

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

LESSON NOTES

FOCUS: JOSEPH: A LEADER, DREAMER AND INTERPRETER OF DREAMS (GENESIS 37:1-31; 49:1-6)

- **SACRED STORY**
- **ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION**

THE MATERIAL

- **LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, BOTTOM SHELF, UNDER "SARAH"**
- **PIECES: SMALL BASKET WITH 12 PEOPLE OF GOD IN IT (ONE FOR EACH OF THE 12 SONS OF JACOB), COAT OF MANY COLORS, 12 HEADS OF GRAIN, IMAGE OF SUN, MOON AND STARS FROM "CREATION," CLEAR BOX FILLED WITH SILVER COINS, PYRAMID, COW AND EAR OF CORN, SACK OF GRAIN**
- **CONTROL**
- **UNDERLAY: TAN FELT STRIP, 42" X 11"**

BACKGROUND

The story of Joseph adds to the core narrative of the journey of the people of God from the beginning of "the Great Family" to the Exodus. Why did the People of God move to Egypt and become slaves? It was because of a famine in their land. There was also a famine in the land of Egypt, but they had stored up grain during the good years so there was food there. Why did they store the grain? Because of Joseph's leadership. Here is his story.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Joseph's story sits in a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is Joseph's coat of many colors. It can be attached to the end or the side of the tray depending on the size of the shelves, the classroom or other considerations. The underlay is a strip of tan felt, 42" x 11". Each object in the story is approximately the same size (no more than 4" high and 4" wide). The story calls for the following objects: a small basket containing twelve People of God (Jacob's twelve sons), a small coat of many colors, twelve heads of grain, the image of the sun, moon and stars from

the Creation story), clear box filled with silver coins, a small gold pyramid, a cow and ear of corn, and a sack of grain.

A control for the lesson is folded and placed in the tray for the children to use to check their work. The sequence of the story is important because when you change the sequence, you change the story.

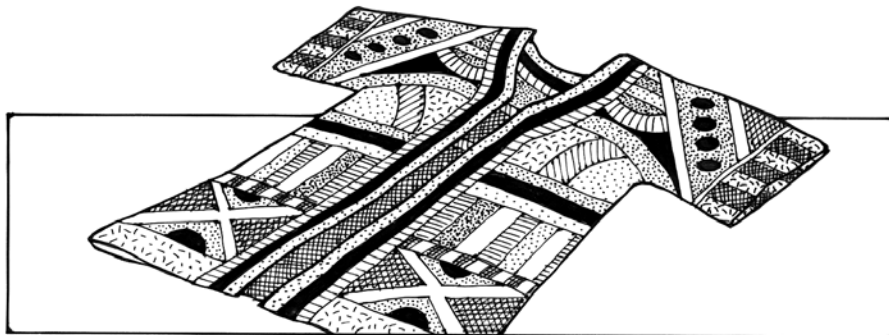
SPECIAL NOTES

The core stories about the People of God are placed on the top of the sacred story shelves. The enrichment stories about the key people in the core stories are placed on the lower shelves of the sacred story section in the room, under the core stories they enrich and extend (see diagram below).

The story of Joseph adds to the core narrative the journey of the people of God from the beginning of “the Great Family” to the Exodus. When you introduce the story of Joseph, take care to set it in the larger context of the sacred story of which it is a part. You can accomplish this by:

- presenting the top shelf story the week before and then following up with this,
- presenting the top shelf story briefly on the same day you present this, or
- standing by the shelf and reminding the children of the top shelf story before bringing this one to the circle.

As you tell the story of Jacob’s life, place objects on the underlay to remind you of each important event. Unroll the underlay slowly, just enough for the next object, as if you are unrolling a life. At the end of the wondering, show the children the control card and then carefully place each object back in the tray saying something about each event like, “Here is Jacob’s coat of many colors,” and so forth. Lastly, model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray.



STORY ICON FOR THE STORY OF JOSEPH