Lesson #3-3
JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS
Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

KIDS PK-2ND NL

Key Verse:

"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good." Genesis 50:20

The Point:

Even when we hurt each other, God can turn our work towards good.

Making Connections:

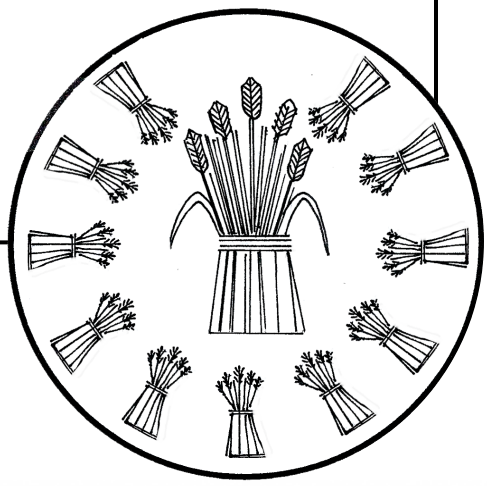
Promises Made, Promises Broken

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Old Testament Divisions

Spiritual Practice:

Fellowship



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ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

ACTIVITIES		SUPPLIES
STORY CENTERS (PK-K)	15 MIN.	
DRESS UP Dress up in colors like Joseph.		† Colorful clothes
GETTING ALONG Share toys to get along with others.		† Container of toys
FAMILY Play house.		† Play household items
INTO THE STORY (PK-2ND)		
BEAUTIFUL COAT Only one student gets to wear a colorful robe.	10 MIN.	† Colorful robe, scarf, or other clothing item
BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS (1ST-2ND)		
OLD TESTAMENT DIVISIONS Use a finger play about the Old Testament.	10 MIN.	† Bible † Activity Sheet #3-3.A
LEARNING THE STORY (PK-2ND)		
FROM BAD TO GOOD Imagine being a character in today's story.	15 MIN.	† Bibles † Activity Sheet #3-3.B
LIVING THE STORY (PK-2ND)		
HOLDING HANDS IN FELLOWSHIP Hands are traced.	15 MIN.	† Paper † Markers or crayons

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ACTIVITIES A LA CARTE

SINGING THE STORY (PK-2ND)

GOOD FROM BAD
5 MIN.

Sing a piggyback song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

- None

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

WHEN IT IS NOT FAIR (PK-2ND)
15 MIN.

Play the "Not Fair" game.

- Activity Sheet #3-3.C

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS (PK-2ND)
15 MIN.

Watch a video of Joseph forgiving his brothers.

- Internet-connected video player

SERVE ONE ANOTHER (PK-2ND)
10 MIN.

Students serve each other healthy snacks.

- Healthy snacks
- Small paper plates
- Napkins

BIBLE BOOK (PK-2ND)
5 MIN.

Optional ongoing activity.

- Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- Card stock or plain paper
- Pens
- Markers or crayons
- Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

SENDING THE STORY (PK-2ND)

5 MIN.

- The Story @ Home

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BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

Making Connections

After God's promise to Abram for an uncountable number of descendants (Genesis 15) God promised Hagar (Sarah's maid servant, pregnant by Abram) a future for her son, Ishmael. God promised Abram (renamed Abraham) would be a father of nations. Male children were to be circumcised as a sign of this covenant. God promised Abraham and Sarah a son and fulfilled that promise in the birth of Isaac. Abraham kept his promise to follow God when he was later asked to sacrifice his promised son Isaac. Instead, God kept the promise of continuing Abraham's family line by providing a sacrificial lamb. As God promised, Abraham's family grew. Family members broke promises to each other, but God kept God's promises. Abraham's son Isaac had two sons, Esau and Jacob. Today we see that Jacob's son Joseph, Abraham's great-grandson, was promised a role in the nation's future.

Story Summary:
Joseph and His Brothers

Joseph's brothers were jealous of Jacob's love for him. God gave Joseph a dream about the future, and that dream upset Joseph's brothers even more. In the dream, Joseph was in charge over his brothers. Joseph's brothers decided to kill him. They would tell their father, Jacob, that a wild beast had attacked and eaten Joseph. Joseph's brother Reuben did not agree with this plan. When Reuben was not watching, the other brothers sold Joseph to some Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt to be a slave. Years later, Joseph worked for Pharaoh and was in charge of the land and supplies. During a famine, his brothers needed food and came to him as servants. Joseph forgave his brothers for the evil they did to him. They may have planned evil, but God worked that evil into something good for Joseph and for a nation.

