

LIVING
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS



STARTERS

Beginners • Age 4-6 • Teacher Guide

September • October • November • December • 2023



Beginner • Age Birth to 6 • Teacher Guide

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Meet Our Writers



Claudia Smith—*Turks and Caicos Islands*: Claudia is the writer of the September unit. She has been a writer with Caribbean Christian Publications since 1981. Claudia plays an active role in the choir ministry of her church and is a former teacher of the Beginner age group. She is employed to a tertiary institution in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Claney Barnett (*deceased*)—*Jamaica*: Claney was the writer of the October unit. She found great joy in helping to shape the minds of young children. Claney considered it a part of her Christian ministry to teach children about Christ. She was also a school principal and active in several ministries of her church.



Starry Williams—*Dominica*: Starry is the writer of the October unit. She has been a writer with Caribbean Christian Publications since 1981. Starry has taught Beginners for several years. She has also taught other age groups. Starry is a retired primary school principal and serves as the secretary of the Dominica Baptist Union.



Gloria Carruthers-Grant—*Jamaica*: Gloria is the writer of the December unit. She has been a writer with Caribbean Christian Publications since 1981. Gloria began teaching Beginners at age 10. She serves as secretary of her local church. Gloria is a retired high school vice principal.

Caribbean Christian Publications is grateful to the following persons from Dominica and Jamaica for developing the Bible Backgrounds for Teachers: **Starry Williams** (September), **Deslan White** (October), **Derri-Ann Palmer** (November) and **Jean Brown** (December).

We are saddened by the passing of two contributors to this issue - **Claney Barnett** (writer of October Unit - *died May 2023*) and **Deslan White** (writer of October's Bible backgrounds - *died June 2023*). We thank them for their faithful service and contribution to the CCP children's department. Their legacy will continue to live on through their writing. We pray God's continued peace and comfort on their families and all whom they impacted through their faithful service.

Unit Overview

September: Joseph’s Family

Unit Description:

Unit Theme: FAMILY

Each session of the unit will use an event from the life of Joseph to teach the Beginners about some situations that a family may go through in order to lead them to understand God’s plan for family life.

Unit Central Truth:

God wants us to realise that we each have a special place in the family.

Unit Teaching Aim:

Beginners will learn ways in which they should and should not treat their family members.

Unit Beginner Needs:

- ✗ to understand that God places them in families.
- ✗ to appreciate the role of each family member.
- ✗ to learn that forgiving family members is a way of showing love.

Sept. 3 2023	Lesson Title: Young Joseph
	Scripture: Genesis 37:1-11
	Bible Thought: God gave Joseph special dreams. Based on Genesis 37:3
Sept. 10 2023	Lesson Title: Joseph is Sold
	Scripture: Genesis 37:12-14, 23-28; 39:1-5
	Bible Thought: The Lord was with Joseph. Based on Genesis 39:21
Sept. 17 2023	Lesson Title: Joseph Becomes A Leader
	Scripture: Genesis 39:20-23; 41:1-7, 15-43
	Bible Thought: Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of Egypt. Based on Genesis 41:41
Sept. 24 2023	Lesson Title: Joseph Helps His Family
	Scripture: Genesis 43:1-2, 45:1-11
	Bible Thought: Joseph took care of his father and brothers. Based on Genesis 45:11

JOSEPH'S FAMILY—SEPTEMBER 2023



SESSION 1: Attractively colour the *Teaching Picture*, “Young Joseph”. Hold the picture at the babies’ eye level. Point to Joseph and his name. Say: Joseph’s father, Jacob, loved him very much. Jacob knew that God wanted Joseph to do something special to help his family.

SESSION 2: Make sock puppets. Decorate each puppet differently. Use them to tell the story. Use a different tone of voice for each puppet and appropriate facial expression to keep the babies’ interest.

SESSION 3: Attractively colour the *Teaching Picture*, “Joseph Becomes A Leader”. Hold the picture at the babies’ eye level. Point to each character and say the name. Say: Here is Joseph. Here is Pharaoh. God allowed Joseph to become a great leader. Joseph helped the pharaoh.

