

# Joseph Annoys His Brothers

## Joseph's Story

Genesis 37:1-36

### Bible Point

**God is good no matter what.**

### Purpose

You could say that Joseph came from a “good” family. They weren’t perfect by any stretch of the imagination, but his great-grandfather, Abraham, had passed his faith in God down to future generations. This faithful family was not always a functional one, however. For Joseph and his brothers, jealousy, rivalry, and anger broke apart God’s chosen family.

Young children’s lives revolve around their families—and the good and not-so-good dynamics that come with them. Unfortunately, families seem to fall apart rather easily these days, and kids are often the ones most hurt by the fracture. When young kids don’t feel simply loved by family members, they’re still simply loved by God. Even when bad things happen, God’s goodness never changes. You’ll help young kids discover that God’s a good Father whose love endures through any circumstance.



### Prayer

God, you are a good Father. Thanks for loving my family members and placing me in their lives. Thanks for my little Pre-K & K family, too. May we experience your unfailing goodness together today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

### Prep

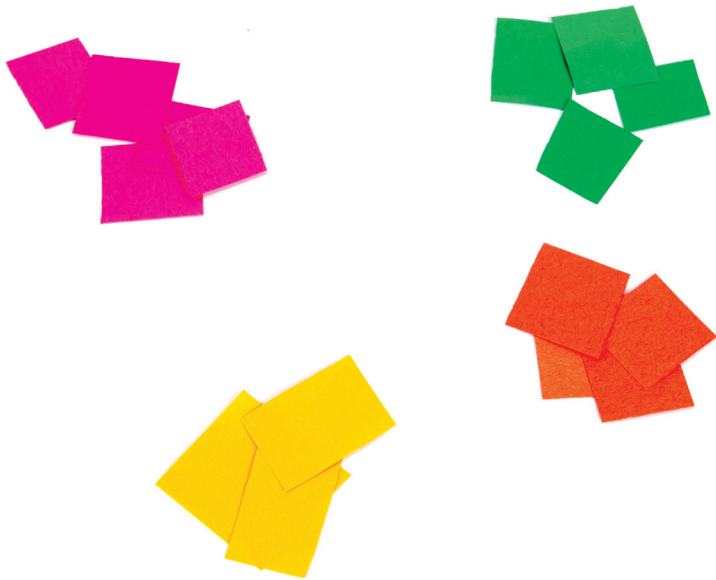
Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Goodbye Circle	Apply-It Options
<input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards* <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Sorting: scraps of colorful paper <input type="checkbox"/> Play Dough Pools: play dough	<input type="checkbox"/> Music CD* <input type="checkbox"/> Music Video DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> Buddy Video DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> Mack Bible Memory Buddy poster* <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Nahum 1:7)	<input type="checkbox"/> “Joseph Annoys His Brothers” Bible Story poster* <input type="checkbox"/> Music CD* <input type="checkbox"/> Mack Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Genesis 37:2-4, 6-8) <input type="checkbox"/> leader’s coat	<input type="checkbox"/> Game: cotton balls <input type="checkbox"/> Food-n-Friendship: snack, napkins, hand cleanser, Music CD*, media player <input type="checkbox"/> Coloring Creation: “Joseph Annoys His Brothers” Coloring Creation pages* (1 per child), crayons, glue sticks, small pieces of colorful fabric, Music CD*, media player

\* in your **Simply Loved Kit**



# Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart these Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together.



## Paper Sorting

### Supplies

- scraps of colorful paper

Mix up all the scraps of paper, then sort them by color. Once sorted, count each color!



What's your favorite color?



Tell about a favorite piece of clothing that's your favorite color.

**God is good no matter what.** God is so good, and he filled the world with beautiful colors. In our Bible story today, we'll meet a boy who received a special, colorful coat.

## Play Dough Pools

### Supplies

- play dough

Make swimming pools or bathtubs that could hold water.



Tell about a time you played in water. Where were you?