The Point

Even when we hurt each other, God can turn our work towards good. That does not give us the freedom to harm each other, but it offers hope to those who suffer harm. It offers hope to us when we realize the acts of injustice we have committed. Although it may take time for that "good" to be experienced, God's hand of love can exchange evil intent for a greater purpose.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:
Old Testament Divisions

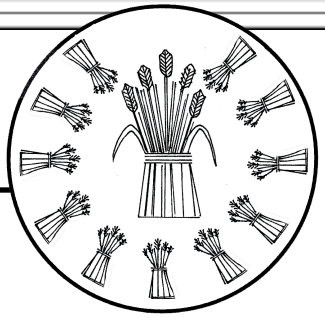
The Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) is a collection of books organized by type of literature more so than by chronology. The Pentateuch, or Torah, tells of beginnings, promises, and law (Genesis through Deuteronomy). The Histories (Joshua through Esther) tell of a nation's struggle to keep its covenant with God. The Poetry books, or Wisdom Literature (Job through Song of Solomon), hold wise counsel, praise, and longing for God. The remaining books are the Prophets (Isaiah through Malachi). The Prophets contain messages from God that guided people through hard times, warned people to return to God, and proclaimed the hope of the coming Messiah.

Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

Acts of fellowship are any actions that build love and caring relationships. Fellowship is not always easy to maintain, as we see in Joseph's story today. Even in the family of God there are quarrels, jealousies, and divisions. When we experience conflict, we can offer God's love, with God's help, to restore fellowship. Is there anyone you can reach out to today to help keep the fellowship?

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LESSON PLAN



STORY CENTERS (PK-K; 15 MINUTES)

Story Centers are mini-activities designed specifically for preschool and kindergarten students. Depending on the size of your class, you can set these up as centers for in-class rotations or do them as a whole class one after another. In most preschool and kindergarten classes, these centers along with a snack, the "Learning the Story" activity, and the "Living the Story" activity will fill the education time, but feel free to choose any activity you think would be fun and appropriate for your class.

DRESS UP

Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colors. Provide colorful clothes for students to dress up in.

GETTING ALONG

Joseph's brothers did not get along with him because their father had given a beautiful coat only to him. Give one student a container of toys and ask them to share them with each other student.

FAMILY

Jacob and his sons were a family that had conflict, but God worked it out in the end. Provide materials for students to play house.

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INTO THE STORY (PK-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

BEAUTIFUL COAT

One student gets to wear a beautiful coat.

You will need:

- ✝ Colorful robe, scarf, or other clothing item

During class:

1. Choose one student. Optional: Choose one of the youngest students in the class.
2. _____ (student's name) **gets to wear this colorful robe for the next few minutes.**
3. _____ (student's name), **you look nice in your colorful robe.**
4. **Does anyone else want to wear the robe**?
5. **I only have one robe so _____** (student's name) **will be the only one who gets to wear it today.**
6. **How do you feel when I let one student wear this colorful robe but I do not have a robe for you?** *[Sad, angry, jealous.]*
7. **Today we are going to hear a story about a man named Joseph. His father gave him a coat of many colors but did not give Joseph's brothers anything. His brothers felt jealous and angry**.

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BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS (1ST-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

OLD TESTAMENT DIVISIONS

Use a finger play about the Old Testament.

You will need:

- Bible
- Activity Sheet #3-3.A

During class:

1. This activity can be completed sitting or standing.
2. Hold up a Bible.
3. **The Bible is divided into two main parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament.** Separate the pages to show how much of the Bible is the Old Testament and how much is the New Testament. **The Old Testament tells us about life before Jesus was born. The New Testament tells us about life after Jesus was born. The whole Bible tells us about God's love and God's work in the lives of people.**
4. **The Old Testament is divided into four main parts. We are going to learn a finger play to help us count and learn the four parts.**
5. Use Activity Sheet #3-3.A to lead and teach the finger play. Go through it several times, so the students can learn it.
6. **The Bible tells us of God's love. We can understand the Bible better when we know what part of the Bible we are reading.**

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LEARNING THE STORY (PK-2ND; 15 MINUTES)

FROM BAD TO GOOD

Imagine being a character in today's story.

