

# Gospel Light Elementary Sunday School

God loves  
me!

**Reproducible!**

**Includes**

- Small Group Guides
- Kid Talk Cards
- Family Fridge Fun
- Family Event Plan

Fall 2011

**Large Group  
Leader Guide**

 **CD-ROM inside**

# Joseph's Sticky Situations

Large Group Leader Guide

Fall • Lesson 11

Genesis 37, 39

## Dear Teacher,

Have you ever had one of those weeks when you ask yourself, *Why me?!* I sure have! Within four days, my car was broken into, my high heel broke off one morning at work (leaving me to walk with a strange limp for the rest of the day), I got a speeding ticket, I lost my cell phone, and my credit card information was used in more countries than I have ever visited!

Throughout Joseph's life, he was thrown into one sticky situation after another. Though he may have asked God, *Why me?!* Joseph continued to look to God and choose to do what was right. God was with Joseph through difficult times, and He is with us during both the great days and the days we wish we could forget! This week, write out Joshua 1:9. Place it where you'll see it often. Remember that we can be strong and courageous because we know that God is with us.



*Lisa Pham*  
Editor

## Connecting You to Jesus

The story of Joseph can be seen as a picture of Jesus' life. Joseph is known as the messianic patriarch. Despite being mistreated in many ways, Joseph chose to be obedient. Later, he was given a position of high honor. Jesus was mistreated, but He obeyed God, even to the point of being killed on the cross. But God raised Jesus from the grave, so Jesus could be our Savior, and He gave Jesus the ultimate honor of being seated at the right hand of God Himself.



### Big Idea

God is always with me and gives me courage to make right choices!

### Action Plan

Evaluate situations in my life and tell right choices to make.

### Bible Verse

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

### MATERIALS


- The basics (see contents)
- Shoe
- Four shoe boxes or bags with a different kind of shoe inside each one
- Story props (see p. 4)



## Opening Music (5 minutes)

As children come into the large-group area, play “Following Jesus” (on *Media DVD* or track 1 on *Worship CD*). Lead children in singing and doing motions (see Song Motion Charts on CD-ROM). **I have decided to follow Jesus and I hope that you will, too! Today we will be talking about a man named Joseph who followed God, even though he was put into some sticky situations.**

## Icebreaker (5 minutes)

 As you watch this clip about some sticky situations, stand up and spin around three times if you would choose the first choice or jump up and down if you would choose the second choice. Check out these crazy choices! Play “Lesson 11: Sticky Situations” on DVD. **Wow! I can’t believe so many of you chose** (name one of the choices that had the most response)!

## Bible Verse (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9. **Today’s Bible verse tells us something to remember when we have choices to make. The verse is Joshua 1:9: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” That means God is with you when you go to the park, movies, camping or school—anywhere your shoes take you! Show shoe.**

Choose four volunteers who aren’t afraid to get in front of a large group. Each volunteer chooses a shoe box or bag and looks inside to see the shoe. Volunteers take turns pantomiming something that a person would do if wearing a shoe like the one in the box or bag (tennis shoe—go running; soccer cleat—kick a soccer ball; etc.). The large group guesses what each child is doing until the action has been guessed. **Great job acting out what people can do while wearing these shoes! When we are playing and running, God is with us. God is with us on the soccer field, too. I’m glad that God is with us everywhere we go!**



### TIP

Greet kids as they arrive and ask, *Would you rather be the oldest or youngest kid in the family?*



### TIP

Encourage children to find the Bible verse in their own Bibles. Invite a volunteer to read Joshua 1:9 from a pretabbed Bible.

## Optional Game

**Joshua 1:9 talks about being strong. Let's play a game about being strong.** Inflate 8 to 10 balloons. Choose two volunteers to put on oversized sweatshirts. **Let's see how fast you can build up your muscles!** At your signal, the volunteers stuff the balloons into their sweatshirts. After 30 seconds, call, **Freeze!** It looks like our volunteers have been working out and bulked up! **Show me your muscles.**

In real life, doing exercises and lifting weights can help you build a strong body. Even better than a strong body is being strong in faith—someone who trusts God and makes right choices like Joseph did. Joshua 1:9 tells us what strong Christians remember. Read aloud Joshua 1:9. **God is with you and He can help you make right choices in every situation, even sticky ones!**

## Music (15 minutes)

Wherever we go every day we have to make choices. Some choices that we make are easy, while others can be difficult. **Let's sing songs thanking God for always being with us and giving us courage to make right choices.** Lead children in singing, "Be Strong and Courageous" (on *Media DVD* or track 4 on *Worship CD*).