It's fun to play in water. In our Bible story today, we'll find out about a boy whose brothers put him in a well—a big, empty water container in the ground—and that was *not* so fun. But this boy discovered **God is good no matter what.**

# Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



**"The Cleanup Song"** (*Music CD track 1*)

Help kids transition by cleaning up before sitting with their Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a smaller group of kids with one Crew Guide.



## Sing & Play

### Welcome

Hello, friends! It's so good to see you today. Let's sing our welcome song.



**"Hello, My Friends"** (*Music CD track 2*)

It's so *good* to have friends with us today. Let's say hello to our Crew Guides. They're our go-to friends who are here to have fun and learn along with us.

- Kids give their Crew Guides a high-five.

### Bible Point

Today's Bible Point is **God is good no matter what**. Every time you hear the words **"God is good,"** pump your fist in the air and shout, "no matter what!" Let's try that together. Repeat several times.

We can always count on God. Will you say this rhyme with me? I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.

**One, two, three,** (*count on fingers*)

**God is good to me.** (*point to yourself*)

**Four, five, six,** (*count on fingers*)

**God's goodness always sticks.** (*clasp hands together*)

**Seven, eight, nine,** (*count on fingers*)

**God is good all the time.** (*two thumbs-up*)

**God is good** (*"no matter what!" and pump fist in the air*)

Repeat several times.

Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with "...no matter what!"

### Supplies

- Bible
- *Music CD*
  - "Hello, My Friends"
- *Music Video DVD*
  - "God Is Good" music video
  - "Won't Worry 'Bout a Thing" music video
- *Buddy Video DVD*
  - Mack Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)
- media player
- Mack Bible Memory Buddy poster



**...no matter what!**

No matter what, God loves us. God is good, even when life is scary. God will help us with our worries. Let's sing about that!

 "God Is Good" music video



## Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

It's time to talk to our friend Buzzly Bee. Buzzly will introduce us to a Bible Memory Buddy friend. Let's call for Buzzly.

- Flap hands quickly like a bee.
- Make buzzing sounds.



Mack Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)

**Mack is our Bible Memory Buddy. He's a rhinoceros!**

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster.
- Explain that rhinos have horns on their noses.
- Invite kids to cup their hands together on their noses to create a horn like Mack's.

**Mack reminds us that God is good** (*no matter what!*).



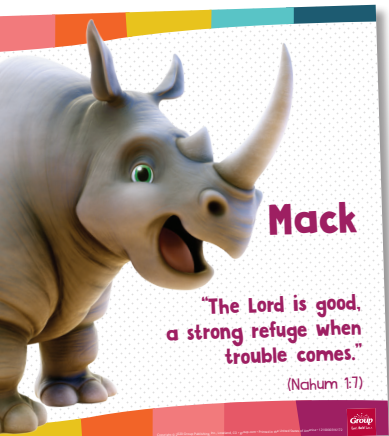
Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love! Our Bible Memory Verse comes from the Bible. Let's say it together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.**

**"The Lord is good,** (*put hands over heart*)  
**a strong refuge** (*place hands over head to make a roof*)  
**when trouble comes."** (*hand over brow, peering into distance*)  
(Nahum 1:7)

**A refuge is a safe place we can go. A warm house is a refuge when it's cold outside, and an umbrella is a refuge when it's raining. God is our refuge; he'll help and protect us. Let's celebrate with a song!**



"Won't Worry 'Bout a Thing" music video



# Bible Discovery

**God is good** (*no matter what!*). Hold up a Bible. **Our story from the Bible is about a teenager named Joseph. Joseph was a younger brother. He had 10 older brothers! And he had one younger brother, too. Do this with me.**

- Count on your fingers to 10.
- Hold up one finger for Joseph's younger brother, Benjamin.
- Raise your hand if you have a brother.
- Raise your hand if you have a sister.
- Raise your hand if you have cousins.