You will need:

- ✝ Bible
- ✝ Activity Sheet #3-3.B

During class:

1. Even though you will use Activity Sheet #3-3.B, hold a Bible, so the students can tell that this story is from the Bible.
2. Divide the students into three groups (they do not have to sit near each other for this). One group will imagine themselves as Joseph, another will imagine themselves as the brothers, and another will imagine themselves as Jacob.
3. After each section in the story on Activity Sheet #3-3.B, one or more characters' names is listed in parentheses. Direct the following question to the group or groups representing that character or characters: **What do you feel like now, _____** (character's name in parentheses on the Activity Sheet). **How might you have acted if you were in this situation?**
4. At the end, say: **Even when Joseph's brothers meant to hurt Joseph and things looked pretty bad for him, God was taking care of Joseph. Even when it looks like God's promises will not be fulfilled, God always keeps God's promises**.

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LIVING THE STORY (PK-2ND; 15 MINUTES)

HOLDING HANDS IN FELLOWSHIP

Hands are traced.

You will need:

- Paper
- Markers or crayons

During class:

1. Demonstrate this activity by tracing your hand around each finger, using a marker or crayon and paper.
2. Ask the students to trace one of their hands on the paper. Help the younger students. Some of the older students might help each other.
3. When hands are traced, ask the students to see that the fingers are each connected to the hand.
4. **People in the family of God are all connected together, too. We are not fingers connected to a hand, but we are people that are all held in God's loving hand**.
5. After the story, ask: **What can we do to be nice to others in God's family?** *[Pray for each other, help each other, comfort each other.]*
6. **Who can you give the hand drawing to** ("give a hand") **as a way to say we are glad to be connected to them as part of God's family?**
7. **Give the hand away as an act of your fellowship**.

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SINGING THE STORY (PK-2ND; 5 MINUTES)

GOOD FROM THE BAD

Sing a piggyback song to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

Joseph, your nice coat
Made your brothers mad
But God is good, yes, God is good
God made good from the bad.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

WHEN IT IS NOT FAIR (PK-2ND; 15 MINUTES)

Play the "Not Fair" game.

You will need:

- Activity Sheet #3-3.C

During class:

1. In this game, certain things will seem fair and others that do not seem fair. The players have to make choices for how to respond in the situations.
2. Read a choice and then ask: **Is this fair or unfair? Why?**
3. **How do you feel when something seems unfair to you?** Answers will vary.
4. **Let us remember that God can make good out of the things that we think are unfair. Ask God to help you see the good.**

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JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS (PK-2ND; 15 MINUTES)

Watch a video of Joseph forgiving his brothers.

You will need:

- Internet-connected video player.

Before class:

1. Do an Internet search for "video Joseph forgives brothers" and choose a video you think is appropriate for your students.
2. Cue the video past any advertisements.

During class:

1. Show the video.
2. Lead a discussion where the students can talk about other possible endings for this story.
3. **If God had not intervened and worked things out for Joseph, what do you think might have happened to Joseph?** You can prompt students at each step in the story from when he had his dreams until he forgave his brothers that is covered in the video. Answers will vary.
4. **What might have happened if Joseph had not forgiven his brothers? How would that have affected Joseph? How might it have affected his brothers?** Answers will vary.
5. **I am glad that we can count on God to work things out for our good**.

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SERVE ONE ANOTHER (PK-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

Students serve each other healthy snacks.

Before serving any food, always check with participants or caregivers for students who have food allergies. Provide an alternative if necessary.

You will need:

- Healthy snacks
- Small paper plates
- Napkins

During class:

1. Have students wash their hands before serving others.
2. **When Joseph's brothers came to Egypt looking for food, Joseph had a meal served for his brothers. It is fun to serve each other when we are getting along. It is harder to do that when we are fighting or not agreeing with each other.**
3. Distribute paper plates and napkins.
4. **Line up at the table and take a napkin and some snacks, but do not eat anything yet. Stand near your seat.**
5. When the students are standing behind their seats, explain: **You are going to serve snacks to each other. Give the plate and napkin to the person on your right** (you may need to help them know who that is).
6. When all have been served, sit and eat the snacks.
7. **It is a blessing to serve others. It is a blessing to be served. We can serve our friends and we can serve those we call our enemies.**

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BIBLE BOOK (PK-2ND; 10 MINUTES)

Optional ongoing activity.

You will need:

- Bible Book page (found at end of lesson)
- Card stock or plain paper
- Pens
- Markers or crayons
- Optional: three-ring binders, hole punch

Before class

1. Make copies of this week's Bible Book page on card stock or copy paper for each student.

During class:

1. Hand out Bible Book pages.
2. Read the bottom of the Bible Book page aloud, reminding students of what they learned in the lesson.
3. Have them put their names on their pages, and draw a picture of something they particularly liked or remember from story in the middle of the page.
4. Optional: Collect and three-hole punch the pages, and put them in individual binders for each student to be kept at church until the end of the year. If you wish, you can investigate other options for binding the Bible books through a local print shop at the end of the year instead of using a three-ring binder.