SESSION 4: Provide a large colourful picture or drawing representing Joseph. Point to Joseph and say: When Joseph’s father and brothers ran out of food in their country, Joseph told them to come and live with him in Egypt. Joseph took care of his family the same way Mommy and Daddy or Auntie and Uncle take care of you.

SESSION 1: *ART*—On sheets of stiff paper, draw an outline of a boy. Cut 2-by-4-centimetre strips of cloth of different colours. Provide glue. Give each child a sheet of paper and strips of coloured cloth. Allow the children to glue the strips of cloth onto the outline to create ‘Joseph’s Colourful Coat’. Help each child to write “Joseph’s Colourful Coat” at the top of the paper.

SESSION 2: *BLOCK*—Provide fudge sticks and glue. Have the children build a well to represent the one in which Joseph was placed by his brothers. Guide the children as they use the glue and build the well. Praise them for their efforts. Say: Joseph’s brothers put him in a well. They took him out of the well to sell him to traders. Joseph’s brothers did a bad thing to him but God was with Joseph. God took care of Joseph as he travelled to Egypt.

SESSION 3: *HOMELIVING*—Do the **Home-living Activity Area** suggested on page 12 in the *Teacher Guide*.

SESSION 4: *NATURE*—Provide pictures of a rice plant, wheat, a paddock of rice and a container of uncooked rice. Show the items to the children. Explain to them that in Joseph’s time, the people ate a lot of grain. Grain is a kind of cereal made from wheat, corn or rice.

Unit Title:

JOSEPH'S FAMILY

Lesson Title:

YOUNG JOSEPH

Scripture:

GENESIS 37:1-11

Bible Thought: God gave Joseph special dreams. *Based on Genesis 37:3***Central Truth:**

Family members should love one another.

Aim:

Beginners will understand that they please God when they show love to members of their family.

**BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS**

Joseph was the oldest son of Jacob and Rachel. Rachel was Jacob's favourite wife. Joseph was born in Canaan while Jacob was still serving Laban (Genesis 29:27-30). Jacob, whose name had been changed to Israel, loved Joseph more than all his other sons. As a symbol of his love and preference, Jacob made Joseph a richly ornamented robe (37:3, NIV). The robe caused his brothers to hate him. As such, they could not speak a kind word to him (v. 4).

Joseph had two dreams, the meaning of which fuelled his brothers' hatred. Dreams in ancient times were considered to be messages from God (or from 'the gods') and, therefore, were taken seriously. Joseph's dreams revealed a non-traditional dynamic to the family structure that angered his brothers and even caused his father to rebuke him (vv. 5-10). Joseph's dreams were interpreted to mean that the boy would not only rule over all his brothers, but be given the patriarchal role in the family as well.

James 2:1-12 speaks to favouritism as being discrimination against another and implying that others are inferior. God does not want the barrier of favouritism to exist, especially within a familial environment. God created each family member to play a different role and to have a different purpose. Each family member is designed by God to do a good work in order for His mission to be fulfilled. It is God's desire that family members embrace and accept each other, and that one person helps the other to live up to his or her God-given potential.

REFLECTION

How can Joseph's family experience help you to guard against favouritism in your class? Think of ways in which you can lead the Beginners to understand that family members need to treat each other equally.



GET READY TO TEACH



- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help **Beginners** to:
 - ✠ know ways in which they can show love to family members.
 - ✠ be aware of ways in which family members can show love to them.
- 2) Collect all the materials needed for the lesson. Colour the *Teaching Picture*, “Young Joseph”.
- 3) Write the **BIBLE THOUGHT** on stiff paper.
- 4) Arrange the teaching-learning space to allow the children to move freely from one **Activity Area** to another.
- 5) **Art Activity Area:** Plan to make a mural. Provide crayons, paint, shallow containers, a large sheet of white cartridge paper, old T-shirts and newspaper.
- 6) **Music Activity Area:** Make simple musical instruments. Put a few small stones in clean empty bottles to make shakers. Use clean empty tins with lids as drums. Provide 18-inch strips of cloth.
- 7) **Book Activity Area:** Collect pictures of family members doing acts of kindness for each other. Provide plain paper, glue, crayons, hole punch and string.



