

Featured Activity: Joseph's Family Puppets

Supplies Needed for Each Child:

Choose supplies for one of the following types of puppets:

Paper Bag Puppets: A brown paper lunch bag, magic markers, brown or black yarn for hair cut in lengths, glue

Paper Plate Puppets: A paper plate (white or skin-colored), a popsicle stick, brown or black yarn for hair cut in lengths, dark magic marker (felt tip), glue, tape

Felt Puppets: Skin-colored felt, buttons or "google" eyes, a popsicle stick (or other stick), brown or black yarn for hair cut in lengths OR rectangle of cloth for head piece, glue, tape



Process:

1. Read Genesis 45:1-15 aloud:

Then Joseph could not restrain himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Make everyone go out from me!" So no one stood with him while Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard it.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph; does my father still live?" But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed in his presence.

And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

Hurry and go up to my father, and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph: 'God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry. You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near to me, you and your children, your children's children, your flocks and your herds, and all that you have. There I will provide for you, lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty; for there are still five years of famine.' And behold, your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my mouth that speaks to you. So you shall tell my father of all my glory in Egypt, and of all that you have seen; and you shall hurry and bring my father down here."

Then he fell on his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, and Benjamin wept on his neck. Moreover he kissed all his brothers and wept over them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

2. Have the children make the kind of puppets you have chosen, following the directions listed on the next page.
3. On the second trip that the brothers took to Egypt, Joseph prepared a feast for them, sitting them in birth order at the table. Give each child the name of one of the brothers, and see if they can sit the puppets around a table in birth order. (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin).

4. Re-tell the story of Joseph revealing himself to his brothers and have the children act it out using their puppets.

Puppet Directions

Paper Bag Puppets

1. Draw a face on the flattened end of a paper bag.
2. Glue hair (yarn) around the face.
3. Child puts hand into the bag to create puppet.

Paper Plate Puppets (see picture on previous page)

1. Draw a face on the front side of the paper plate, using buttons or “google” eyes.
2. Glue hair (yarn) around the face.
3. Securely tape popsicle stick or other stick to the back of the plate, creating a handle.
4. Child holds handle to create puppet movement.

Felt Puppets

1. Cut felt into face-shaped oval. (Teacher may do this ahead of time to simplify the lesson. If the felt is thin, glue several layers together so that the finished puppet will remain rigid more easily.)
2. Create features by drawing with magic markers, or gluing on eyes.
3. Glue hair (yarn) around the face OR glue fabric around the face, creating a headpiece.
4. Securely tape popsicle stick or other stick to the back of the plate, creating a handle.
5. Child holds handle to create puppet movement.