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SENDING THE STORY (PK-2ND; 5 MINUTES)

What from today's story will help you remember that even when we try to harm each other, God can turn our work toward good? *[God worked things out for Joseph and God worked things out for his family, too.]*

Joseph forgave his brothers. He knew God would take care of him even when his brothers did not take care of him.

Think of a person you need to forgive, and pray for God to bless them and help you forgive. Maybe someone has yelled at you, broken one of your toys, or knocked you down on the playground and left you feeling hurt.

Before ending class, make a point to come together to pray. Use the following or say your own prayer.

When I pray the words, you will fill in the missing pieces quietly, in your mind, rather than speaking the words aloud.

God, a person named _____ has hurt me by _____ It is hard not to be mad. Help me to show love to them and to forgive. Please bless and help _____. Amen.

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OLD TESTAMENT DIVISIONS

Use a finger play about the Old Testament.

The Bible has old and new (close hands like a closed book)

The Old Testament has four parts (hold up four fingers)

The Pentateuch (one finger up)

Holds the law (shake the finger)

The Histories (two fingers)

Tell what happened (wave the two fingers back and forth in front of you)

The Poems (three fingers)

Praise and teach (hold three fingers overhead, and move arm forward three times)

The Prophets (hold up four fingers)

Tell God's message (touch four fingers to mouth and move them out away from mouth)

The Bible has old and new (close hands like a closed book)

The Old Testament has four parts (hold up four fingers)

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FROM BAD TO GOOD

Imagine being a character in today's story.

Genesis 37:3-8

Jacob, Abraham's grandson, had twelve sons. His favorite son was Joseph because Joseph was born to him when he was older. When Joseph was seventeen years old, Jacob made a colorful coat for Joseph. Joseph's brothers could tell that Jacob loved Joseph the most. *(Joseph; the brothers)*

It made the brothers angry that Joseph, their younger brother, was their father's favorite son. They started to hate Joseph. They were mean to Joseph. One day, Joseph had a dream. The meaning of the dream was that someday Joseph would be a powerful leader over his brothers. *(Joseph; the brothers)*

When Joseph told his brothers about the dream, they hated him even more.

Genesis 37:17b-22

One day Joseph's brothers were feeding the flocks out in a field. Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers. *(Joseph; the brothers)*

His brothers did not like it when they saw Joseph on his way to meet them. They were so jealous that they decided to kill Joseph. They planned to kill him and put his body in a pit. They would tell Jacob that a beast attacked and ate Joseph. *(Joseph)*

Joseph's brother Reuben did not like this plan. He suggested they put Joseph in a pit but leave him alive. *(Joseph; the brothers)*

Genesis 37:26-34

Joseph's brother Judah suggested they sell Joseph as a slave and make themselves some money. When Reuben was not looking, the brothers sold Joseph to some travelers for 27 pieces of silver. They kept Joseph's coat. *(Joseph)*

The brothers killed a goat and put some goat's blood on Joseph's colorful coat. They brought the coat to Jacob and showed it to him. *(The brothers)*

Jacob was very sad. *(Jacob)*

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FROM BAD TO GOOD

Imagine being a character in today's story.

Genesis 50:15-21

Although things looked bad for Joseph, and more bad things happened along the way, God took care of Joseph. The Pharaoh (the leader) in Egypt liked Joseph so much that he put Joseph in charge of Egypt. *(Joseph)*

During a famine, when the people could not grow any food, Joseph's father and brothers needed food. Joseph's brothers went to Egypt looking for help. Joseph recognized his brothers. He forgave them and took care of them. *(Jacob; the brothers; Joseph)*

Later, when Jacob died, the brothers were afraid that Joseph would hurt them like they did to him. Joseph was kind to them. He said that what they meant for bad, God turned around and used for good. *(The brothers; Joseph)*

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WHEN IT IS NOT FAIR

Play the "Not Fair" game.

1. Your brother gets to stay up past bedtime, but you have to go to bed at bedtime.
2. Your friends can go out to play, but you have to stay inside to clean your room.
3. Grandma buys everyone a milkshake.
4. You have to eat everything on your plate before you are allowed to eat dessert.
5. Your friends get to watch television every night, but you can only watch television on the weekends.
6. You make a bad a choice and get punished for it.
7. Everyone gets a trophy for participating in a sporting event.
8. Everyone has an assigned time to walk the dog.
9. The school bus has to go back to the school because two students were misbehaving.
10. The entire family took a trip to the zoo.
11. Your mom made sure everyone got the same size piece of cake.
12. Your dad got a new job, and you have to move away from your friends.
13. It rained on the day you were planning to go to the beach.
14. The entire class has to stay in for recess because two children were talking.
15. Your mom let you and your sister stay late if you agreed to get up on time in the morning.