**God made each of us special and unique. Let's sing a song and think about how God made each of us different from even our brothers or sisters** Lead students in singing and doing motions for "God Made Me" (on *Media DVD* or track 3 on *Worship CD*; see Song Motion Charts on CD-ROM).

**We can worship God and remember that He is always with us.** Lead students in singing and doing motions for "I Worship You" (on *Media DVD* or track 5 on *Worship CD*; see Song Motion Charts on CD-ROM).

## Story Starter (5 minutes)

**Joseph, the main guy in our Bible story today, went lots of places!** Invite everyone to stand up. **Remain standing if you have brothers or sisters. Those without brothers or sisters sit down.** Continue with other questions until only one or two students are standing. **Remain standing if you are the youngest. Remain standing if you have only brothers. We are going to hear about a man named Joseph who was one of the youngest of 12 brothers.** Everyone sits down.

# Joseph's Sticky Situations

(15 minutes)

Genesis 37; 39



## Big Idea

God is always with me and gives me courage to make right choices!

## STORYTELLING IDEA



*Print the names of Jacob's 12 sons on separate sheets of paper. Use a colorful jacket and follow the directions below to illustrate story actions.*

## Joseph and His Brothers

Jacob, a man in Bible times, lived in the land of Caanan. His family had grown and he was now the father of 12 sons. There was Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher and Joseph. **Twelve volunteers stand in front of group. Give each volunteer a name to hold and play the part of.**

## The Green-Eyed Monster

Joseph was next to the youngest of Jacob's sons, and he was Jacob's FAVORITE! Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. He showed his love by giving Joseph a VERY SPECIAL, EXTREMELY COLORFUL coat. Joseph loved his new coat and wore it EVERYWHERE! **Place colorful jacket on volunteer pretending to be Joseph.**

When the brothers saw Joseph in his new coat, they said, "We don't like him."

Then one night Joseph had a dream. He dreamed that he and his brothers were outside gathering grain and tying it into stacks when all of a sudden, Joseph's stack of grain stood straight up and the brother's stacks gathered around Joseph's stack and BOWED down to it! **All brothers bow to Joseph.**

After Joseph explained his dream, he said proudly, "Can you believe it?" But the brothers said, "Now we REALLY don't like him." If you thought Joseph's brothers were jealous of his coat, can you IMAGINE how they felt after hearing his dream? But it gets WORSE! Joseph had another dream and in THIS dream, Joseph said that the sun, the moon and 11 stars bowed down to him! Now the brothers said, "We really, REALLY don't like him." **Brothers bow again.**

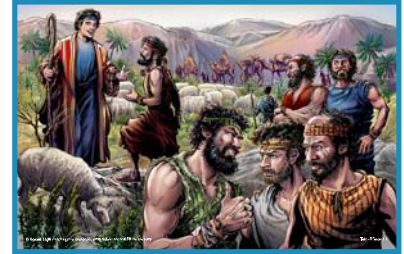
## Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

One day, Joseph's brothers were out in the field watching over their flock of sheep when Jacob sent Joseph out to check on them. The brothers saw Joseph walking toward them wearing his special coat. They said, "Look who's coming!" Then they said, "Let's kill him and throw him into a well!" **Brothers repeat lines after you.**



But Reuben said, “We can throw him into the well, but let’s not kill him!” The brothers agreed that they would throw Joseph into the well. When Joseph walked up, they grabbed his coat and THREW him into the well! Reuben repeats his lines. Joseph falls to floor.

Then the brothers sat down to eat. While they ate, the brothers saw some traders who were traveling on their way to Egypt. Judah said, “I’ve come up with an idea!” He said, “Let’s sell Joseph to the traders!” And that’s exactly what the brothers did! They sold their brother for eight ounces of silver! Poor Joseph! Brothers sit and pretend to eat.



The brothers took Joseph’s very special COLORFUL coat, dipped it in goat’s blood, took it back to Jacob and told him that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal! Jacob cried! He CRIED for days! Brothers join group again. Joseph walks around room one time to travel to Egypt.

## New Man in Charge

While all this was happening, the traders took Joseph to Egypt where THEY sold him to a man named Potiphar. Potiphar worked as the captain of the palace guards for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. But God was with Joseph! When Potiphar saw that God was helping Joseph and giving him success, he was pleased—so pleased that Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything he owned. Because of that, God blessed Potiphar, his family and EVERYTHING he owned.