TEACH THE LESSON



LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS (About 30 minutes)

As Beginners arrive, greet them with a smile, calling each by name. Mark the register and collect the offering. Encourage each child to choose an **Activity Area**. If a child does not wish to participate, do not force him or her to do so.

ART ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Cover the **Art Area** with newspaper. Hand out the T-shirts for the children to put on over their clothing. Dilute the paint with water then pour it into shallow containers. Place the cartridge paper in the centre of the newspaper-covered area. Guide the children in placing their palms into the paint and then onto the cartridge paper to make a hand print.
- ▶ Give each child a crayon to write his or her name under his or her hand print. Say: *We can use our hands to show our family members that we love them. We can show them love by helping with the chores at home and giving big hugs.*

MUSIC ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Help the children to feel comfortable in the **music Activity Area**.
- ▶ Give some children an instrument and others a strip of cloth. Lead them in the singing of some well known songs. While they sing, have them play their instruments and wave the strips of cloth to the rhythm. Say: *We can sing songs of thanks to God for giving us our families.*

BOOK ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ As the children enter the **Book Activity Area**, hand each child two sheets of paper and have him or her fold the sheets in half.
- ▶ Punch two holes, two centimetres from the creased edge. Hand each child two pieces of string to thread through the holes and then tie the loose ends together.
- ▶ Give each child four pictures of family members doing acts of kindness for each other. Have them paste each picture on a different page. Let them use a crayon to write underneath each picture what the family members are doing.

Clean-up Time: Guide the children as they tidy the area. Thank them for helping. Bring them together for the story and closing exercise.



WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE LARGE GROUP

(About 15 minutes)



✝ Sing “The Family”.

✝ Consider using sock puppets when telling the story in order to engage the children’s interest. Decorate each puppet differently to show the different characters. Utilise different voices for each puppet.

YOUNG JOSEPH

Jacob had twelve sons. His son, Joseph, was very special to him. Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful robe. It was more beautiful than those of his brothers. Joseph’s brothers did not like that their father treated him so special.

One day, Joseph had a dream about his brothers. “Listen,” Joseph said, “I dreamt that we were tying bundles of grain in the field. Suddenly, my bundle stood up. All of your bundles came around mine and bowed to it.”

Joseph’s brothers did not like the dream. “Do you think that you will rule over us?” his brothers asked.

Some time later, Joseph had another dream. He dreamt that the sun, moon and eleven stars bowed to him. When Joseph told his father and brothers the new dream, they did not like it. They were very angry with Joseph.

Some time later, Jacob thought about Joseph’s dreams. He knew that they had special meaning. Jacob knew that God had given Joseph a very special place in the family.

Closing Time



Mount the **BIBLE THOUGHT** strip at the children’s eye level. Have them read it several times. Point to each word as they read.

Lead the children to pray, asking God to help them to understand that they should always help their family members.

Dismiss the children in an orderly manner.

Unit Title:

JOSEPH'S FAMILY

Lesson Title:**JOSEPH IS SOLD****Scripture:** GENESIS
37:12-14, 23-28; 39:1-5**Bible Thought:** The LORD was with Joseph.
*Based on Genesis 39:21***Central Truth:** God is always with us, even when we are not with members of our immediate family.**Aim:** Beginners will realise that God is with them, even when they are away from home.**BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS**

Joseph's brothers had moved from Hebron to Shechem to graze their flock. Israel sent Joseph to see how they were doing and to report to him (Gen. 37:12-14). When Joseph arrived in Shechem, he learned that his brothers had moved to Dothan.

As the brothers saw Joseph approaching in the distance, they began to plot to kill him (v. 18). When he reached them, they stripped him of his robe and threw him into an empty well (v. 24). Later, they sold him to Ishmaelite traders for 20 shekels of silver (vv. 26-28). Upon arriving in Egypt, the merchants sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. He became Potiphar's slave (39:1).

Slaves who were captives of war were generally sent to labour in the fields and were subjected to harsh treatment under the taskmasters. Those bought with money, however, as with Joseph's case, were employed for domestic purposes.

