

*The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.
- Genesis 39:2*

Dear Parents/Carers,

So far this term we have looked at the promises God made to Noah and to Abraham. It would be good at the start of this session to see what your children can remember from previous weeks. This week we are going to be looking at Joseph, his special coat and the way God cared for Him.

This is the third week of our Characters of the Old Testament series. As we work through each week it would be good to recap these stories with your children to help reinforce them. Week 1 was Noah and the flood and God's promise to never flood the whole world again. Week 2 was God's promise to Abraham that he and Sarah will have many children. As well as learning these characters children learnt that God keeps his promises. From now on we are looking at how God cares for his people.

If you have children in more than one age group, can I please encourage you to pick one program that you feel works best for all your children's ages and complete that together as a family.

Blessings,
Jess

Supplies

- Children's Bible
- Dress ups in bright colours/ bright scarfs/ bright coloured party streamers
- Craft supplies
- Cosy Spot in your home

Worship

Please spend some time listening and singing to your family's favourite worship songs. This may have already been done in the worship period of Oaktree's service. Below is a selection of action songs which you might like to try:

- My God is so Big <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiWYtwFt9Jc>
- If I Were a Butterfly <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xbJUynRN0js>
- Holy Spirit Fill Me Up https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_MYrHdoVZE

Story Time

Find a special comfy place with your children and their Bible and read the story of Joseph and his special coat.

Today we are also going to act the story out with the children.

There once was a man named Joseph, he had lots of brothers, he had 11 of them. Joseph was his dad's favourite son. His dad loved him so much that he made Joseph a special colourful coat.

Help your children to create a special colourful coat. This could be their favourite coat covered in ribbons and scarves. Spend some time admiring how beautiful the coat is.

Joseph had special dreams. He dreamt that he was a stalk of wheat, and there were all bits of wheat that bowed down to him. He thought this meant that his brothers would all bow down to Him.

Children lay down like they were going to sleep, parents pretend to be the brothers in the dream bowing down to the children playing Joseph.

When he told his brother about the dream it made them angry. They didn't want to bow down to their brother. They were so angry that they got rid of Joseph. They gave him to some men who were going to Egypt. Joseph's brothers took his coat away.

Take the coat off the children

Joseph was all alone in Egypt and he was a little bit scared. But he wasn't really alone, God was with him.

Give your children a big hug to represent that God was with Joseph.

God cared very much for Joseph and he brought Joseph before the King of Egypt.

Joseph was able to help the king, and the king gave Joseph a very special job.

God cared for Joseph very much, even when he felt lonely God was with him. God cares for each of us too, and he is always with us.

Prayer

Help your children find a comfortable position to pray in. Explain that when we pray to God, we can tell him anything, we can ask for his help, say thank you and say sorry.

Have your children repeat this prayer after you.

Dear God, thank you that you cared for Joseph. Thank you that you care for me and look after me. Amen

Craft

Below are a few different craft ideas you could make with your children of Joseph's beautiful, colourful coat. When making your coats remind your children how God cared for his people and that he cares for us.

1: Print off the stencil of a coat at the end of this document. Depending on the art supplies you have at home decorate the coat in many beautiful colours. You may like to glue different craft supplies on it to make it look more 3D.

2: With a roll of butcher's paper you can measure a long piece that will go over your child like a poncho. Let them decorate the long piece in different colours and then cut out a hole for them to put their heads through.

