



## Joseph's Brothers Sell Him

Genesis 37

### God Statement: God is in Control

**KEY VERSE:** "Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don't lose hope. Wait for the Lord."  
(Psalm 27:14, NIRV)

## CHECK-IN

*Classroom Teacher*

**(until 15 minutes after the start of each service)**

*As kids check-in, please have them wash their hands or use hand sanitizer before entering your classroom. Then they can participate in the various activities and games in your classroom. 10 minutes after the start of your service time, ask the kids to clean up their activities and toys so you can begin the Explore Activity at 15 minutes after the start of service.*

## EXPLORE ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

**(15 minutes)**

*The Explore Activity is a chance to get the kids thinking about the upcoming Bible story for the day. Encourage your kids to engage with the activity as they prepare for the lesson.*

### **DISCUSS: God is in Control**

In today's lesson, we are going to continue learning about how God is in Control.

**SAY:**

We're going to be learning about a new God Statement today in large group. Do any of you remember what our last God Statement was? God is Our Promise Keeper, that's right!

What do you think we're talking about when we say "God Statement"? When we talk about "God Statements," those are true facts or character traits of who God is. Our new God Statement is: God is in Control. Let's say that together... God is in Control! How does that statement make you feel? *Pause for responses.*

We're going to learn more about this phrase in Large Group, but for now, we're going to do an activity to get us thinking about the lesson.

### **MAKE:**

To get the kids thinking about the lesson, they can do this activity!

#### **Joseph's Coat Bookmark**

**Supplies:** 1 bookmark per child, crayons/markers OR watercolors/paintbrushes, optional - scissors

**Say:** *Today we're going to learn about a man named Joseph. What is his name? Joseph, that's right. Joseph was given a very special coat from his father. Have you ever been given a special gift from your parents, grandparents, or guardians? How did it make you feel? We're going to work in pairs to color these coats as colorful as we can!*

**Directions:** Pass out one bookmark to each child and have them color the bookmark using either markers, crayons, or watercolor paints. Optional for older kids - If kids would like to cut the bookmark out in more detail, they can use scissors to do so.

## **LARGE GROUP**

**(25 minutes)**

*Each week, Large Group will consist of an introduction, worship, the Bible lesson, worship response, and the blessing.*

### **WELCOME & EXPECTATIONS**

#### **Host**

Depending on your age group, either find a designated space in your classroom or join the other classes for Large Group in the specified location.

As children enter into Large Group time, welcome and greet the children, telling them you're excited to have them joining this evening/morning.

#### **Expectations Slide**

Once everyone has found their seat, the host will use the Large Group expectations slide to go over the rules. Encourage various children to take turns reading the rules.

*\*\*\* After Expectations, transition the power point to the Key Verse slides.. \*\*\**

## KEY VERSE

### *Host*

Before you start worship, introduce/review the key Bible verse for the quarter. This is a great opportunity for you to talk about the importance of God’s Word and encourage the kids to work on memorizing the verse each week.

*Use the Key Verse Motions Video on Plex (or sent in weekly email) to learn the motions prior to Large Group.*

**“Wait for the Lord. Be strong and don’t lose hope. Wait for the Lord.”  
(Psalm 27:14, NIRV)**

*\*\*\* After the Introduction, transition the power point to the Worship songs and invite the Worship Leader up front to lead the kids in worship. \*\*\**

## OPENING WORSHIP

### *Worship Leader*

While the video is playing the opening worship songs, encourage the kids to sing and dance along. Don’t forget to set the example by participating alongside them!

Kids may participate in the worship however they feel led. Encourage kids to find a way that helps them worship best but remind them that it’s not time to goof off or talk to friends. If you have someone leading the worship up front, you can even invite a few kids to help.

*\*\*\* After Worship, transition the power point into the Bible Story video where the kids will hear about the lesson for the day. \*\*\**

## BIBLE STORY

### *Lesson Video*

Remind the group before starting the video to follow the expectations for Large Group.

### ***THIS WEEK’S LESSON: Joseph’s Brothers Sell Him***

Encourage kids to listen and engage with the lesson as they watch the teaching video.

