

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 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”

Sermon 1.

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”

Story:

Intro –

We will be learning about a truly amazing account/story found in the bible. This story will draw out the destruction of being unfaithful and the power of faithfulness. Pay close attention because you never know what story God has in store for your life.

Our story begins in Gen 37:3 Now Israel / Jacob loved Joseph more than all his children...

Israel loved Joseph so much he was given a coat of many colors. This made Josephs 10 older brothers jealous and very angry at him. Josephs brothers were so angry they only spoke meanly to him.

Joseph had dreams and he told the dreams to his brothers. His older brothers began to hate him even more. Joseph dreamed about all his brothers bowing down to him and even his father and mother bowing down. Josephs brothers were furious and said “Shall you reign over us in a mocking way” this time even Joseph’s dad Israel sharply corrected Joseph for telling this dream.

Later on, Israel sent Joseph to go and check on his brothers who were tending to the sheep. Joseph couldn’t find them where they were supposed to be, rather they were in a whole other place

than their flock of sheep. They were unfaithful with their dads instructions. STOP STORY.

Highlight Scripture:

Luke 16:10

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much."

Object Lesson:

Step 1. Take both of the diet coke containers and set them up in a large container (to catch the overflow) in front of the kids side by side on top of a table.

Step 2. Describe when you add faithfulness or being trustworthy to a situation you are helping. You just added even more sweetness (by adding the sugar cube) which helped the circumstance. Drop the sugar cube in and see that nothing dramatic happens but rather its tastes a little better.

Step 3. Describe when you add unfaithfulness the situation will become much worse. Not only will it become much worse it will leave you more empty of energy, of trust, of friends, of money, of toys, and lots more things. Drop the mentos in the coke and watch it erupt. Show how much you lost compared to the other bottle.

Life Application (teaching material):

As Christians, we have the fruit of faithfulness placed into us the moment we are saved from sin (Gal 5:23). Faithfulness is defined by trust and confidence in someone or something. When we act the opposite as trustworthy we are acting unfaithful.

It wasn't Joseph's fault he was favored by his dad, but his brothers hated him. It wasn't Joseph's fault he would get dreams from God, and his brothers hated him even more.

Joseph was being faithful with a little thing when his dad told him to go check on his brothers. On the contrary, Joseph's brothers were told to tend the sheep and they weren't being faithful with their dad's instruction.

Had the brothers of Joseph been faithful where they were supposed to be, watching the sheep, maybe Joseph doesn't track them down and catch them somewhere they weren't supposed to be. The result of being caught in their unfaithfulness was a heart turned to hatred, which leads to murder.

**Example: When we do something (like getting into the knife drawer) when our parents told us not to, bad things will result. You could cut your finger or worse.

- Unfaithfulness hurts, Joseph's bros aren't where their dad told them to be, so Joseph has to waste time looking for them.
- Faithfulness helps, (it led Joseph to catch his brothers in disobedience, it also led to Jesus on the cross salvation for all).

Just like the object lesson, the more faithful we act the more God can use us to bless others. The more unfaithful we act the more destruction erupts.

When we align with the design, God's blessings are available.

Cliff Hanger:

Joseph was looking for his brothers where they were supposed to be, tending to the sheep, but they weren't there. He found a man that pointed him to the direction of his brothers and

When the brothers saw Joseph from far away, they wanted to kill him.

Gen 37:17/18