Although Joseph was no longer with his family and was possibly feeling hurt, abandoned and betrayed, he did not lose his faith in God, nor did he abandon his zeal for excellence in all that he did. The manner in which Joseph carried out his duties marked a man who continued to worship God although he had been placed in a situation that was not of his choosing.

God knows the plan He has for us in all aspects of our lives. When we hold on to His promise to keep and guide us through all things, we stand as a living testimony of God's favour. As God was with Joseph and prospered him as he remained faithful, so God will make us prosper as we, too, are faithful.

REFLECTION

How do you respond to family members when they do things that hurt you physically or emotionally? Do you, like Joseph, remain faithful to God despite your feelings of hurt and betrayal?



GET READY TO TEACH



- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help the **Beginners** to:
 - ✠ understand that they are not too young to help at home.
 - ✠ realise that God will take care of them when they are away from home.
 - ✠ know that it is wrong to hate or ill-treat their family members.
- 2) Collect all the materials needed for the lesson. Colour the *Teaching Picture*, “Joseph Is Sold”.
- 3) **Nature Activity Area:** Plan to take the Beginners on a nature walk.
- 4) **Art Activity Area:** Provide paper plates and crayons.
- 5) **Puzzle Activity Area:** Provide several pairs of different items, e.g. socks, pens, pencils and coins. Have a small box, tray and a clean handkerchief to be used as a blindfold.



TEACH THE LESSON



LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS (About 30 minutes)

As the children enter, greet them with a smile. Mark their names in the register. Guide each child to an **Activity Area**.

NATURE ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Lead the Beginners to a shaded area of your church yard. Let them look at their surroundings and talk with them about what they see.
- ▶ Ask them to name their favourite outdoor activity and why they like it.
- ▶ Ask the children if they have ever been away from home. Ask them how they felt when they were away from home for the first time.
- ▶ Say: *When we are away from home, we must remember that God is always with us.*

ART ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Let the children get comfortable in the **Art Activity Area**.
- ▶ Give each child a plate and crayons. Have them draw a happy face on one side of the plate and a sad face on the other.
- ▶ Let them colour and decorate the face as they wish. Say: *Sometimes when our family members hurt us, we feel sad. When they are kind to us, we feel happy. God wants us to do kind things for our family members, even if they have hurt us.*

PUZZLE ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Greet the children as they come to the **Activity Area**. On a tray, display one of each of the items which you collected. Beside the tray, place the box with the corresponding items in it. Have a child choose an item from the tray.
- ▶ Blindfold a child and have him or her search in the box for the missing pair. Have the other children cheer him or her on as he or she tries to find the matching item.
- ▶ Say: *God is pleased when we say kind things to our family members.*

Clean-up Time: As the children tidy the classroom, have them sing a happy song. Praise them for helping to clean up.



WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE LARGE GROUP

(About 15 minutes)



† As the children gather for the story, collect their offering while singing ‘I Can Do My Share’.

† Open your Bible to the **Scripture** passage. As you tell the story, use the **BIBLE THOUGHT** and the *Teaching Picture* appropriately.

JOSEPH IS SOLD

One day, Joseph's brothers were in the field. They were taking care of their father's sheep. Jacob, their father, sent Joseph to check on them. Jacob wanted to know if everything was going well.

When Joseph's older brothers saw him coming, they began to plan to kill him! Reuben, the oldest brother, said, "No! Do not kill him. Let us throw him in this well." Reuben was planning to come back later and take Joseph out of the well.

When Joseph reached his brothers, they took off his beautiful robe and threw him in the well. Later, the brothers saw some traders passing. They sold Joseph to the traders as a slave.

The traders took Joseph to Egypt. When they arrived in Egypt, Joseph was sold to a very important man named Potiphar. Potiphar worked for the king.

Joseph worked very hard in Potiphar's house. God blessed everything that Joseph did. Soon, Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything that he owned. God blessed Potiphar because of Joseph.

Closing Time



Teach the **BIBLE THOUGHT** to the children. Ask questions about the *Teaching Picture*, such as: *Where were Joseph's brothers? What were they doing? What did they do to Joseph?*

Tell the Beginners that God is with them whenever they are away from home.

Dismiss the children and have them leave in an orderly manner.

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