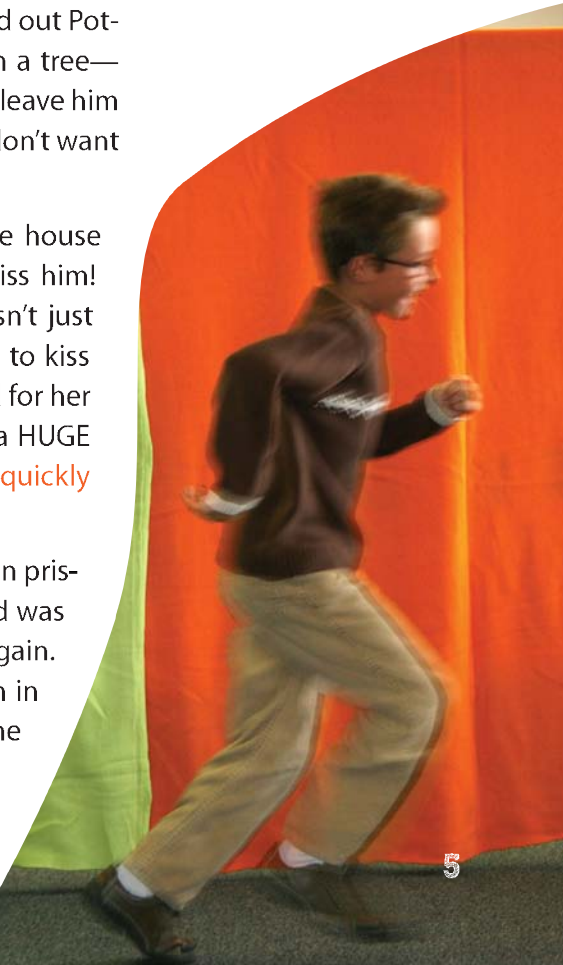
Things were going GREAT for Joseph—great, that is, until Joseph found out Potiphar’s wife had a crush on him—Joseph and Potiphar’s wife sittin’ in a tree—NOT! Joseph wanted to do what was right, so he told Potiphar’s wife to leave him alone. She tried and she tried to get him to like her, but Joseph said, “I don’t want to be with you.”

Potiphar’s wife was MAD! One day when Joseph was working in the house alone, Potiphar’s wife came in, grabbed Joseph’s coat and tried to kiss him! Joseph RAN AWAY but left his coat behind. Now Potiphar’s wife wasn’t just MAD—she was REALLY MAD! She told the servants that Joseph tried to kiss HER! “I screamed and he ran out,” she told them. Potiphar’s wife waited for her husband to come home and when he did—OH BOY—she made up a HUGE story to get Joseph in trouble—that’s trouble with a capital “T!” Joseph quickly runs around room.

When Potiphar heard his wife’s story, he IMMEDIATELY had Joseph put in prison! Even though Joseph probably felt all alone in that prison cell, God was with him. Joseph worked hard, did what was right and trusted God again. The man who ran the prison was pleased with Joseph. He put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners, the prison and everything that was done there. Ask Joseph to join group.

### TIP

Help children find Egypt on map on page 26 in *What the Bible Is All About for Kids*.





## Wrap-Up

Joseph probably didn't understand why he kept ending up in sticky and scary situations, but he knew that God still loved him. God was with Joseph through it all, helping him have the courage to make right choices. God promises the same for us.

Read aloud God's promise in Joshua 1:9. Show shoe. **Because God is with us wherever we go—wherever our shoes take us—we can be courageous and choose to do what is right in all the great, ordinary and even sticky situations we face.**



## Connecting Kids to Jesus



The story of Joseph can be seen as a picture of Jesus' life. God's own Son, Jesus, was mistreated in many ways—much more than Joseph! Jesus always did what was right. And because Jesus is God's Son and obeyed, even to the point of being killed on a cross, He didn't stay dead! He rose again and became our Savior!



## Prayer (5 minutes)

Lead group in prayer. **Thank You, God, for being with Joseph through all his sticky situations. Thank You that You are with us and want to help us make right choices every day. Help us to be strong and courageous this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**

## Dismiss to Small Groups

We've been talking about some sticky situations that Joseph faced and his decision to always follow God. In your small group, be sure to talk about the choices you have to make in your own life. I know God can help you make right choices, just like Joseph did, no matter what sticky situation you face this week.