

# Joseph Sold by His Brothers

## Lesson 6












**Scripture:** Genesis 37:2-11, 17b-28, 36  
**Bible Memory:** Deuteronomy 6:5  
**Focus:** ♥ God is in control.

### Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

In our world of blended families, the account of Joseph and his family fits right in. Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to get along with the people closest to you—those in your family. As you prepare to teach this week, take a moment each day and ask God to help you be content with the family He has given you.

## Lesson 6 at a Glance

<p><b>1 FOCUS IN</b> Use one or both of these activities to help students <i>discover how content they are</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Contentment Rating</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Wanna Trade?</p>	<p><b>HeartShaper Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 6</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Materials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pencils</li> <li>• small items for trading (see activity)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD</b> Use these activities to help students <i>tell what happened between Joseph and his brothers</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Bible Exploration</b> Genesis 37:2-11, 17b-28, 36</p> <p> <b>Bible Memory</b> Deuteronomy 6:5</p> <p> <b>Optional Bible Skill Builder</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 2, <i>Activities</i> for lesson 6</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> sheet 5</li> <li>• <i>Resources</i> CD Optional Bible Skills 6 and OT Law Bookmark printable file</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles, pencils</li> <li>• Bibles</li> <li>• Bibles, scissors</li> </ul>
<p><b>3 MAKE IT REAL</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>feel content with what they have and the circumstances they are in</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Focus In</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Contentment Journal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 6</li> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• large sheets of paper, markers</li> <li>• pencils, whiteboard, dry-erase marker</li> </ul>
<p><b>4 LIVE IT OUT</b> Use one of these activities to help students <i>decide to be content because God is in control</i>.</p>	<p> <b>Quick Step</b> Flip Your Attitude</p> <p> <b>Option</b> Contentment Journal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• none</li> <li>• <i>Activities</i> for lesson 6</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• pennies</li> <li>• none</li> </ul>

## Focus In (10 minutes)

- 1 Use one or both of the following activities to help students **discover how content they are.**

### Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

### Quick Step Contentment Rating

Introduce yourself to any new students.

ASK: **Have you ever thought about how content you are? What does it mean to be content?** (satisfied, happy, pleased)

Ask kids to interview at least two other people and ask how content they are. They should rate themselves on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being the most content. When kids are done, distribute the activity leaflets and pencils and have kids turn to Contentment Rating. SAY: **Let's think a little more about how content we are. For the things and people pictured, rate how content you are.** Tell kids that they don't have to share this information unless they want to. When kids are done, let volunteers share how they rated themselves.

ASK: **What did you find out about yourself? Are you pretty content, sort of content, or not very content at all? Is being content different than being happy? If so, how?** (They're different. You can have lots of stuff that makes you happy, but you still might not be content. True contentment comes from God.)

SAY: **You're content when you feel satisfied with what you have and the situation you find yourself in. Let's keep thinking about contentment as we dig into the Bible.**

### Option Wanna Trade?

ASK: **Have you ever thought about how content you are? What does it mean to be content?** (satisfied, happy, pleased)

Give each kid a small item. ASK: **Are you content? Or do you wanna trade?** For those who want to trade, let them make a trade. **Now are you content? Or do you wanna trade?** For those who want to trade, let them make a trade. Keep going for a few more rounds.

ASK: **How easy or hard was it to be content? How content are you with the clothes you have? the food you eat? where you live? the school you go to? the friends you have?**

SAY: **You're content when you feel satisfied with what you have and the situation you find yourself in. Let's keep thinking about contentment as we dig into the Bible.**

## Focus

♥ God is in control.

### Materials

Activities for lesson 6,  
pencils



### Teaching Tip

Continue to display the poster for the quarter (*Resources* sheet 1).



If you have kids who struggle with anxiety and social interaction, you may want to make this activity more teacher-led. See the *Resources* CD Special Needs Helps 6 printable file for another way to offer this activity.

### Materials

small items for trading  
(paper clips, wrapped  
candy, rubber bands, coins,  
tissues, etc.)



### Teaching Tip

If you have a large class, you might want to do this activity with just a few students.

## Focus

♥ God is in control.

# Explore His Word (25 minutes)

**2** Use these activities to help students **tell what happened between Joseph and his brothers.**


## Bible Background for the Teacher

God promised that Abram's family would grow to be a great nation (Genesis 12:1-3), so he changed Abram's name to Abraham, which means "father of nations." The same promise was passed on to Abraham's grandson Jacob. Jacob's new name was Israel (Genesis 35:9-12), and his family became the nation that is called Israel even now. Jacob had 12 sons, and their families became the 12 tribes of Israel.

Joseph was the 11th son. His older brothers hated him because he had brought his father a bad report about them (Genesis 37:2), because he was the father's favorite (vv. 3, 4), and because his dreams seemed to mean he was going to rule the whole family (vv. 5-11). In those days God sometimes used dreams to tell what was going to happen.