**Wow! That's a lot of kids. Joseph and his brothers had a job to do in their family. They took care of sheep! They had to watch them closely and keep them safe and out of trouble. Let's pretend we're shepherds and sheep in our Connect Crews.**

- Have each Connect Crew choose a child to be the Shepherd. The other kids will be sheep.
- Have the Shepherds walk around their circles and count the sheep as they tap them gently on the head.
- Encourage sheep to baa when they're counted.

**Thanks, shepherds. Looks like all your sheep are here and happy. You can sit down and rest with them now as I read about the job Joseph and his brothers had.**



Read aloud Genesis 37:2.

**Uh-oh! Joseph's brothers did some bad things. That's not good. So Joseph told his dad what they were doing. I wonder...**

- ❓ **How do you feel when someone tells on you? Make faces to show me how you feel.** Pause as kids make faces.
- Comment on some of the faces you see, and add your own. You may notice sad, mad, or worried faces.

**Getting in trouble doesn't feel very good. But **God is good** (*no matter what!*). God's good when we aren't. And he always loves us no matter what we do. It's too bad that Joseph's older brothers didn't seem to know that. They didn't like Joseph. But let's read and see how Joseph's dad, Jacob, felt about Joseph.**



Read aloud Genesis 37:3-4.

## Supplies

- Bible
- "Joseph Annoys His Brothers" Bible Story poster
- leader's coat

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply gather kids in a cozy circle around you. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!



Read the verses from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. And don't worry; we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.



Welcome a few responses. Be sure to summarize what kids say so everyone can hear.

Show the Bible Story poster. **Joseph's dad loved Joseph and gave him a beautiful coat. Maybe it was colorful! If you could have a coat in any color, what color would you choose? Go ahead and shout out the color you'd choose.**

- Welcome kids' responses from the whole group, and comment on the beautiful colors you hear.
- Show kids your coat, tell why you like it, and put it on.

**Joseph's coat was beautiful, like this one. This special gift from his father must have made him very happy. He went to sleep with happy thoughts and dreams. Do what I do!**

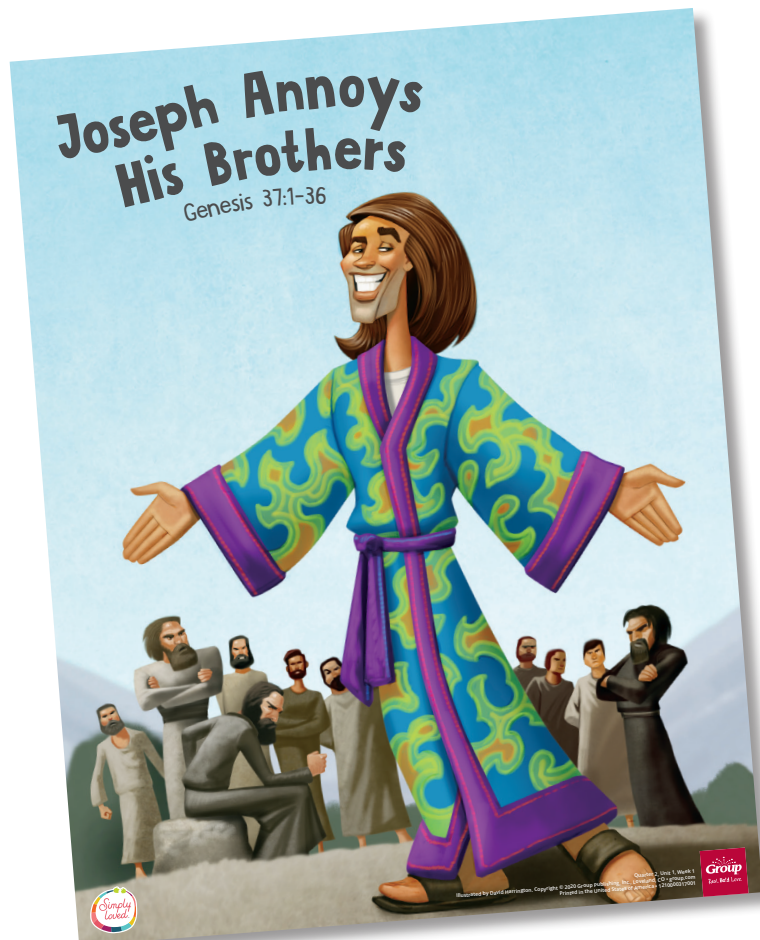
- Rest your head on your hands, smile, and pretend to sleep.
- Keep "sleeping" for about 10 seconds, then wake up suddenly.