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JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

THE POINT:

Even when we hurt each other, God can turn our work towards good.

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THE STORY @ HOME

KIDS PK-2ND NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 3 (2024-2025)

Lesson #3-3
Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

LAST WEEK

God promises Abram (Abraham), that he and his wife Sarai (Sarah) will have many descendants, even though they are old and have no children (Genesis 15:1-6).

THIS WEEK

Despite many difficulties, God keeps Abram's great grandson Joseph safe and keeps the promise God made to Abram, too. (Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-20).

STORY SUMMARY

Joseph and His Brothers
Joseph's brothers were jealous because their father, Jacob, loved Joseph the most. Joseph's brothers hated him so much that they decided to kill him. But instead the brothers sold Joseph to some traders, who took him to Egypt to be a slave. Years later, Joseph worked for Pharaoh and was in charge of the land and food. During a famine, his brothers needed food and came to Egypt. Joseph forgave his brothers for the evil they did to him.

PRACTICE: FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is not always easy. Even in the church there are fights and hurt feelings. With God's help, we can forgive and restore fellowship. Joseph's brothers betrayed him, but there was forgiveness and restored fellowship in the end. As a family, bake cookies (or make cards) for someone in your congregation to reach beyond differences and build fellowship.

THE POINT

Even when we hurt each other, God can turn our work towards good.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Old Testament Divisions

The Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) is a collection of books organized by the type of writing more than chronology. The Pentateuch, or Torah, tells of beginnings, promises, and law (Genesis through Deuteronomy). The Histories (Joshua through Esther) tell of a nation's struggle to keep its covenant with God. The Poetry books, or Wisdom Literature (Job through Song of Solomon), hold wise counsel, praise, and longing for God. The remaining books are the Prophets (Isaiah through Malachi). The Prophets contain messages from God that guided people through hard times, warned people to return to God, and proclaimed the hope of the coming Messiah.

NEXT WEEK

Jacob's descendants stay in Egypt, but become slaves. God rescues the Israelites to take them to the land that God promised to Abraham. This story is celebrated in Passover (Exodus 12:1-13; 13:1-8).

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TRY IT @ HOME

Lesson #3-3
Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✞ What does this passage tell you about God's strength?
- ✞ What does this passage tell you about humanity's weakness?
- ✞ What does this passage tell you about the importance of following God?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21 Joseph's brothers were jealous because they knew God was going to make Joseph their leader. Serve a favorite treat to one family member while the others watch that person eat it. How can we be gracious and not give in to jealousy? (Later, give the rest a treat.)
Monday—Read Exodus 1:8-22 The Egyptians treated the Israelites like slaves. They were very hard on them while they worked. Do chores while one family member keeps saying things like "hurry up," "move faster," or "do that over." Imagine being treated like that all day long. Thank God for freedom.
Tuesday—Read Exodus 2:1-10 To keep her baby alive, the mother put baby Moses in a basket by the riverbank. Pharaoh's daughter allowed the mother to nurse her baby. Look through the children's baby pictures if you have them. Share what you went through the first time you left your baby to go to work or elsewhere.
Wednesday—Read Exodus 3:1-12 God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. God told Moses he was going to be the one to lead the people out of Egypt. Where we meet God is holy ground. Take off your shoes. Take turns talking to God, telling of your love for God.
Thursday—Read Exodus 4:1-17 Moses was afraid he could not do what God asked of him. God gave Moses miraculous power to help him lead the Israelites. Help each other do things like reaching for something, lifting something, making a bed, etc.
Friday—Read Exodus 7:14-17; 8:5-6, 16-17, 20-21; 9:1-3, 7 God sent plagues to Egypt to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelites. Identify the five plagues in the reading. Use the counting numbers to remember and repeat them in order. After each one, say "Let my people go!" (i.e. "One: Water to blood, let my people go!" "Two: Frogs," etc.).
Saturday—Read Exodus 9:8-9, 22-23; 10:1-2, 22-24; 11:9-10 God sent more plagues. Identify the five additional plagues in the reading. Use the counting numbers, beginning with six, to remember and repeat them in order. After each one, say "Let my people go!" (i.e. "Six: Boils, let my people go!" etc.) Extra: Can you count out all ten plagues?

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