

Lesson 53: JOSEPH, RULER OF EGYPT
Genesis 41

INTRODUCTION:

(Find pictures to show of this story, and particularly of Joseph in his royal clothing.)

Long ago in the land of Canaan lived a man named Israel. Israel had twelve sons and one daughter. Their names were Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon, Joseph, Benjamin, and Dinah.

To one of his sons, Israel gave a coat of many colors. Do you remember which son that was? (Joseph.) Joseph was born to Israel's most beloved wife, Rachel, when Israel was growing older, and so Israel had a special love for this particular son.

Do you remember how Joseph's older brothers felt toward him? (They were jealous of their father's love for him.) They also were angry because Joseph had dreams, predicting that one day his brothers would all bow down to him. Little did they know that this dream would indeed come true.

Some of the brothers suggested that they kill Joseph, but the oldest, Reuben, felt that that was going too far. Do you remember how Joseph's brothers ended up getting rid of him? (They sold him as a slave to some traveling Ishmaelites, who were on their way down to Egypt.)

And so began Joseph's troubles. After being sold by his brothers, Joseph worked as a slave in a certain household in Egypt. He was such a good and faithful worker that he was given much power and responsibility in that household, but then someone told a lie about him, and he was sent to prison.

In the prison, too, he was seen as such a capable and good man that he was put in charge of the other prisoners. There in prison, a butler and a baker each had dreams that Joseph was able to tell the meanings of, because the Lord gave him that ability.

Later, when Pharaoh, the great ruler of Egypt, had some strange dreams, someone remembered the prisoner Joseph, who was able to interpret dreams. And this is the part that we will read about today.

READING:

Have the children take turns reading aloud from **Genesis 41:14-49** (35 verses).

DISCUSSION:

Back when Joseph was first captured and sold by his brothers, do you think he would ever have imagined becoming a ruler in Egypt? Joseph kept doing his best, no matter what happened, and kept trusting in the Lord. He didn't become bitter or feel sorry for himself. Because Joseph did this, every hard thing that he went through always led to something better. He ended up as an honored ruler who saved Egypt and surrounding countries from starving during a seven-year famine. And later, when Joseph met his brothers again, he chose not to be angry with them. He recognized that the Lord had brought him to a great place through all those hardships. If he hadn't been sold as a slave into Egypt, he never would have become a ruler in Egypt! Joseph forgave his brothers for the wicked things they had done in the past. It didn't matter anymore.

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(Show picture of Egyptian clothing with beaded collars or something similar.)

Egypt was a rich place of great knowledge. The Egyptians wore fine clothes and ornaments, and had beautiful things in their homes. Much of their clothing was adorned with beads and other decorations. For fun today, we will make paper beads, remembering the decorative clothing of the Egyptians. Beads can come in so many different shapes and colors. The beads can also make us think of all the many wonderful things there are to know, that can be woven together to make a rich place in our mind. If we let a love of the Lord rule all the knowledge in our mind, like Joseph ruling Egypt, then that knowledge will feed our lives just like all that grain fed so many people during the famine.

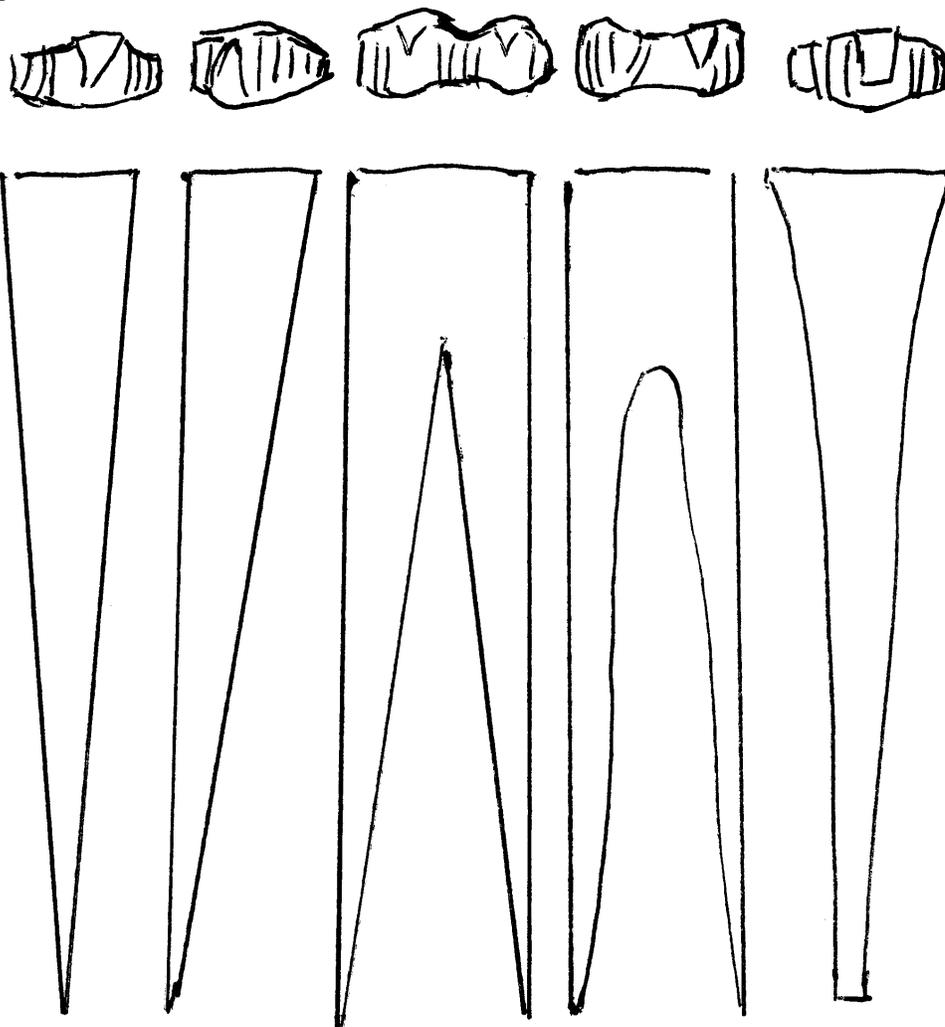
PROJECT: PAPER BEADS

Supplies:

Magazine pictures or colored paper
Pencil and ruler
Scissors
Drinking straws
Paste or glue
Thread or yarn

Procedure:

1. Choose one of the following shapes to cut out of the magazine picture or colored paper. The shape you choose will determine the shape of the bead, as you can see from the picture.

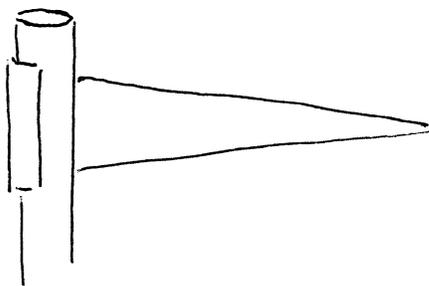


2. Either draw or trace the design onto the paper. You can make the designs bigger or smaller as you choose, a bigger design will make a bigger bead and a smaller design will

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make a smaller bead. Remember that if this is your first time a larger bead will be easier to work with.

3. Cut out the design.
4. Put paste or glue on one side. If you have chosen to use a magazine picture make sure to put the glue or paste on the side without the picture.
5. Starting with the top (the short side without the points) wrap the paper around a drinking straw with the pasted or glued side of the paper facing the straw. Continue to wrap the paper around the straw until you reach the end.



6. After the glue has dried cut the straw off right at the edge of the bead so that you cant see the straw.
7. String the beads onto yarn or string to make a necklace, bracelet or a string of beads to decorate the room.