**Joseph had a dream—a good dream! He told his dad and his brothers all about it. Let's read what Joseph's dream was about.**

 Read aloud Genesis 37:6-8.

**The dream was good, but the brothers didn't like it. Joseph went to sleep again. Let's all sleep again.**

- Rest your head on your hands, smile, and pretend to sleep.
- Keep "sleeping" for about 10 seconds, then wake up suddenly.



**Joseph had another dream. This time he dreamed that the sun, moon, and stars bowed down to him like he was the most special person ever! Joseph's brothers didn't like that dream either. Neither did his dad, Jacob. Do this with me.**

- Pretend to be Joseph's brothers, scowl, and shake your finger "no."
- Pretend to be Joseph's dad, put your hands out as if asking a question and say, "What kind of dream is that?"

**Oh, dear. Joseph was excited about his dreams, but they made his family mad. That's not good. But **God is good** (*no matter what!*). He knew what was happening in Joseph's family, and he still loved them.**

**Well, one day, Joseph's brothers were taking care of sheep. This time they were watching sheep farther away from home. Joseph went to look for them, and he couldn't find them right away. It was like they were playing hide-and-seek! Do this with me.**

- Cover your eyes and count to 10 as if playing hide-and-seek.
- Say "Ready or not, here I come!" and then take your hands away from your eyes.
- Unsuccessfully look around the room for sheep.
- Repeat a few times.

**Finally, Joseph found his brothers and the sheep. He thought they'd be happy to see him. After all, he had super-special dreams and a very beautiful coat. Once again, show off the coat you're wearing.**

**But Joseph's brothers weren't happy to see him. They came up with a mean plan to hurt him. They put him in an empty well, which is a place in the ground that holds a lot of water. There wasn't any water in the well, so Joseph's brothers took his coat and put Joseph down in the well. I think my coat has to go, too. Help me take it off!**

- Gather some kids around you and let them playfully pull off your coat.
- Put the coat on the floor.

**Joseph's brothers were so mad. You might stomp when you're mad.**

- Allow everyone to stomp.
- Pick up the coat and crumple it up a bit.

**Well, the anger Joseph's brothers were feeling made them hurt Joseph. It wasn't good. They took him out of the well, but he didn't go home. Joseph's brothers made him go far, far away and live in a new place. Sigh. Joseph must have felt so lonely, sad, and scared. It's no fun when people are mad at you. But God wasn't mad at Joseph. **God is good** (*no matter what!*).**

Joseph's life went from really good to not-so-good. But God was with Joseph and took care of him. Even when times are bad and people are mad, **God is good** (*no matter what!*). God will help us smooth things out with the people we love.

- Carefully shake out your crumpled coat, then hang it up on a hook or over a chair.
- **Let's talk in our Connect Crews.** Invite Crews to get cozy in knee-to-knee circles.
- **?** **Tell about a time God helped you smooth things out with someone who was mad at you.** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

**God is good** (*no matter what!*). He takes care of us in good times and in not-so-good times.

- Have everyone turn to a friend and say, **"God is good."** The friend will reply *"...no matter what!"*
- Have kids switch so the other friend starts by saying, **"God is good"** and the first friend replies, *"...no matter what!"*

Now's a great time for Apply-It Options. Choose one or more that fit your time frame to support today's Bible discoveries before the closing Goodbye Circle.