Jacob had so many sheep that his older sons had to take them miles from home to find enough pasture. Jacob sent Joseph to see how they were getting along. The brothers planned to get rid of Joseph. First, they put him in a cistern and left him. The cistern was empty, but Joseph couldn't get out of it. Then the brothers had another idea. They pulled Joseph out of the cistern and sold him as a slave. Nearly all rich people had slaves then. The buyers took Joseph to Egypt, 200 miles away, and sold him to a rich man. The brothers thought they were rid of Joseph forever, but God had other plans.

### Materials

Resources sheet 2, Bibles,  Activities for lesson 6, pencils (optional: Make copies of the Resources CD Feuding Family Talk Show printable file for kids to read and act out after you've presented the Bible story.)

### Note

The Scripture text is provided on the Resources CD in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want kids to read from the same Bible version.



Look for ways to help kids be successful. You could have kids work with partners. You could also provide tabbed Bibles or display a poster with Bible book names.

## Bible Exploration Genesis 37:2-11, 17b-28, 36

ASK: **What have we been learning about history?** (It's *His* story. It's God's story.)

Write "history" on the board, along with "His story" and "God's story." Have a volunteer stand by the Bible time line and briefly tell about the first five icons. Then briefly discuss the next three. SAY: **God blessed Abraham and Sarah in their old age with a son named Isaac. God tested Abraham's faith by asking him to offer Isaac on an altar. Isaac had twin sons named Jacob and Esau. Jacob had many children, including Joseph.**

SAY: **Today we'll pick up God's story with a young man named Joseph.** Have students turn in their Bibles to Genesis 37, and have a volunteer read verse 2 aloud. **As I tell you more about the story of Joseph, I'll stop once in a while. When I stop, make the face you think that person might have made at that moment, and freeze your face. Are you ready?**

Read Genesis 37:3, 4. SAY: **Show on your face how the brothers felt about Joseph, and freeze your face!** Look at their faces. **You're right. They weren't happy at all.** Read verses 5-7. **Show on your face how Joseph might have looked while telling his brothers about his dream, and freeze your face.** Look at their faces. **You may be right, but the Bible doesn't say. Let's see what happens next.**

Read verse 8. SAY: **Show on your face how the brothers felt about Joseph, and freeze your face!** SAY: **They were even more angry with him.** Read verses 9-11. **Show on your face how Joseph's father might have felt when he heard Joseph's dream. Joseph's father was probably upset, but I'm sure that he still loved Joseph.**

Read verses 17b-20. SAY: **Show on your face how Joseph's brothers might have looked as they planned to kill him, and freeze your face! The brothers were angry—angry enough to kill Joseph.** Read verses 21 and 22. **Show on your face how Reuben might have looked as he begged his brothers to not kill Joseph, and freeze your face! Reuben was scared. He didn't want Joseph to be killed. Reuben must have known that would break their father's heart.**

Read verses 23 and 24. SAY: **Show on your face how Joseph might have felt while his brothers mistreated him, and freeze your face! It's interesting that the Bible doesn't tell us what Joseph was feeling or if he even said anything.** Read verses 25-28. **Show on your face how Judah might have looked as he persuaded his brothers to sell Joseph, and freeze your face! How sad that Joseph's brothers hated him so much that they sold him into slavery.**

Read verse 36. SAY: **Show on your face how Joseph might have looked as he was sold to Potiphar, and freeze your face! We don't know how Joseph felt, but he couldn't have felt very good.** Ask students to turn in their activity leaflets to Joseph's Journal. Have volunteers read each journal entry aloud. Encourage kids to write down what they think Joseph might have written. Let several kids share what they wrote.

ASK: **Did Joseph's brothers have good reasons to be jealous of him? Why do you say that? Why do you think it was hard for Joseph's brothers to be content?** (Their dad clearly favored Joseph and gave him special gifts.) **Do you think it was easy or hard for Joseph to remember that ♥ God is in control? Why?** (probably hard, because his brothers mistreated him and he was sold as a slave; he might have thought that God didn't care about him)

SAY: **Next time, we'll discover what else happened in Joseph's life.**

## Bible Memory Deuteronomy 6:5

"Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Display the Deuteronomy 6:5 poster on a wall or bulletin board. Have students turn in their Bibles to the table of contents.

ASK: **What are the first five books of the Old Testament called?** (books of Law)

SAY: **These books give us some of God's laws. And they help us know what God is like.** Have kids turn to Deuteronomy 6:5, and have a volunteer read it aloud. **This is the greatest command God asks us to follow—to love Him with everything we have.** Ask kids to work together to make up motions to go with the main words of the verse. Then have kids read the verse together while doing the motions.

