

POINT ➡ WE LOVE OTHERS.

Open your Bible to Genesis 37, and show children the words.

SAY: The Bible says that a boy named Joseph got a special coat from his dad and had some strange dreams where he was better than his brothers. His brothers were very mad. Today we'll hear what happened after Joseph's brothers got angry.

As you listen to what happened, you decide if Joseph's brothers showed love. Each time you hear someone make an unloving choice, make a thumbs down sign. Demonstrate. If you hear a loving choice, make a thumbs up sign. Demonstrate.

Play ● "A Well and a Rhyme" (track 21) on the CD. Each time you see someone make a thumbs up or thumbs down, pause the CD and ask kids to share what action they're gesturing about and why they decided it was loving or unloving.

ASK: Tell about a time you did something loving.

Tell about a time you did something unloving.

Explain which worked out better: the time you did something loving, or the time you did something unloving.

SAY: We don't want to be like Joseph's brothers, so we make loving choices. This week, let's all remember that ➡ WE LOVE OTHERS. See if you can give yourself thumbs up for your choices this week!



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Give each child a piece of paper and spread out the *Color Switchers Markers*. Encourage children to each draw a picture of their families doing something fun together. As children draw their pictures, play ● “As I Have Loved You” (John 13:34) (track 22) on the *CD*.

Have willing children show their pictures and explain them.

ASK: **What do you like to do with your family?**

What’s it like when you’re doing something fun with your family?

How does that compare with the way Joseph’s family got along?

SAY: **Hopefully your family gets along better than Joseph’s family did! It’s important to show love to our families. Let’s sing a song to remind us to love others every day.**

Lead kids in singing ● “Love One Another Every Day” (track 23) on the *CD*, to the tune of “She’ll Be Coming Round the Mountain.” The song plays twice.

SING:

We will love one another every day. (*kids each hug someone*)

We will love one another every day. (*kids each hug someone else*)

We will love one another, (*kids each hug someone else*)

Father, sister, mother, brother, (*kids point to someone for each name*)

We will love one another every day. (*kids each hug someone*)

(*Second time through, spoken*) **John 13:34!**

ASK: **What’s a way your family shows love to each other?**

SAY: **Joseph’s brothers sure didn’t show love when they sold him as a slave! It’s important that**

 **WE LOVE OTHERS** by loving the people in our family—every day.

POINT ➡ **WE LOVE OTHERS.**

SAY: I'm going to say some events. If it makes you feel good, stand up. If it's something that makes you feel sad, sit down and say, "God takes care of everything."

Read the suggested events, and add your own. **You have a bad cold and cough; it's Christmas; you met a new friend; you're tired; you have a new puppy; you cut your finger; you can't find your mom or dad at the store; it's your birthday party!**

SAY: Joseph had a lot of ups and downs. Stand up or sit down for the things that happened to him: He got a great coat (pause), but his brothers were mad. Pause. He had interesting dreams (pause), but his brothers were jealous and hurt him. Pause.

God was with Joseph in the ups and downs. Let's sing a song about Joseph's ups and downs.

Lead children in singing "Joseph's Ups and Downs" (track 24) on the **CD** to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell," jumping up when the word *up* is used and squatting for the word *down*.

SING:

There was a boy named Joseph.
He had 11 brothers.

They put him *down* into the well,
And then they pulled him *up*.

And when you're *up*, you're *up*.
And when you're *down*, you're
down.

And when you're only halfway *up*,
You're neither *up* nor *down*.

Kindness keep us *up*.
Unkindness puts us *down*.
Let's pat each other on the back,
And smile instead of frown.

ASK: When I listed things, how did you decide if something was good or bad?

Tell about a time you did something loving that was an "*up*" for someone else.

Tell about a time you had a "*down*" time because someone hurt your feelings.

SAY: When we feel down, sometimes it's hard to love others. But remember to think about how other people feel. We can help others have "*up*" times when ➡ **WE LOVE OTHERS.** That's why we show love whether we're feeling up or down.

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Give each child a small lump of *Rainbow Clay*. Demonstrate how to roll the clay into a long, skinny, snake-like piece.

Have each child make a snake-like piece of clay. As kids work, attach the ends of your long piece to make it into a circle. As each child finishes, help them do the same, stacking the circles on top of each other to make a well.

When your group finishes the well, put a small clump of clay in the well to represent Joseph.

ASK: **Why was it unloving for Joseph's brothers to put him in the well and sell him?**

When can working with others be a bad thing?

When can working with others be a good thing?

SAY: **We worked together to build our well. Joseph's brothers worked together to do a bad thing when they put him in the well. But we can work together when ➡ WE LOVE OTHERS. We can help each other remember to show love no matter what.**

POINT ➡ WE LOVE OTHERS.

Have children sit on the floor in a circle. Have one child be "Joseph." Have Joseph walk around the circle and play a version of Duck, Duck, Goose. Instead of saying "duck, duck, goose," Joseph will say, "brothers, brothers, well." When Joseph taps someone and says "well," that child must chase Joseph back to where the child was sitting.

If Joseph reaches the child's place first, the "well" child becomes the new Joseph. If the child catches Joseph, Joseph must go into the center of the circle and sit in the "well." Each time a Joseph is caught, he or she must join the others in the well. Keep playing until several kids are in the well or as long as time allows.

ASK: How did you feel when you were stuck in the middle of the circle?

Tell about a time you felt left out or like no one liked you.

Tell about a time someone treated you nicely.

SAY: Joseph and his brothers didn't treat each other with love, but ➡ WE LOVE OTHERS. That means we make sure we don't leave others out of our games. And we make an effort to include people who look like they're being left out.