

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 2.

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

“Joseph was left in the pit to rot” – Joseph is 2nd in command until...
Gen 37:24 - 36 & Gen 39:1 - 18

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

Story:

Now Joseph is left in a pit to rot, what about the dreams that God showed him. Is this the end of his story? This is not the end for Joseph.

After his brothers threw him into the pit they sat down to eat some lunch. As they were eating they look up and see a band of Ishmaelite traders passing through. Judah says, “What profit is there if we kill him, let us sell him...”. His brothers take him out of the pit and sell him to the traders for 20 pieces of silver.

His brother decide that they are going to tell their father that Joseph was killed by a wild animal. They took a goat and killed it then put its blood on the coat of many colors that Joseph had been given by his father. The brothers bring the blood-stained coat to their father and he is convinced Joseph is dead and starts to mourn for him.

Meanwhile, the Ishmaelites take Joseph to Egypt, and sell him to the highest bidder. The highest bidder’s name is Potiphar. Potiphar is an officer and captain of the guard for Pharaoh.

The Lord was with Joseph, and he caused him to prosper in everything that he did, even in slavery. Potiphar took notice of this and started to promote him. Everything that he put Joseph over began to prosper and grow.

Finally, Potiphar gave Joseph the position of 2nd in command over his entire household. The Lord continued to be with Joseph and blessed the whole house because of Joseph.

Potiphar's wife began to test Joseph and push him to do things that are wrong. He resisted the evil she kept telling him to do. He said, "I cannot do this evil and sin against God". He recognized that God was with him and wouldn't approve of that evil.

One day Potiphar's wife set a trap for Joseph and made it look like he was doing something evil. She cried out and Joseph ran away from the trap, but she accused him of being evil. Potiphar believes what his wife says then.....

Potiphar calls his guards to grab Joseph and..... COME BACK NEXT TIME!

Highlight Scripture:

Hebrews 13:5-6

⁵ *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

⁶ So we may boldly say: "The LORD is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?"

Life Application (teaching material):

Joseph endured many things during these years, but through it all we see the phrase mentioned "God was with Joseph". We see the reason that Joseph prospered was because God was with him. His prosperity was not based on his talent or status.

Likewise, as a believer, our success and prosperity is from God being with us. (Cont..)

God has revealed to us through His Word, He will never leave us (Hebrews 13:5-6), and nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38-39).

We can be confident that God is with us and faithful to us. And because of His faithfulness, we can be faithful to him.

Joseph was confident that God was with him, and he knew that those things that God showed him in the dreams he would see in his life. God is the one who empowered Joseph to be faithful by first proving His love to him. Then it was Joseph's response to be faithful.

God protected Joseph from dying in the pit he was thrown in and made a way for him to be placed in a upper-class house that he ended up ruling as 2nd in command.

Joseph credited God as the one who gave him this position, when he was tempted, he resisted and said "How can I sin against God?". Joseph's action to be faithful got him in trouble with people. But God will honor him because He chose to do things God's way.

CLIFF HANGER

Potiphar's wife accused him of being evil. Potiphar believes what his wife says then, Potiphar calls his guards to grab Joseph and.....

COME BACK NEXT TIME!

Object lesson

Materials:

- 2 Opaque bowls with lids
- a piece of candy
- a piece of broccoli
- pieces of paper
- a pen

Setup:

- Tape the candy to the top of one lid and the broccoli to the other lid.
- Write on each piece of paper different positive things such as: prosperity, health, friends, protection, joy.
- Write on the other pieces negative things for example: Sadness, lack, sickness, hardship, loneliness.
- Put the positive papers in the bowl with the broccoli on the lid and the negative papers in the bowl with the candy on the lid

Put the two options in front of a child, tell them that the right choice is the broccoli, and the wrong choice is the candy.

Let them choose what to do, then show them the results of each choice.

Share with them that faithfulness empowers them to do the right thing even when it is hard. It is more instantly rewarding to take the candy (which represents going your own way and not being faithful) but when we choose to be faithful it leads to long term rewards.