

Slavery in Egypt

Week 1

Teaching Point – God is always on the look out for us and knows when we are in trouble. He wants to help us.

Games:

Whizz Quiz Prepare a list of questions. These can be Bible related or simply trivia questions but make sure each child is able to get at least one right. Divide the group into 2 teams standing separately in the middle of the room (Egypt). They are all captives. Have 2 leaders (one for each team) standing in opposite corners of the room, each with a set of questions. The teams nominate one player to run to their quiz-master who asks them a question. When they get it right they can run back and grab a captive member of their team. They both then run back to the quiz-master and answer a question. The group answering questions will increase as the group of captives decreases. Play repeats until all captives are freed.

'Get out of this' The children should stand shoulder to shoulder in a circle with their arms outstretched in front of them. They close their eyes and grab two other hands at random. After opening their eyes they must then try to untangle themselves without releasing their grasp. This could also be played in a race with 2 teams, the winning team being the first to untangle themselves.

Stuck in the Mud Two or three people (depending on the size of the group) are chosen to be 'it'. When children are caught they have to stand still with their arms outstretched. They can only be released by someone running under one of their arms.

Introduction – Make a list of situations in which you'd need to be cared for or protected. Who/what would protect you in these situations? Now, we're going to find out about some people who were in a difficult situation and who/what looked after them.

Story – Use the story in the resources section which sets the scene, including a recap of the story of Joseph. You could get the children to mime it out as you read if you feel that this would be appropriate. Get them to really think how they would feel if they were an Israelite captive in Egypt. Alternatively you could tell the story in your own words.

Application – Even though it was hundreds of years after God helped the Israelites come to Egypt through Joseph, he hadn't forgotten about them. In fact he already had a plan to rescue them. And it's the same for us. God cares about us and will never leave us no matter what situation we're in. We know that God will always care for us and wants to help us.

Memory Verse – *'I will always be with you; I will never abandon you.'* Joshua 1: 5. Write each word of the memory verse on smallish pieces of card. 'Joshua' and '1: 5' should be on separate pieces. Place them all in a box. Divide the group so that each group has a maximum of 10 children and give each team a scooping object e.g. plastic spade/spoon. They have to run to the box and 'dig up' (like the Israelites had to do in Egypt) a word which they then must carry back to their team. The winning team is the first team to have all the pieces arranged in the correct order.

Prayer – Pray for the people mentioned in the introduction and thank God that He looks after us.

Song – God Loves Me – Track 9, Lovely Jubby CD by Doug Horley

Resources - Funsheet, story outline.



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Quick Quiz

Find this story in Exodus 1 and 2.

1. Who had saved the Egyptians from a famine?
2. What was worrying the new Pharaoh?
3. What did Pharaoh think the Israelites might do?
4. What did he decide to do about this?
5. After his first plan against the Israelites didn't work, what did he do next?



Colour in this Egyptian Sphinx!

'I will always be with you; I will never abandon you.'
Joshua 1:5b

Can you find all these words in the wordsearch?

S	A	T	P	H	A	R	A	O	H
E	J	W	N	J	P	Z	E	Q	T
T	O	P	B	C	F	D	G	O	D
I	S	L	A	V	E	R	Y	M	Z
L	E	B	B	U	R	O	P	F	S
E	P	L	Y	M	E	K	T	L	O
A	H	Y	R	G	V	S	G	X	N
R	L	F	A	M	I	N	E	I	W
S	E	G	Q	C	R	K	D	E	J
I	V	H	R	Y	R	E	S	I	M

Slavery
 Egypt
 Israelites
 Joseph
 Famine
 Pharaoh
 River
 Baby
 God
 Misery

How do you think these Israelite slaves might be feeling?

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Our story must begin about two and a half thousand years ago. Joseph (with his technical dreamcoat) had just saved the Egyptians by warning them about a famine. The Egyptians were very grateful to him because it was only as a result of him that they gathered and stored enough food to keep them alive. Joseph, his father and his 11 brothers as well as their wives all came to live in Egypt and started a huge family, called the Israelites. After many, many years and after Joseph and all his brothers had died, the Israelite tribe had grown very big so that there were hundreds and hundreds of them all living happily with the Egyptians in Egypt. However, things were about to go wrong.

One day a new King, came to power in Egypt. (The Egyptians had a special word for King. Does anyone know it? **Pharaoh**) Because Pharaoh was quite young he hadn't heard the stories about what Joseph had done to save the Egyptians. So instead of realising that the Israelites had helped the Egyptians and were friendly, he got scared that the Israelites would turn against him and make an army. He thought, 'There are so many Israelites now that they might attack us, or even worse, they might escape from Egypt and then we'd have no one to build our houses or gather our crops.' So he decided to find a way to stop the Israelite population from getting any bigger. And the plan he came up with wasn't very nice at all. He commanded all the Israelites to work as slaves to build huge cities and buildings for the Egyptians. He wanted to make them tired and sad so that they wouldn't have the energy to fight him. But even though the Israelites were tired and sad there ended up being even more of them than there had been before! The Egyptians were very worried now and thought, 'An army of Israelites that size would certainly be dangerous. We must try something else to stop this tribe from growing.' So Pharaoh tried even harder to make the Israelites miserable. He thought up a new plan. 'I know,' he said, 'Some Egyptian women help the Israelite women to give birth. I'll tell the Egyptian women to kill all the baby boys as soon as they are born. That'll stop the Israelite tribe from getting too big.' But the Egyptian women knew that God loved the Israelites so they didn't want to do anything to hurt them. Instead of killing the babies, they let them live. When Pharaoh heard this he was angry. 'Hmm none of my plans have worked so far,' he thought nastily, 'I need to think up a plan that will definitely work.' So he thought and thought and finally came up with a new idea. He called all his soldiers to him and said, 'Throw all Israelite baby boys into the River Nile. That way there will be no more Israelite boys who might grow up to fight us.' And so that's exactly what happened. All the babies were thrown into the Nile. But I wonder whether there might have been a few Israelite women who managed to hide their babies and keep them safe. We'll have to find out next week.