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Brother for Sale

Community
We reflect God's love in our relationships.

POWER TEXT

"An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies" (Proverbs 12:17).

KEY REFERENCES

- Genesis 37:12-35
- *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 19, pp. 208-212
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 47-50
- student story on page 72 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 8, The Great Controversy
- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 11, Growing in Christ

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that being honest helps to develop friendships and community.
- **Feel** a desire to deal with problems in positive ways.
- **Respond** by asking God to help them be honest and positive.



We respect one another by being honest and positive.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Joseph's brothers deal with their jealousy of their brother with violence that ends with his sale into slavery. Then they lie to their father and say that an animal has killed Joseph. Jacob is very sad and grieves for many days for his son.

This is a lesson about community.

In a supportive Christian community people can learn to deal with their problems in positive ways, not by lying, being disloyal, or becoming violent. To live in community in harmony with others one must be honest and positive.

Teacher Enrichment

"They would have executed their purpose but for Reuben. He shrank from participating in the murder of his brother, and proposed that Joseph be cast alive into a pit, and left there to perish; secretly intending, however, to rescue him and return him to his father. Having persuaded all to consent to this plan, Reuben left the company, fearing that he might fail to control his feelings, and that his real intentions would be discovered. . . .

"To become a slave was a fate more to be feared than death. In an agony of terror he [Joseph] appealed to one and another of his brothers, but in vain. Some were moved with pity, but fear of derision kept them silent; all felt that they had now gone too far to retreat. If Joseph were spared, he would doubtless report them to the father, who would not overlook their cruelty toward his favorite son" (*Patriarchs and Prophets,* pp. 211, 212).

When do I keep silent when I should speak out against something? What fears keep me silent? What is God calling me to take a stand on today?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Competition Versus Cooperation*	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, index cards with words from the story
		B. Advertising	old magazines, newspapers, advertising flyers, scissors
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 67. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, offering plate/basket, world map, pushpins
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles; three brown paper bags with the following contents in each (these can be a picture, drawing, toy or replica of the item): a sheep, a multicolored shirt or jacket, play money
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, white/chalkboard or large paper, writing utensils
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Honesty Affirmations*	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk, paper, pencils/pens
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments B. Reminder to Parents C. Coming Up Next Week	

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READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ index cards with words from the story
- ☐ markers/chalk

Competition Versus Cooperation

Before class write on index cards words from the story of Joseph (brothers, flocks, cistern, meal, caravan, twenty shekels, sackcloth). Create two identical sets of index cards and hide the cards from one set on one side of the Sabbath School room and the other set on the other side of the room. (i.e., tape them to the bottom of chairs). Write on the board the Bible reference: Genesis 37:12-35.

Divide students into two teams. Say: **Today we will do a scavenger hunt. If you are on team one, you will compete against your team members and your goal will be to find more index cards than any of your team members from this side of the room.** (Show them on which side of the room they could look for index cards.) **Each member of team one needs to keep his/her index cards. If you are on team two, your task is to work together to find the index cards on this side of the room.** (Point to the opposite side of the classroom where they will look for the index cards.) **Team two needs to choose a person who will collect everyone's index cards on your team at the end of the activity.** Give students a specific time frame to complete the scavenger hunt.

Debriefing

Ask: **Team one, how did you feel competing against each other? Team two, how did you feel working together?** Say: **If you were on team two, you may recognize the story from the words your group has found. When we work together each person benefits. Our power point today is:**

We respect one another by being honest and positive.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ old magazines, newspapers, advertising flyers
- ☐ scissors

Advertising

Leave your newspapers, magazines, etc., on a table. Allow the students to go through them and cut out advertisements that they perceive as false. (It may be better to cut out specific advertisements ahead of time so that students are not distracted.) Guide them in a discussion of what makes each ad they chose false and how to make it true.

Debriefing

Ask: **Is there any danger in false advertising?** (yes) **If so, what?** (to the consumer, if a product fails and the consumer gets hurt; to other businesses because the product might give their products a bad reputation) **Why do you think advertisers lie?** (to make money, sell more products) **Do they ever have to face any consequences?** (sometimes, when there are lawsuits or decreasing sales) **Can friends falsely advertise their friendship?** (yes) **In what way?** (by pretending to be something they are not; by covering up something they did)

Our power text today is:

"An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies" (Proverbs 12:17).

Remember, in our community we can share God's love:

We respect one another by being honest and positive.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows that they shared with you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"The Law of the Lord" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 97)
"He Will Carry You" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 82)
"Spirit Song" (*He Is Our Song,* no. 72)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. You may use a map of the world where the students can identify and mark with pushpins the location of the mission story.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ offering plate/basket

Say: **Practicing honesty in our relationship with others means that we must be honest in our relationship with God. Let us thank God for the privilege of giving to His service.**

Prayer

Share the following prayer with your students and encourage them to begin each day by saying it:

"Dear Lord, teach us how to solve problems in positive ways. Help us to look to you for guidance in all our relationships with others. In Your name we pray. Amen."

*Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

Introducing the Bible Story

Ask: **Who will share a time when you felt as if a friend or a family member just didn't understand you?** (Allow time for response only if students seem to want to share.) **When have you been in a situation in which bad feelings, maybe even name-calling or fighting, seemed to be the only way to communicate? How might "speaking the truth in love" accomplish more?** (Allow and guide sharing if your students want to talk.)

Say: **We are still looking at the story of Joseph and his brothers.**

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ three paper bags
- ☐ three toy sheep OR pictures of sheep
- ☐ three colorful shirts OR jackets
- ☐ play money

Experiencing the Story

Have the students open their Bibles and take turns reading verses from Genesis 37:12-35. When they finish, divide the class into three groups. Give each group a bag containing the following: a toy sheep or picture of a sheep, a colorful shirt or jacket, play money.

Say: **The story of Joseph and his brothers is about many things: honesty, problem-solving, jealousy, loyalty, violence. As with many situations, the brothers could have stopped what they were doing at any point and the story would have ended differently. Discuss what the brothers could have done differently at various points in the story and act it out with a more positive way of solving their problem with Joseph. You may use the items in the bag for props. Be prepared to share your skit with the class and to answer questions as to why you chose that ending.**

Debriefing

Ask questions based on the skits the students present, such as: **Why did you choose the solution that you did? Why did you choose to have the brothers change at that point? What made the new solution you proposed effective? Let's remember:**

We respect one another by being honest and positive.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Allow students who experience difficulty with this activity to work with a partner.

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APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard OR large paper
- ☐ writing utensils

Exploring the Bible

Say: **Let's see what the Bible has to say about honesty and speaking the truth.** List the following texts where all can see: Psalm 51:6; Philippians 4:8; Proverbs 12:19; Ephesians 4:15; John 16:13; 17:17. As the students find the texts, ask the following questions and appoint a "scribe" to write out the verses on the board beside the appropriate text.

Where does telling the truth begin? Psalm 51:6 (inside us)

How does it get there? Philippians 4:8 (by thinking about it)

Where does the truth come from? John 17:17 (the Word, which is God)

What or who makes the truth stick? John 16:13 (the Holy Spirit)

What is a consequence of lying? of truth-telling? Proverbs 12:19 (shortened life; eternal life)

What was missing from Joseph's brothers' lives? Ephesians 4:15 (speaking the truth with love)

Let's remember:

"An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies" (Proverbs 12:17).

Scenario

Read the following to the students: **An armored vehicle drove down the main street of a fairly big city. Bags of money were falling out of the back of the truck. People rushed into the oncoming traffic to grab a bag or two. When the driver of the armored vehicle realized the money was falling out, he stopped. By this time thousands of dollars had been stolen.**

Of all the people who stole money that day, only one woman returned $20 that her son got from a friend.

Debriefing

Ask: **What would you have done? What if you could have taken some of the money without anyone finding out? How difficult is it to be honest? Remember, our power point this week is:**

We respect one another by being honest and positive.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils/pens
- ☐ chalkboard OR whiteboard
- ☐ marker or chalk

Honesty Affirmations

Write the words "honesty" and "affirmations" on the board. Say: **An affirmation is a positive statement of belief. If you think you want to be an honest person, you would say, "I am an honest person."**

Give the students time to write an affirmation for each text in the Exploring the Bible section. Have them share with the group.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why is it important to state an affirmation as if it has already happened?** (Your mind starts working on the change process immediately.) **Why are affirmations important?** (They state important ideas in ways that help us, by God's grace, to change.)

Say: **Think of one person with whom you can share an affirmation this week. Take one of your affirmations, change the "I" to "You" and create the affirmation you will share. For example, tell a friend at school, "I know you are an honest person; I trust you to . . ."** Give students a chance to tell you their affirmations and with whom they will share them. In addition, provide an opportunity for students to verbally affirm one another in class.

Accommodation for students with special needs:
Students with physical or learning disabilities may need assistance with this activity. Allow them to work with a partner who can help them.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Pray for God's guidance as students determine to treat one another honestly and positively. Pray for God's blessing on the affirmations they will share with others. Close with students praying in pairs. Encourage them to affirm each other to God in prayer.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Joseph is honest and loyal to his employer. God has given us guidelines to love and respect one another.**

Notes

Student lesson

Brother for Sale

Have you ever felt misunderstood by a friend or family member? Did it seem as if you just couldn't communicate? What might have happened if you had spoken "the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15)?

Here comes that dreamer! Let's do something to get rid of him once and for all." The brothers gathered as Joseph came across the fields toward their encampment. "Father has sent him to check up on us again."

Reuben, the oldest, spoke up. "Listen, let's not get too mean. Let's just throw him down this well. That will give us time to think up a good way to deal with him. But let's not kill him. After all, he is our brother." Secretly, Reuben hoped to rescue Joseph when the others were busy.

As Joseph got closer, his brothers started calling out names and making nasty comments. They grabbed him, tore off the fancy robe their father had given him, and threw him down the empty well nearby. Reuben, always a little weak, didn't want to get into trouble with his father by letting something bad happen to Joseph. But he didn't want to be in trouble with his brothers, either. He wandered off to try to think up a plan that wouldn't get him in trouble with anybody.