*\*\*\*After the video finishes, turn on soft worship music (with or without lyrics) to transition into Worship Response. This should be background music to help set the tone for a quiet reflection time with God. \*\*\**

## WORSHIP RESPONSE

**Host**

Worship Response is an opportunity for the kids to apply what they just learned and to respond to what God is doing in their life. *Have the kids sit in a place where they can be still and reflect independently.* Then read through the Worship Response prompts below as you lead the kids through the time.

**Supplies:** puzzle pieces, writing utensils stationed around room (pens are best)

That is quite the story we're talking about today. Do you have siblings? Sometimes you get angry with each other, but I hope you wouldn't try to sell them!

- God has a plan from the beginning and even when we do wrong things and feel like we're messing up our lives or someone else's life OR maybe that someone else is messing up our life, God's plan will work out. God saves.
- That was His plan from the beginning of time. To make a way for Jesus to save us by dying on the cross for our sins.
- Those brothers of Joseph intended to get rid of Joseph, but God used that to get Joseph into the right place at the right time for His line to continue.

Sometimes things happen in our lives that we don't like or understand but we trust that God will work it all out for good.

Let's look at Romans 8:28. ***Encourage kids to grab a Bible from the class supply or look up this verse in their own Bible. Ask one kid to read the first part of the verse aloud into the microphone.***

***Romans 8:28 - "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him." (Read it a couple of times.)***

- Do you love God? He WILL work out everything for your good and His good.
- We're going to do something to help us remember that truth that God is in Control and He has a plan.

***Have teachers and LITs help pass out 1 puzzle piece to each kid. DO NOT PASS OUT PENS YET.***

- Let's look at this puzzle piece in our hands for a minute. A puzzle piece is just that, a piece – a part of something much bigger...
- Can you tell what your puzzle piece is supposed to be? Some might be able to, but most of us can't see what the full puzzle should look like by just looking at this one piece, right?

As you look at this puzzle piece quietly, I want you to think about your life for a minute... ***Make sure soft instrumental worship music plays as you talk while the kids look at the puzzle piece.***

- Has something happened to change how you thought your life would be?
- Maybe you had to move. Maybe your parents got divorced. Maybe you had to change schools. Maybe your best friend had to move away.
- Maybe it was something good, like a new baby sibling was born or you started a new sport.

We can't see the whole finished puzzle of our lives, can we? But, even with those twists and turns come, good or bad, easy or hard things, we can know that God sees and already knows it all!

- God is in control, He is the Maker and Creator.
- Just like a piece of a puzzle, even when we can't understand right now, we know it will all fit together someday. God has already seen the finished puzzle, He actually created it!
- You are in important part of God's story. He has things for you to do and those hard things that happen to you can get you into the right spot for Him to work.

I want us each to take just a moment and quietly think about what that means to know that God is in control.

- When you're ready, you can find a pen at one of the stations around the room.
- You can write a word on your puzzle piece to help you remember that God is in control, and He has a plan. A good plan. Even when it's hard.
- When you're finished, return the pen and sit quietly as we wait for everyone else to finish responding.

***After a few moments, gather everyone together and close time by encouraging kids to take the puzzle piece home as a visual reminder that we can trust God's plan because He is in control.***

***Close time in prayer.***

***\*\*\*After Worship Response, transition the power point to the closing Worship videos and invite the Worship Leader to come back up.\*\*\****

## **CLOSING WORSHIP**

### ***Worship Leader***

Play the closing worship song included in the power point and encourage the kids to sing and praise along.

This closing song is intended to be a transition for the kids to finish processing and reflecting on the lesson before transitioning to the small group time.

***\*\*\*After Worship or Bible Story, transition the power point to the "Compassion International" slide.\*\*\****

## **COMPASSION & OFFERING**

### Host

Before closing large group, take a moment to highlight and discuss each campus' Compassion sponsor child. Explain a little about the Compassion child's life and the impact their offering has for this child (info should be provided on cards in classroom). Then remind kids that if anyone brought offering, now is the time to come forward to donate.

***Ask a child to come up and pray for the offering and their Compassion child.***

***\*\*\*After Compassion & Offering, transition the power point to the "Announcement" slide. The host will discuss any current announcements.\*\*\****

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Host

Take this opportunity to cover any announcements for the kids, such as upcoming events or reminders, like bringing food donations for Feeding Families. Use the slides provided in the Power Point to display important announcements.

