Experience the best it can be! If they get new ideas, they will share them! AND if YOU come up with a great idea for this lesson, you can share it too!

VISIT OR JOIN AT: [Facebook.com/groups/kidologyorg](https://www.facebook.com/groups/kidologyorg)