

# Lesson 9

## -Gifts from God/Joseph's Dream-

### Gifts from God - Joseph's Dream

#### 2-5 Years:

**Opening Prayer** to welcome the start of the session. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

**Bible Story:** Tell the story of Joseph's dreams in basic language that this age group can understand. If you can't find an illustrated copy of this in the library for use in your class, use the bible but translate the bible story into a simple language that the little ones can understand.

#### **Discussion:**

Joseph's ability to be able to interpret dreams was a gift from God. We all have gifts from God. Discuss what each child can do. Make sure to emphasize that all people have something special and no-one is good at everything.

**Art:**

Have the children show what they are good at creatively. Have a good supply of different art/craft materials - including some pre-drawn outlines to be colored - so that the children can choose their own medium (not everyone can draw).

Tell the children to create a picture that shows off their gifts from God - it could be just a well-drawn or colored picture, or it could be something like a self-portrait that shows the child thinks that her beautiful hair is a gift from God, etc. Work with the children who seem unable to find a gift, these are the ones who need to learn that God gave every one of them some gift that makes them special - if it's ability to love, then they could draw a heart, if they help others they could draw a scene where they help someone, if they listen, they could draw an ear, and so on.

**Song:** (to the tune of "This Old Man")

I have gifts  
I have gifts  
I have gifts that come from God  
I'm a special child  
And God loves me  
See from my gifts that God loves me

I can sing  
I can sing  
I can sing it's a gift from God  
I'm a special child  
And God loves me  
See from my gifts that God loves me.

I can draw  
I can draw  
I can draw it's a gift from God  
I'm a special child  
And God loves me  
See from my gifts that God loves me.

I can .....use whatever other examples you find amongst the gifts the children identify.

**Activity:**

Have those with performing gifts such as singing, dancing, miming, acting, perform for the rest of the class. This should be just a relaxed environment "Sarah, can you come and sing a little song for us?" and not something with a lot of pressure - you should encourage the rest of the class to clap along, to clap at the end and to say thank you to each child who demonstrated their talent.

**Closing Prayer** thanking God for the story of Joseph that was read to them earlier and for the many gifts that God has given us. For example:

"Dear God thank you for the Bible story we heard today about Joseph and his gift to interpret dreams. Thank you for the gifts you have given me. Amen"

**6-8 Years:**

**Opening prayer** to welcome the start of the class. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

**Bible Story:**

Tell the story of Joseph and his dream interpretation to the children in the class. A picture book version isn't necessary but a simplified version of the story will put it into the understand level of the age group. If you have a children's bible that you use with your class, then this ought to be appropriate.

**Drama:**

Using the story that you just read, ask the children to split into groups and to act out the dreams that were told to Joseph. Either act as Joseph yourself, or ask one of the better readers to play this part and to read from your book what the dream interpretation would be.

**Discussion**

Being able to interpret dreams was one of the gifts that God gave to Joseph. We all have gifts. Tell the class that you are going to ask them to share with the class what gifts they think they have, and to give them time to think, tell them what your own gifts from God are - you can use this to show that not all gifts are artistic talents, but are human talents also such as being compassionate, and having leadership skills.

**Activity:**

Each child should write about his or her gift(s). Tell them to write a letter to God thanking him for the gift and telling him how it makes them feel when they use that gift. At the end of the class, say that they should take their letter home and read it to God when they say their prayers that night.

**Activity 2:**

Time allowing: Ask for volunteers to demonstrate their gifts - whether it's singing, dancing, speaking, reading, sketching or whatever - to the rest of the class. Make sure that the others in the class realize that this is a privilege and that you should appreciate the gifts that are being shared.

**Closing Prayer** thanking God for the story of Joseph and his dreams and for the numerous gifts that he has given us. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for the story of Joseph and his dreams that we were read today. Thank you also for the gifts that you have given to me. Help me to use my gifts wisely in your name. Amen."

**9-11 Years:**

**Opening prayer** to open the session. For example:

"Dear God. We thank you for the chance to meet once again in your presence. Help us to learn more about your work and to understand how we can follow in your footsteps. Amen"

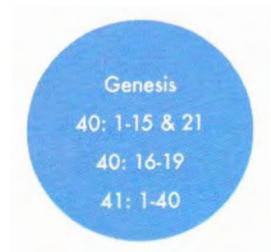
**Bible Story:**

Read the stories connected to Joseph interpreting dreams. The story of the baker is not so important as it is the cupbearer who brings Joseph to the attention of Pharaoh so if your class is short and you need to keep the bible reading short, then omit the baker's dream/interpretation.

Genesis 40: 1-15 and 21 (cupbearer's dream)

Genesis 40: 16-19 (baker's dream)

Genesis 41: 1-40 (pharaoh's dream)

**Discussion**

Joseph's ability to interpret dreams was a gift from God. He used his gift to help others and although it had earlier been partly responsible for him being imprisoned, it later would bring him to a position of great power in Egypt.

What is a gift from God? What gifts from God do they think they have?

**Drama:**

Have some of your class act out the story of Pharaoh's dream to the others. Let them use Bibles so that they know when and what to speak. You will need to appoint another student to be the narrator.

**Art:**

Provide appropriate art supplies and then ask the students to draw a picture that in some way illustrates Pharaoh's dream. This could be a piece of class artwork where they all work on the same drawing - or split into two groups and each group take one side of the dream - or it could be an individual piece of art.

**Closing Prayer** thanking God for the story of Joseph and his dreams, and thanking him for their own gifts. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for the story of Joseph and his dreams which illustrates how a gift from you can be used to help others. Thank you for the gifts that you gave us, guide us so that we may also use these gifts in your service. Amen."

**12-14 Years:**

**Opening prayer** to start session. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for the chance to come together with others in fellowship to learn more about your love. Give us the wisdom to learn from your words, and to put what we learn to work as we go about our lives in the week to come."

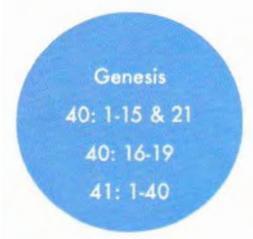
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**Discussion:**

Joseph's ability to interpret dreams was a gift from God. Why is this story important to them? You are looking for using us God's gifts to help others.

What kind of things are gifts from God? If you have some kind of whiteboard, create a list as the students brainstorm the ideas at you.

**Discussion:**

What gifts do they think they have? Does anyone think that they have no gifts? Important to note that everyone has some gifts, but they may not be seen, or even apparent yet - for example, you don't know that you are maestro at the piano if you've never pressed a key, or have a killer backhand if you've never picked up a tennis racket!

**Activity:**

Using the list of gifts that was brainstormed earlier, and some paper and supplies from the teacher, make written or drawn examples about how these could be used in the service of others.

Before the end of the class, talk about the connections you made between the gifts and being God's instrument on earth.

**Closing Prayer** thanking God for the many gifts that he has given us, and asking for guidance in using them to do his work. For example:

"Dear God, thank you for the many gifts you have given to me. Please guide me so that I use my gifts doing your work in the service of others here on earth. Amen."