



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

Lesson 4: THE HERO'S TRIAL

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 is always with you, even in the darkest times.



Story: Joseph trusts God while in prison.

Scripture: Genesis 39:20-23

Things you might need for this lesson:

FIND/GATHER/BUY:

- Costume for Whyit (all 8 weeks)
- Pretzels and Marshmallows for Play it
- Screen and 4D Glasses for Tell it
- Joseph Costume for Tell it (First 7 weeks*)
- Blindfold and Obstacles 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 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 starts to tell the story of Paul and Silas in jail from Acts 16. He is describing how they got tossed in for doing good, but they were singing and praising God and even the jailer and his family came to know Jesus. Leader has to say "Right location, sorta, but wrong century. That was the New Testament, and we are in the very beginning of the Old Testament. We're still learning about the story of Joseph. In last week's story, he got tossed in jail after running away from his boss's wife who falsely accused him of attacking her." Whyit says, "We're still on Jospheh? This is week four!" Leader says, "And we have four more weeks. The Hero's Journey is a life-long journey. God gave him a vision as a boy, but it would take years of faithfulness before Joseph would see it come true. Today we are going to learn how and why he stayed faithful to God even during the darkest time in his life, while he was in jail for something he didn't even do. Whyit says, "Well, this I gotta hear. Honestly, I might want to give up at this point. But I'm glad he didn't!"



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 pretzel sticks and marshmallows! It is the tallest and best-looking pyramid that will win by audience applause!

PLAYING: This game will require teams of 4-6 players each. By pushing pretzel sticks into marshmallows, they can shape their pyramids. This will take more creative effort than some of the other weeks and may take a little longer, so feel free to have the rest of the kids sing a song while they work.

THE POINT: For this pyramid, it was important that the teams work together. In life, when we face trials, we need to depend on others to get through trials in life. Joseph didn't get out of prison on his own. He got out because he turned his focus to helping others, as we will see.

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 – Sacrifice

For the Grand Finale, Host Mr. Rich Richards returns and invites Stan back again for a final match up with rival Molly, the three-time defending champ. The theme is Sacrifice. Will Stan ever learn the right way to earn Heavenly Rewards?



Featured Verse: Luke 6:38

THE POINT: Ask the kids what they think about both Molly AND Stan winning. Things weren't looking good for Joseph when we left him last week, but as we'll soon see, he decides to put others first and God is going to reward him.



Story: Joseph trusts God while in prison.
Scripture: Genesis 39:20-23

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 39:20-23**

Bible Story Summary: Joseph tells about how once again, by having a positive attitude, working hard, and focusing on serving God, not the jailor, he was promoted to being in charge of the whole jail! He didn't even have to wear chains, because the Jailor knew he would not try to escape, because he was honest. He couldn't believe it, but God had honored him again, and now he was in charge of the entire prison. This week's segment is shorter, so take time to describe the struggle of the setback, the darkness of the prison, the hard work, some of the tasks, but then focus on the inner determination to keep trusting God even as things looked so bleak. Describe remembering those childhood dreams, years ago; repeat the details of those dreams, and wonder how in the world they could ever come true now... but still trusting God – knowing that God can do anything!

NOTE: End on a cliffhanger: "Seems that Potiphar isn't the only one to get mad at people and toss them into prison. Even the Pharaoh has been known to toss people into prison. One day, can you guess who HE threw into the jail with me? (Let the kids guess. Some may know the story and guess correctly, which is fine.) Maybe, but I'll tell you for sure next week!"



The Hero's Trial

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.



ACTIVITY: Stand Up or Sit Down

Joseph's life sure has been a roller coaster! Have the kids **STAND UP** for something that is an "UPPER" stage in his life and **SIT DOWN** if it is a "DOWNER" stage in his life.

- He was the favorite kid of his dad! (Up)
- His brothers hated him for it. (Down)
- His dad got him a special coat made of many colors. (Up)
- His brothers hated him even more. (Down)
- He got to stay home while his brothers went off to work. (Up)
- He went to visit his brothers and they decided to kill him. (Down)
- Reuben said "Let's not kill him". (Up)
- So they sold him as a slave. (Down)
- His slave master was a good man. (Up)
- Soon he was in charge of the entire household of Potiphar. (Stay Up)
- Then Potiphar's wife flirted with him and accused him of attacking her when he ran away. (Down)
- He did what was right and obeyed God! (Up)
- And got thrown in jail for it. (Down)

And that's where we find ourselves today in our Hero's Journey. He has been through The Hero's Calling, Plight, and Test, and now he will face the Trial. There seem to be a lot of DOWNS. But things are about to go UP again!