# Apply-It Options

Choose one—or all—of these activities to support kids' learning after Bible Discovery.

## Game

**Supplies:** cotton balls

- While kids and Crew Guides close their eyes, hide several cotton ball “sheep” somewhere in your room.
- Say “Ready or not, here we come!” and invite everyone to search for the sheep and take them to an imaginary “pen” in the middle of the playing space.
- Encourage “seekers” by baaing like a sheep if they’re near a cotton ball.
- Play again as time allows. You could have kids or Crew Guides help hide sheep.

**God is good** (*no matter what!*). God sent Jesus to be our forever friend. In the Bible, Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd. We’re his sheep! We’re never lost, though, because Jesus knows where we are. Jesus will never leave us alone.



## Food-n-Friendship

**Supplies:** snack, napkins, hand cleanser, *Music* CD, media player

- Give a napkin to a friend and say, **“God is good no matter what!”**



**“God, You Are So Good”**  
(*Music* CD track 3)

- Eat snack together.
- **When we pray, we talk with God. Who has something we can talk with God about?**
- Pray together.

**That snack was yummy! I’m so glad God is good** (*no matter what!*). Let’s be good helpers and clean up our snack and get ready for more fun!



## Coloring Creation

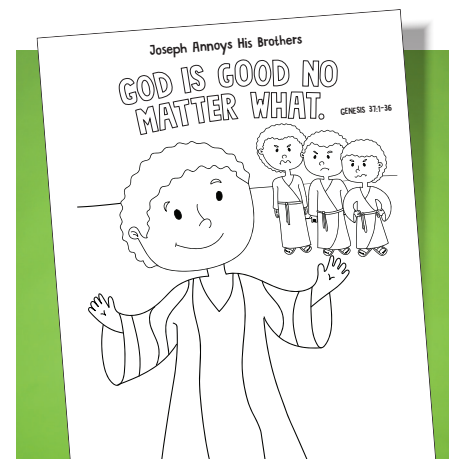
**Supplies:** “Joseph Annoys His Brothers” Coloring Creation pages (1 per child), crayons, glue sticks, small pieces of colorful fabric, *Music* CD, media player

**God is good** (*no matter what!*). Even when Joseph’s brothers were mad at Joseph, God was good to Joseph. When bad things happened, God took care of Joseph.

- Review the Bible story as you look at the picture.
- Color the picture.
- Use glue sticks to attach colorful fabric to Joseph’s coat.
- Play music as kids create.



**“He Is Good”**  
(*Nahum 1:7*)  
(*Music* CD track 5)



## Supplies

- Music CD
  - “Goodbye, My Friends”
  - “He Is Good” (Nahum 1:7)
- media player
- Mack Bible Memory Buddy stickers (1 per child)



Saying each child's name in a loving way helps kids simply experience God's love through you!

# Goodbye Circle

It's almost time to say goodbye! Let's sing our goodbye song as we join hands and make one big circle!

## “Goodbye, My Friends” (Music CD track 4)

**God is good** (*no matter what!*). **God is so good, he sent Jesus to be our forever friend. Jesus is a friend who's always with us—no matter what! Do this with me.**

**One, two, three,** (*count on fingers*)

**Jesus is with me.** (*point to yourself*)

**Four, five, six,** (*count on fingers*)

**Jesus' friendship always sticks.** (*clasp hands together*)

**Seven, eight, nine,** (*count on fingers*)

**Jesus loves me all the time.** (*two thumbs-up*)

**God is good** (*“no matter what!” and pump fist in the air*)

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster, and remind kids that Mack helps us remember **God is good** (*no matter what!*).
- Invite Crew Guides to give each child a Mack sticker to wear or take home. Have kids hold up two thumbs and receive the sticker with their thumbs! As they give a sticker to each child, Crew Guides say, “[Child's name], **God is good no matter what!**”

## “He Is Good” (Nahum 1:7) (Music CD track 5)

- Do Bible Memory Verse motions and move to the music!