***\*\*\*After Announcements, transition the power point to the "Blessing" slide. The host will lead the class in receiving the blessing for the day.\*\*\****

## BLESSING

### Host

*Read the verse and blessing over the kids before closing Large Group. Encourage the kids to stand and open their hands to receive the blessing as a truth that they can take with them this week and hide in their hearts.*

***Friends, may you always remember that God knows what He is doing. He loves you and will make everything work out for the good of those who love Him.***

## SMALL GROUP

### Classroom Teachers

**(10 minutes)**

*The Small Group discussion is a chance for the kids to discuss what they've just learned and to challenge them to think deeper.*

#### Younger Kids:

This time is optional for younger kids, depending on if you feel like the kids are still listening and participating well.

1. **Re-tell the story of Joseph (Gen 37)**

2. **What did Joseph's dad give him, and why?** (A colorful coat, because he was his father's favorite)
3. **What was Joseph's second dream about?** (About the sun, moon and stars bowing down)
4. **Where did Joseph's dreams come from?** (God)
5. **Do you think that Joseph can forgive his brothers one day? Are you able to forgive those who hurt you?**
6. **What does the puzzle piece we got in Worship Response help us remember?** (God is in control!) **Where can you put that puzzle piece you got today to help you remember this every day?**

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for how You protected Joseph's life despite his brothers' plans. Joseph endured not only this challenging situation, but even more difficult trials throughout this life. You protected him so he will one day be a servant leader who saves the lives of many. Thank You for how Joseph gives us a picture of Jesus and how He came to save us. Amen.

### Older Kids:

Encourage the kids to utilize their personal Bibles or the classroom Bibles to read the Scripture as a group.

1. **Read Gen 37:3-4**

**What did Joseph's dad give him, and why?** (A colorful coat, because he was his father's favorite)

2. **Read Gen 37:9-11**

**What was Joseph's second dream about?** (About the sun, moon and stars bowing down)

3. **Read Gen 37:18-22**

**How did God use Reuben and Judah to spare Joseph's life?**

4. **Have you ever felt like Joseph? Has something you didn't like or understand ever happened to you?**

5. **Do you think that Joseph can forgive his brothers one day? Are you able to forgive those who hurt you?**

6. **What does the puzzle piece we got in Worship Response help us remember?** (God is in control!) **Where can you put that puzzle piece you got today to help you remember this every day?**

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank You for how You protected Joseph's life despite his brothers' plans. Joseph endured not only this challenging situation, but even more difficult trials throughout this life. You protected him so he will one day be a servant leader who saves the lives of many. Thank You for how Joseph gives us a picture of Jesus and how He came to save us. Amen.

## RESPOND ACTIVITY

*Classroom Teacher*

(10 minutes)

### DISCUSS:

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity.

#### God Is In Control

**Supplies:** printed images provided (clock, dirt/earth, family, finished puzzle, puzzle piece)

**Say:** *Today we learned about how God watched over Joseph even when his brothers sold him. Joseph didn't know what was going to happen to him, but God had a plan for Joseph and we know that God is in control. God knows everything and God loves us! We're going to look at some items and discuss what they can remind us about God. As you look at these images, raise your hand if you can think of how this shows that God is in control.*

**Directions:** Have kids gather around images spread on floor or table. Go around the circle and allow kids to select an item and share what they think it reveals about what God knows. Help kids relate each item back to the following ideas:

- **Clock Image** – God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8)
- **Dirt/Earth Image** – God created everything on the earth, visible and not visible and he knows everything about His creations (Colossians 1:16)
- **Family Image** – God knows everything about each one of us because He created us in His image and likeness for His good works (Genesis 1:27; Ephesians 2:10)
- **Finished Puzzle Image** – God is like the puzzle maker, like we talked about in WRS, and He has a plan for each of us and knows what the finished puzzle looks like (Jeremiah 29:11)



- **Puzzle Piece Image** – God also knows each piece of the puzzle and where it goes just like He knows each of us down to the number of hairs on our heads because He made us and loves us (Matthew 10:30; Psalm 139)

**Say:** *It's so cool to see all the ways that God is in control. He really loves us and cares for each of us. We can trust God and know that He is in control, especially with things that are uncertain to us! How does that make you feel?*

## CHECK-OUT

*Classroom Teacher*  
(end of service)

*As parents arrive for check-out, the kids can continue participating in the Respond Activities or the classroom games and toys.*