There is good news in the weeks ahead as we learn about The Hero's Hope, The Hero's Triumph, The Hero's Return and The Hero's Legacy... but we have to get through this Trial first.

Quickly review the first three stages, **The Hero's Calling**, **The Hero's Plight** and **The Hero's Test**. Then introduce the next stage: **The Hero's Trial**.

- **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.

Joseph found himself in jail. Remember when he was a slave? What did he decide to do?

READ Again: Colossians 3:23-24 *Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.*

What happened when Joseph had this attitude as a slave? (Let the kids respond.) So what happened when he had this same attitude again? (Let the kids respond.) When Joseph became a slave, he decided to be the best slave he could be, and rose to be in charge of the whole house. Then, when he was put in prison unfairly, instead of pouting or complaining, he again decided to be the best prisoner he could be, and soon was put in charge of the entire prison. He realized that even though he was in prison, he was never a prisoner, because he was with God. You can be FREE no matter where you are if you are walking with God.

READ: Joshua 1:9 *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*

It's not that Joseph was happy or excited or enjoyed being in prison... of course not! But he was choosing to trust God and believe that God was up to something that he just couldn't see.

Joseph knew he was in a bad place, but he also knew that he served someone higher and greater and more powerful than even the Pharaoh of Egypt. He served the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, for he served God.

READ: Jeremiah 42:11 *'Do not be afraid of the king of Babylon, whom you are now fearing; do not be afraid of him,' declares the Lord, 'for I am with you to save you and deliver you from his hand.'*

Keep in mind, we all know where this story ends, but Joseph didn't know that. Sometimes, God wants to see if we will be faithful where we are before he lifts us to something greater.

READ Luke 16:10 *“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.”*

As we know, God had a BIG PLAN for Joseph. He was teaching Joseph skills in Potiphar’s house and in the prison that he would need later. Joseph couldn’t see that, but God could. Joseph was also showing God that he would be faithful, he would work hard, he would be honest, and he would do his best wherever he was, no matter what. Those were skills God needed for the BIG JOB God had for him down the road.

Whatever you might go through, keep in mind that God may be testing to see if you have what it takes to be faithful and dependable, and He also might be teaching you valuable skills that you will need later to accomplish what He has planned for you!

ACTIVITY: Blind Folded Guide

PREPARATION: You’ll need some candy or other prize to give the participants, blindfolds, and some obstacles items, such as game cones, boxes, or other larger items

PLAYING: A pair of friends are chosen to participate. One is blindfolded and the other friend guides the blindfolded friend through an obstacle course, stepping over things, ducking, moving side to side, etc. to get through to the reward (candy or prize). They can’t touch their friend, but they can give verbal instructions, move right, left, jump, duck, etc.

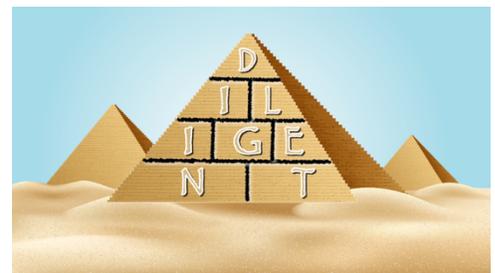
THE POINT: God guides us through the tough times, but we have to be listening to Him and obeying Him so He can guide us through. If we will trust and obey, we will be rewarded.

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: **DILIGENT**

Bible Verse to look up and read together: **Hebrews 6:11**

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.

FIND it Bible verses that help unpack 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.

Luke 9:23

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me."



Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.

2 Kings 6:16

So he answered, "Do not fear, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."

HIDE it *The unit scripture that kids will memorize to hide it in their hearts*



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, if you face a challenge or difficulty, find a place you can go to spend some time with God to pray and seek His strength. The more time you spend with God, reading your Bible and praying, the easier it will be to do the right thing when you are faced with a challenge.



(If you used the Show it segment)

Ask God to help you to be **DILIGENT** in whatever you are asked to do by parents, teachers, or leaders 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.

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 5: The Hero's Hope
God's timing is perfect.



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!

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