

The Road Less Traveled

Series Overview:

We want to provide the Joseph and his brothers story in (5) parts with HUGE CLIFF HANGERS to end each of the 4 parts with the 5th part having a big finally.

For this series to be received well by the children while also leaving them hungry for more it's important that we teach with the story at the beginning and the Cliffhanger at the end. Feel free to adjust the rest based upon your teaching style.

- Story
- Highlight scripture
- Object Lesson
- Life Application
- Cliffhanger

All the necessary teaching material will be provided below the quick overview.

Additionally, the object lesson will be provided but feel free to adjust it based on your age group.

Quick Sermon Breakdown

1. Unfaithfulness has destructive results (Life Application)

Joseph is the favorite - abandoned in the pit. **Gen 37:3 - 23**

Cliff Hanger: Gen 37:18 “Joseph’s brothers want to kill him”

2. Faithfulness is possible because the Lord is with us (Life Application)

“Joseph’s brothers want to kill him” – Joseph is 2nd in command until...
Gen 37:18 - 36 & Gen 39:1 - 18

Cliff Hanger: Gen 39:19 “Potifar ordered his guards to take Joseph AND...”

3. Faithfulness opens opportunities (Life Application)

“Potifar ordered his guards to take Joseph AND” – Joseph is called upon by Pharaoh **Gen 39:19 – Gen 41:13**

Cliff Hanger: Gen 41:14 “Distressed Pharaoh called on Joseph and said...”

4. Faithfulness is rewarded (Life Application)

“Pharaoh called upon Joseph and said...” – Joseph puts His brothers in prison for 3 days **Gen 41:14 – Gen 42:15**

Cliff Hanger: Gen 42:16/17 “Joseph said; YOU ARE SPIES and he put all his brothers in prison”

5. Faithfulness saves lives (Life Application)

“Joseph said; YOU ARE SPIES and he put all his brothers in prison” – Joseph saved the lives of the Egyptians and the Israelites

Gen 42:16 – Gen 47:27

Conclusion: Gen 47:25 - 27 “They (Egyptians said you have saved our lives, and Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt in the country of Goshen and grew and multiplied Exceedingly”

Sermon 5.

1. Faithfulness saves lives (Life Application)

“Joseph said; YOU ARE SPIES and he put all his bothers in prison” – Joseph saved the lives of the Egyptians and the Israelites

Gen 42:16 – Gen 47:27

Conclusion: Gen 47:25 - 27 “They (Egyptians said you have saved our lives, and Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt in the country of Goshen and grew and multiplied Exceedingly”

Story

Joseph is standing in front of his brothers with the opportunity to do the same thing to them that they did to him. But what does he choose to do? He asks them if their father is alive and if they have another brother. They say yes to both, and He chooses to send them into prison for 3 days so he can decide what to do. He decides he will see if they are lying to him by sending all but one of them back to their father to bring back his youngest brother to see if they are telling the truth. He knows they are telling the truth but wants to see his brother that he has not seen in many years. He also uses this to test them.

Joseph had the opportunity to get revenge on his brothers for what they did to him. But instead, he chose to spare them. He knew that God brought him to this place to save lives not to take them.

He sends them home with food for their family and to get their other brother, on the way one of the brothers finds that the man they met (Joseph) put their money back in their grain bags. They are greatly afraid. He also tells them that if they come back without their youngest brother that he will not talk to them or sell them any more grain.

They return to their father and ask him to send their youngest brother Benjamin back with them so that they can buy more grain and rescue the brother that they left in Egypt. Jacob takes a lot of convincing because he thinks Joseph is dead and doesn't want to lose Benjamin also.

Finally, Jacob says he will let them go because Judah says he will take personal responsibility for the safety of Benjamin.

They depart for Egypt with some of the best gifts they have and also twice the amount of silver they had the first time. They want to pay them back for what was put in their sacks the first time and buy more grain.

This time when they arrive Joseph decides to invite them into his house for a meal. He has them sit down and then his servants serve them food. All the brothers get the same amount except Benjamin. He gets 5 times the amount of food! It may be have been that he wanted to test how his brothers would react or he just wanted to bless Benjamin or maybe a mix of both.

After the meal they load up the grain that they purchased, but Joseph has one of his men put his silver cup in the top of Benjamin's bag. Then after his brothers leave and get outside of town, then Joseph sends his men after them to stop them and accuse them of taking his silver cup.

Joseph's men catch up and they are brought back to Joseph after they find the silver cup in Benjamin's bag. Joseph says that they are all free to go except for Benjamin. He will keep Benjamin as his slave because he stole his cup. Judah, one of the brothers begs Joseph to take him and let Benjamin go. Judah explains that if he takes Benjamin as a slave that his father will die of heartbreak.

Hearing this Joseph couldn't take it anymore, he commands all his servants to leave him. Then he reveals with tears to his brothers that he is Joseph the one who they sold into slavery so many years ago. They are very afraid because they think he will want revenge for what they did to him. But he tells them that he knows that God sent him ahead of them so that he could save their lives and the lives of the Egyptians.

Then after this all of his family moves to Egypt and they are reunited again and live completely supplied because of all the food that Joseph had stored up. We see that God used Joseph to save his entire family just like he saw in the dreams from his youth.

Joseph choosing to be faithful to God's plan was used to SAVE LIVES

Highlight Scripture

Genesis 45:5

- 4 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.

Life Application:

Joseph had the opportunity to get revenge on his brothers for what they did to him. He could have killed them or kept them as slaves. Joseph realized God gave him this position to save lives and not take lives. He used his position to save many lives.

He saved from the famine:

- Himself
- His brothers, father, and their families
- All the land of Egypt
- The whole world

We see that Joseph is a model of what Jesus has done for us. Jesus suffered and was betrayed by His own disciples and the people He was sent to. But he remained faithful to what the Father asked Him to do. Through faithfulness Jesus opened the door of salvation for everyone who believes on Him.

When we choose to be faithful to follow God, He will work through us to save lives. Both natural lives and to save people from an eternity in hell.

Object lesson

Preparation

- Take a small clear plastic tub and fill it with water. Then set the container on a table so that everyone can see.
- Get a piece of aluminum foil and a small rock and roll them into a ball.
- Get a piece of paper and write "Faithfulness" on it then wrap that in the aluminum foil.

Place the first ball in the water then the second.

Ask the kids why one floats and the other sank.

Reveal that it is because of the faithfulness inside the one ball that it was able to float.

Faithfulness has the same effect for our lives. It keeps us from sinking and can also save the ones around us from sinking.

To demonstrate it can save others you can take the foil off the rock and wrap it around the paper again and show them it floats. Showing how faithfulness is not just for us but it also helps the people around us.