The other brothers were pleased with themselves and sat down to eat the meal they had been preparing.

Joseph—bruised, scared, and hungry—sat in the dark musty well with the cooking smells drifting down to him. He called to one brother at a time, hoping one of them would soften a little and at least lower him something to eat. But Joseph might as well have been calling to the wind.

As the brothers were eating, one of them noticed something coming their way far off on the horizon. Two of them jumped up, curious to see what it was.

"It's a caravan!" one brother shouted. From the direction it was heading, it must be on its way to Egypt, they reasoned.

Judah spoke up. "Why don't we sell Joseph instead of killing him?" The others looked at him to see if he was joking. "That way we won't have his death on our consciences," he continued. Although some of them still really wanted to kill Joseph, they finally agreed to Judah's plan.

By the time the caravan arrived, Joseph's brothers had pulled him up out of the well for the traders to look over. They haggled over the price, wanting to get the most they could out of this young pest.

"What! I wouldn't sell you a sick sheep for that price!" said one brother as he argued with the slave trader.

"And I wouldn't buy your whole flock for that price, let alone one slave," retorted the buyer. They haggled on, finally coming to a price they could all agree on. Joseph looked on in a daze. The scene around him seemed unreal.

The next thing Joseph knew, he was being dragged through the sand by men from the caravan. They tied him to their other slaves. The ropes bit into his wrists sharply.

He watched his brothers count their money and threw them a pleading look as he stumbled off behind the caravan. What had he done? What was he to do now? He decided that the only thing that might help was to pray for himself to the God his father had always told him about. He had no one else to turn to. His father's God would have to be his own God now.

A little while later Reuben came wandering back to camp, still hoping to find the right opportunity to rescue Joseph and send him back to their father. He stopped by the well and looked down. "He's gone! What am I to do now? What will I tell Father?" he cried, tearing his robe.

The other brothers were busy killing a goat. They dipped Joseph's coat in the blood of the goat.

"Calm down!" the brothers told Reuben. "With this bloodstain on his robe, Father is sure to think that a wild animal attacked and killed Joseph. We'll just say that we found it along the way." They laughed over their clever idea and got ready to roast the goat meat for their next meal.

Early the next morning they set out to face their father. When they arrived back at home camp, Jacob saw Joseph's robe with the bloodstains all over it. He assumed, just as the brothers had hoped, that a wild animal had attacked and killed Joseph. The grieving father cried and tore his clothes. He wouldn't be comforted.

The brothers quietly drifted off to their own tents and families. What they had done didn't seem quite as clever now. They were rid of Joseph, but they would have to live with their father's grief for a very long time. Their

KEY REFERENCES

- Genesis 37:12-35
- *Patriarchs and Prophets,* chap. 19, pp. 208-212
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 2, pp. 47-50
- Our Beliefs, nos. 8, 14, 11

POWER TEXT

"An honest witness tells the truth, but a false witness tells lies" (Proverbs 12:17).

POWER POINT

We respect one another by being honest and positive.

camp community had lost its atmosphere of jealousy for a while, but now it was covered by an atmosphere of mourning.

As for Joseph, in those moments of deepest perplexity, he placed his life into the hands of God. He trusted that the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would take care of him in the future.







Sabbath

DO Do this week's activity on page 47.

Sunday

READ Read Proverbs 12:17 and this week's story, "Brother for Sale."

DRAW Draw a well. Write the power text, Proverbs 12:17, on it. Post it where you can see it every day, and start learning the text.

PRAY Ask God to show you how to be an "honest witness" this week.

Monday

READ Read Genesis 37:12–20.

THINK When have you lied about something or gone along with someone else's lie?

DESCRIBE In your Bible study journal, describe what happened to you and the others in this situation. How could you have handled the situation better?

PRAY Ask God to help you to always speak the truth.

Tuesday

READ Read Genesis 37:21–35.

REVISE Rewrite Reuben's part of the story, thinking about some of the things he could have done differently to save Joseph.

IMAGINE Imagine you are Reuben. Practice a short speech that you could say to your father to explain what has happened to Joseph and your part in it.

PRAY Ask God for wisdom in relating to others.

Wednesday

READ Read 1 Thessalonians 5:15.

APPLY What is this verse saying we should do? How could I apply these principles in my relationships?

PRAY Ask God to show you three ways you could apply these verses to that problem.

Thursday

READ Read Hebrews 12:14, 15.

RESEARCH Find a Bible with a concordance or marginal references in it. Find as many texts as you can about honesty and truth.

CREATE Create a picture, sculpture, collage, or drawing of what honesty and truth look like.

PRAY Ask God to speak to you as you commit to honesty and truthfulness.

Friday

READ Read 1 Peter 3:8, 9.

TALK If you are able to, talk with your family about a situation in which you may have felt as if you were treated unfairly. What is the best response you could have given in that situation?

PRAY Now that you have confessed, and accepted God's forgiveness, claim God's power not to make the same mistake again.