



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

Lesson 3: THE HERO'S TEST

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 always offers a way of escape.

Story: Joseph runs from Potiphar's wife.

Scripture: Genesis 39:1-20



Things you might need for this lesson:

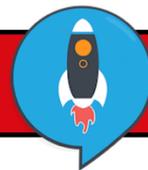
FIND/GATHER/BUY:

- Costume for Whyit (all 8 weeks)
- Play-Doh for Play it
- Screen and 4D Glasses for Tell it
- Joseph Costume for Tell it (First 7 weeks*)

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 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 says that we are learning about a Bible hero whose name starts with the letter "J." Leader says, "so far so good!" Why says, "this guy was good at running away!" Leader says, "I think Whyit is going to get it right this week!" Whyit goes on to say that God told him to go to the Ninevites and preach to them that they needed to repent of their sins, but instead he high-tailed it out of there and ran all the way to Tarshish and got swallowed by a whale! Leader has to interrupt and say, "No, no, wrong runner whose name starts with J. That's Johah. We are learning about Joseph, and he did run away, only not from Ninevites, but from a woman!" Whyit says, "I run from women sometimes." Leader asks, "You do?" Whyit says, "Yea, my mom and my sisters!" Leader rolls eyes and tells Whyit and the kids that this woman was trying to get Joseph into trouble, but he was wise enough to run away!



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 Play-Doh. It is the tallest and best-looking pyramid that will win by audience applause!



PLAYING: Pick four to eight kids to compete individually. Don't provide any tools; they need to use only their hands. Kids need to build their Play-Doh in the shape of a pyramid. It's more challenging than you think!

THE POINT: Building by hand is challenging and takes extra time, but the end result is worth the extra effort. Did you know that each of us is "handmade" by God, and we also take time to be perfected? If Play-doh had feelings, I bet the pushing and prodding and shaping wouldn't always feel great, but it's all part of the process. The same is true in life – the trials of life aren't fun, but they shape us into what God wants us to be.

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 – Selflessness

Game Show Host Mr. Rich (in eternal rewards) is back with (no surprise) Stan. To get on the show, he found the rightful contestant, Sam, and traded a valuable baseball card for his ticket, just so Stan could again compete against returning champ, Molly. The theme this week is Selflessness. Who will be proven worthy of Heavenly Rewards?



Featured Verses: Philippians 2:3-4

THE POINT: Ask the kids why Molly won. Ask them what they thought about Stan's attitude. Should Sam have been allowed to join the show?

In our Bible story today, Joseph faces a test where he could have been selfish and just gone along with temptation, but as you'll see, instead he decides to do the right thing, and God will reward him for it in the long run.



Story: Joseph runs from Potiphar's wife.
Scripture: Genesis 39:1-20

4D Bible Story Experience!

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



See Lesson 1 for an overview of how the 4D concept works.

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 39:1-20**

Bible Story Summary: Last week Joseph shared that when he became a slave he decided that he wouldn't lose his trust in God and would just have a good attitude and work to be the best slave they had ever seen. Working hard and being honest paid off! His owner, or boss, was Potiphar, Captain of Pharaoh's personal guard and a very important man. He ended up being so impressed with Joseph, that he kept promoting him, and put Joseph in charge of the entire household. Only Potiphar was more important than Joseph. Things were going great for a while, but then Joseph faced a trial. Joseph tells about how Potiphar's wife started to flirt with him and wanted to kiss him, and Joseph said, "How can I do that? You are my boss's wife!" She was upset because she was used to always getting her way. Finally, one day she got forceful, and Joseph had to run away. But when he did, she grabbed him and his coat ripped. She cried fake tears and lied and told Potiphar that Joseph had attacked her. Who do you think Potiphar believed? Of course, he believed his wife, and Joseph was thrown in prison. He went from being a slave to second most important in Potiphar's home to now a prisoner. Was it bad luck? Or just the next stage in God's master plan? Again, Joseph decided, he would just trust that God was up to something.

