

## Kid's Slot – Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> – Sept 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011



### "A God-Filled, Joy-Filled Life!"



**OVERVIEW:** Children will learn how to trust God and not let the devil try and steal their joy!

**PREPARATION:** You will need a strip of paper about one inch wide for each child for a game. Each strip should be a different length. You will also need your NIV Bible.

#### **BIBLE VERSE:**

The Bible story comes from Genesis 37-45 (the story of Joseph) and John 10:10 for the memory verse.

**ICEBREAKER:** Have the children begin to act silly and call for them to 'FREEZE.' Let them see how foolish they look being caught out of control. Do this several times. How does it feel to be out of control?

**SAY:** Wow, you all surely looked foolish making those silly faces. Just like we "caught" you being *out of control*, God is always in control. You will never "catch" God doing something silly, or mean or wrong. God is always in control and always knows what is best for you, even when you don't understand His reasons. He has great plans for your life...even when it seems like nothing is going right! But the devil doesn't. He wants things to go wrong and make us not love God anymore! We're going to learn about a young man named Joseph who trusted God, even when he didn't understand all that God was doing at the time.

**READ:** "Joseph---Betrayed by his Brothers" story on the other side

**DISCUSSION:** Ask these questions – let the kids answer...since there is no right or wrong answers, let them share freely☺

1. If someone is mean to you, should you be mean back to them?
2. How should you act toward mean people?

3. What are some things that try to "steal" your joy?
4. What can you do to be joyful, even when some things do go wrong?
5. How much do you think God loves you?
6. What are ways that you can encourage yourself when things go wrong?
7. Does God forget about you when things go wrong, or is He quietly working things out for you?

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE:** "I have come that they might have life and have it to the full." John 10:10

**ACTIVITY:** Have the children imagine themselves as a prisoner in jail. Let each child pull a strip of paper that you have in your hand, from the ones you have previously prepared. Make sure your hand hides the length of the paper from the children. The one with the longest piece of paper is allowed to get out of prison. Repeat this until all are set free from prison. Explain that God is faithful, even when we are not and that he is in control of their lives...even if they picked last – God will make a way when there seems to be no way!

**RETURN:** Return to the Life Group and have the children recite their Bible Memory Verse and tell a bit about the story of Joseph. Let anyone who wants to share about a time when the devil tried to steal their joy do so. Prayer and fellowship time follows...Don't forget about the Saint's Tailgate Party on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> at church!



## “Joseph...the Devil Can’t Steal HIS Joy!”

Jacob was a mighty man in the Old Testament. He had twelve sons. One of his sons was named Joseph. When Joseph was a teenager, his father, Jacob gave him a very beautiful coat that was made of many colors. When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father had given only him a beautiful coat, they hated Joseph and said very mean things to him. They were jealous that it was Joseph that had the coat and not them.

One night, Joseph had a dream and told it to his brothers the next day. Joseph’s brothers became angry because it seemed that his dream said he would rule over them one day. Then Joseph had a second dream that he shared it with his brothers and father. This dream also showed Joseph ruling over his father and brothers. His brothers hated him even more. So his father corrected him. He said to Joseph, “What is this dream you had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you? His brothers were very jealous of him.

Then one day his brothers took their sheep to feed in a place called Shechem. Jacob, who was sometimes called Israel, said to Joseph; “Please go check on your brothers to see if they are doing okay.”

Now when Joseph’s brothers saw him coming from far off, they came up with a mean, evil plan to hurt Joseph. But Rueben would not allow the brothers to kill Joseph. Joseph’s brothers took his coat from him and threw him into a long, dirty pit and finally sold Joseph as a slave to some people that carried him away to Egypt.

His brothers then took the coat of many colors, tore it and dipped it into blood. They then presented the coat to their father who thought a wild animal must have killed and eaten his son, Joseph. Their evil plan worked and Jacob believed his other sons. Joseph’s father became very sad and cried for the loss of his son. Joseph was then sold to Potiphar, a Captain under Pharaoh the King. The Lord was with Joseph and every thing Joseph did was successful. So Captain Potiphar put Joseph in charge of all his money, servants and everything he had. Joseph was the boss over it all. The Lord blessed everything that belonged to Potiphar because of Joseph.

One day, Potiphar’s wife asked Joseph to commit a sin. Potiphar told her NO and immediately left the house where they both

were. Potiphar’s wife lied to her husband about Joseph and Potiphar believed her. In anger, Potiphar threw Joseph in prison, even though he did nothing wrong.

Joseph stayed in prison 3 long years...but God never forgot about him...even though he was alone. When Joseph finally got out of prison, he helped the Pharaoh figure out what one of his dreams meant – with help from the Lord - and the Pharaoh reward Joseph by making him the second highest leader in all the land. Joseph did a wonderful job saving up food for when a famine would come. In fact, he very own brothers came all the way to Egypt to buy food from Joseph, since there was no food to be found back in Canaan. Joseph saw his brothers for the first time in many, many years...and was overjoyed with happiness. When the brothers came back for more food, it was then that Joseph told them who he was! His brothers bowed down to say that they were very sorry for what they did to him as a young boy and as a Thank You for the food that they were bringing back to their families. Joseph told his brothers that the devil tried to steal, kill and destroy his family – but God had a much better plan – a plan to give them a hope and a future. Aren’t you glad Joseph followed God – even when things looked tough for him, he still knew that God’s way was the best way! He didn’t need to try to get back at his brothers – he needed to forgive them! And that’s just what he did.

Joseph knew that God always has a good plan for us – and that the devil will always try to put his BAD plan in place instead! What seemed like a disaster by being sold into slavery and then put in jail was really God working out a perfect plan for Joseph and his brothers! The devil sometimes puts things in our way to make us feel we are without hope. He tries to steal our joy and rob us of our desire to love and serve Jesus. But Jesus said He came to give us life – life with HIM.