SAY: **God doesn't want us to love Him just a little bit—He wants us to love Him with everything we have. It's not always easy to remember that ♥ God is in control. But when we love Him with our heart, soul, and strength, it sure is easier.**

### Materials

Bibles, *Resources* sheet 5, reusable adhesive



### Media Option

Go to [www.godtube.com](http://www.godtube.com) or [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and type in Deuteronomy 6:5. You may find a video clip of kids saying this Bible verse and/or doing motions with it.

### Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included on the *Resources* CD.

### Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print the *Resources* CD Optional Bible Skills 6 printable file.



## Focus

♥ God is in control.

# Make It Real (15 minutes)

**3** Use one of these activities to help students **feel content with what they have and the circumstances they are in.**

### Materials

Activities for lesson 6,  
large sheets of paper,  
markers



Art

### Materials

Activities for lesson 6,  
pencils, whiteboard,  
dry-erase marker



Write



Some kids may prefer to  
draw on journal pages.

Offer to help with writing as  
needed.

## Quick Step Focus In

Have kids turn in their activity leaflets to Focus In and let them have fun with the optical illusion. Ask kids to tell what happens when they focus on one spot. (It stops moving.)

**SAY: Joseph's life seemed to spin out of control. He really didn't have any reasons to be content, did he? How about you? Does your life sometimes spin out of control? To feel content with what you have and the circumstances you're in, is there anything you could you focus on that would help you?**

Divide the class into small groups. Give each group a large sheet of paper and markers. Each group should work together to draw a picture that answers the question, "What could you focus on that would help you feel content?" When they're done, let the groups share what they drew. (Their drawings might include focusing on: God, the good things God has given them, the things they do have and not the things they don't have, knowing God gives them what they need, thanking God for what they have, thanking God for their family and friends, thanking God that He is in control)

**SAY: You may not have everything you want. You may not have many friends. You know what? When you, like Joseph, remember that ♥ God is in control, you can be content. It can be hard, but God will help you.**

## Option Contentment Journal

**SAY: Joseph's life seemed to spin out of control. He really didn't have any reasons to be content, did he? How about you? When your life seems to spin out of control, can you feel content with what you have and the circumstances you are in?**

Have kids turn in their leaflets to My Contentment Journal. **Do you feel content with what you have and the circumstances you are in every day? Maybe this contentment journal can help.** Ask kids to give ideas of what they could focus on that would help them feel content. List their ideas on the board. Encourage them to write in their journals the ones they think they could do. (Possible responses: focus on God, the good things God has given them, the things they do have and not the things they don't have, knowing God gives them what they need, thanking God for what they have, thanking God for their family and friends, thanking God that He is in control)

**SAY: You may not have everything you want, but you can be content. You may not have the most peaceful family life, but you can be content. You may not be the most popular kid at school, but you can be content. When you, like Joseph, remember that ♥ God is in control, you can be content. It's not always easy, but God will help you.** Kids will finish this activity in the Live It Out Option activity.

# Live It Out (10 minutes)

## Focus

♥ God is in control.

- 4** Use one of these activities to help students **decide to be content because God is in control.**

### **Quick Step Flip Your Attitude**

Give each student a penny. SAY: **Joseph went through some terrible stuff, including being sold for money. And yet Joseph always seemed to be content, probably because he remembered that ♥ God is in control. The moment you start not being content, flip a coin and ask God to help you flip your attitude.** Have kids flip their pennies. **You can decide to be content, remembering that ♥ God is in control.**

Encourage kids to ask God's help to be content with what they have or the circumstances they are in. SAY: **Hold your penny while you silently pray. Ask God to help you be content. And don't forget to thank Him as He helps you.** After several seconds, close in prayer. Pray that God will help your students and you be content, no matter what.

### **Option Contentment Journal**



SAY: **Joseph went through some terrible stuff, including being sold into slavery. And yet Joseph always seemed to be content, probably because he remembered that ♥ God is in control.** Hold up an activity leaflet and show kids the Contentment Journal. **At the end of each day, write or draw about how content you feel. Think about the situations when it's hard for you to be content, and ask God for His help.**

Lead the kids in a time of directed prayer. Tell them that you'll pray aloud a sentence, and then you'll pause as they silently pray that same prayer to God. PRAY: **Dear God, thank You for hearing us when we pray.** Pause for kids to silently pray. **Help me to be content with the things I have.** Pause. **Help me to be content with my family and friends.** Pause. **Help me to be content with the way You made me.** Pause. **Help me to be content and not always wanting more and more.** Pause. **Thank You, God. In Jesus' name, amen.**

#### Materials

pennies



#### Materials

Activities for lesson 6



#### **Kidz Chat**

Give each student a *Kidz Chat* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* devotional guide



available online to print and use with their kids at home. Go to [www.heartshaper.com](http://www.heartshaper.com).