NOTE: Again, end with a cliff hanger, "Of course, God didn't let me down! In fact, He did the most amazing thing. You won't believe it! After I had been there awhile, something incredible happened. You want to hear about it? (Let the kids respond.) Well, you'll have to come back next week."



The Hero's Test

Blockbuster movies are usually epic! 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.



Quickly review the last two stages, **The Hero's Calling** and **The Hero's Plight**.

- **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.

Then lead into this week's stage in **The Hero's Journey: The Hero's Test**. In every hero story from blockbuster movies to even animated films, you'll see the hero's character and nobility tested before they rise to accomplish their heroic feat. It's a test of character to see if they are worthy of being called a hero. Often the villain is someone who had the opportunity to be a hero but failed the test.

Today, let's talk about the next stage:

- **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.

As we follow the story of Joseph, we see him coming out of his plight as a slave, rising to be put in charge of all of Potiphar's household, just to be tempted by his boss's wife. He could have given in to the temptation, for the temptation itself or to save his position. Instead, he ran from it and ended up being falsely accused of a crime he didn't commit. He passed the test, even though there would be consequences.

READ: 1 Corinthians 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.*

When he was faced with a temptation, his answer was to ask how he could sin against “your husband and my God?”

What would motivate Joseph to do what was right, even when he knew that it wouldn’t end well for him?

READ: Hebrews 10:36 *You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.*

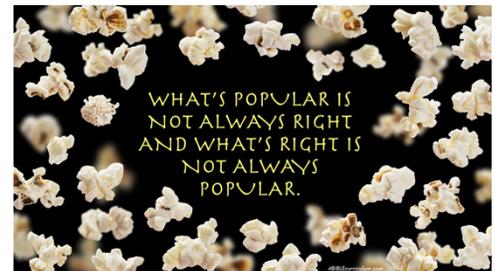
He knew that God had made a promise to him, and if he wanted that promise to come true, he had to hold up his end of the deal by trusting and obeying God, no matter what.

READ: Matthew 7:13 *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.”*

Potiphar’s wife may have said to him, “But everyone is doing it…” but Joseph knew that he had to do what was right no matter what.

There is a saying that is worth remembering: **WHAT’S POPULAR IS NOT ALWAYS RIGHT AND WHAT’S RIGHT IS NOT ALWAYS POPULAR**

Joseph knew that doing what was right was the best choice in the long run, even if it meant some bad result in the short run.



ACTIVITY: The Human Knot Game

PREPARATION: There are a few versions on this game. This one is easier for kids to do. You’ll need two circles of kids, one of boys and one of girls (Cobras vs. Cats).

PRESENTATION: The kids form a circle while holding hands facing each other. Then, they let go and they cross their arms and hold hands again with the person on their right and left. The goal is to get back to how they were at first, arms uncrossed and facing each other, without letting go! It’s a tricky, but they can do it if they work together.

THE SECRET: They will need to lift their arms and turn around so their backs are toward the center of the circle and arms are no longer crossed. One person backs up and goes under the arms of someone across the circle and the rest follow them until they all pass under that same place and that will correct the circle!

THE POINT: Sometimes we find ourselves in a tough situation, but God will always give us a way to get out of it. It may take some effort, but we can figure it out!

What do we do when we face a temptation? RUN! How can we RUN from sin?

- R = Read the Bible to know what is right and wrong.
- U = Understand that sin is meant to take us away from God's plan for our life.
- N = Say "NO" no matter what the cost, trusting that God has something better for us!



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: **FAITHFUL**

Bible Verse to look up and read together: **1 CORINTHIANS 10:13**

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.



Hebrews 4:16

Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Ephesians 6:13

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.



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, when you are faced with a temptation to do the wrong thing, stop and pray and ask God to show you the way of escape, and run from sin and toward God.



(If you used the Show it segment)

Ask God to help you to be **FAITHFUL** to your friends and family 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/pyramids.

ED 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 4: The Hero's Trial
God is always with us, even in the darkest times.



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)