

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 4.

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”

Story

After his multiple disappointments Joseph is called before Pharaoh after the cupbearer forgot to mention Joseph. We see time and time again that his faithfulness is rewarded, and he is elevated because of it. Now he has an audience with one of the most powerful people in the world.

Pharaoh asks Joseph if he can interpret the dream to which he replies “No, I cannot do it” “But God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires”. We see that Joseph’s humility shines through as he knows that the reason for his promotion is because of God and his faithfulness to Him.

Pharaoh then describes the dreams that he had where there are 7 fat cows/7 healthy crops that are eaten by 7 sickly cows/crops. Joseph receives the interpretation from God and shares that this dream indicates 7 years of abundant harvest followed by 7 years of devastating famine and lack.

Joseph tells Pharaoh that God has chosen to reveal this to him so he can prepare. To prepare for the famine Joseph tells Pharaoh to find a discerning and wise man to oversee collecting 1/5th of all the food in the land of Egypt then place it into storehouses.

Pharaoh says that he agrees with the idea and asks his council “Can we find anyone like this man, one who has the spirit of God?”. They decide that Joseph will be responsible for the task of collecting the food. The Pharaoh promotes Joseph to 2nd in command over Egypt. He rewarded him with everything, great riches, a wife, position, and power.

Joseph gets to work immediately collecting 1/5th of all food and storing it. He stores so much food to the point that he cannot count how much they have in the storehouses.

After the 7 years of plenty, just as Joseph said, there is a famine in the land. Not only in Egypt but throughout the entire world. Joseph opens the storehouses and begins to sell the grain that was stored up for this time. He sells it to the people of Egypt and to people from around the world. Presently Egypt is the only place that has food.

One day Jacob sends his sons to Egypt to buy grain since they are running out of food. Jacob sends 10 of his sons all except Benjamin. They make the journey to Egypt and meet the governor of the land to buy grain who is none other than.... Joseph... Joseph recognizes his brothers, but they don't recognize Joseph because he speaks a different language now and is dressed like Egyptian royalty.

They come to him and bow down before him just as Joseph had seen in his dreams so long ago. He pretends to be a stranger and accuses them of being spies. He is now in control and can do whatever he wants to them. He can get revenge for the way that they treated him. He chooses to throw them in jail and then... YOU HAVE TO COME BACK NEXT TIME TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENS!

Highlight Scripture

Hebrews 6:12

¹² that you do not become sluggish but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

By faith and patience, he inherited what the lord promised him. Faithfulness is the combination of faith and patience because he did not give up when things were hard or took a long time.

Life Application:

God will show you things in life are not immediately going to come to pass. We see that Joseph continued to be faithful or “full of faith” through the process. He chose to trust God even when things didn’t seem to be heading the direction he thought they would. He endured the ups and downs of the journey faithfully therefore he saw the end God had for him. All of the dreams that God gave him came to pass.

Hebrews 6:11-12 (TPT) says:

But we long to see you passionately advance until the end and you find your hope fulfilled. ¹² So don’t allow your hearts to grow dull or lose your enthusiasm but follow the example of those who fully received what God has promised because of their strong faith and patient endurance.

If Joseph had given up at any point and left what God had asked him to do he would have never been 2nd in command of Egypt.

He had plenty of opportunities to give up:

- He was thrown in a pit
- Sold into slavery
- Accused of something awful that he didn’t do even though he was faithful
- He was sent to prison wrongfully
- He was forgotten by people he helped.

Yet through all that he remained faithful.

We learn from this that the plans God has for us may be years down the road but we should not give up on them. Because ultimately faithfulness will be rewarded. The reward may not be the same as being 2nd in command over Egypt, but we know God’s plans for us are good and worth following!

CLIFF HANGER

His last test and maybe his most difficult is. What will he do to his brothers?

HE THROWS THEM INTO PRISON AND ACCUSES THEM OF BEING SPIES! AND THEN... FIND OUT NEXT TIME!

Object lesson

Faithfulness is the ingredient that you need to see the reward God has for you. Just like sugar is the ingredient that is needed to make the drink taste good.

- Take a pitcher and fill it with water and a sugar-free drink mix.
- Get a few clear plastic cups.
- Pour the drink into a cup and ask a child to try some.
- Get a container of sugar and label it "Faithfulness"
- Add sugar to the cup, stir it up and ask them to try it again.
- Ask which one they liked more.

Explain to the kids that you need faithfulness to enjoy the rewards of God's plan for you.