

Joseph and His Brothers Skit

Part 1: The Brothers' First Trip to Egypt

Roles: Reuben, Simeon, Joseph, Joseph's Steward, other brothers (1–8 extras)
Props: small table for Joseph to stand behind, clothing such as scarves, headbands, towels for head coverings/turbans, robes, white sheet/robe for Joseph, coins
Setting: Joseph's grain-selling table in Egypt
Scripture passage: Genesis 42

(Brothers approach the table where Joseph is standing and bow down before him.)

Reuben: My lord, we are here to buy grain.

Joseph: Where are you from?

Simeon: The land of Canaan.

(Joseph turns to the side and says, "These are my brothers!" but they don't recognize him.)

Joseph: *(Speaking harshly.)* You are spies!

Brothers: No, my lord! We have only come to buy food!

Reuben: We are honest men, the sons of one man.

Brothers: We are not spies!

Joseph: No! You are here to find ways to attack Egypt!

Brothers: We are twelve brothers, all sons of one man in Canaan.

Simeon: Our youngest brother is with our father, and one brother is dead.

Joseph: If what you say is true, you may take grain back to your family.

Brothers: Thank you, my lord. Thank you.

Joseph: But, I will keep one of your brothers here in prison until you bring your youngest brother to me to prove you're not lying.

Brothers: *(Speaking to each other.)* This is happening because of what we did to Joseph!

Reuben: Didn't I tell you not to hurt Joseph? But you didn't listen. Now look at this trouble we're in!

(Joseph's steward takes Simeon away and puts him in prison.)

Joseph: The rest of you will be given grain so you may return to the land of Canaan.

Brothers: Thank you! You are most gracious and merciful!

Joseph: Make sure you bring your youngest brother back to me.

Brothers: Yes, lord!

(Brothers back away from Joseph, bowing and mumbling thank you.)

Print one skit for each student and one for your use.

Part 2: The Brothers' Second Trip to Egypt

Roles: Joseph, Joseph's Steward, Judah, Reuben, Simeon, Benjamin, other brothers (1–7 extras), optional Egyptian servants

Setting: Joseph's house at mealtime

Scripture passages: Genesis 43–45

Props: silver cup, sack or bag for Benjamin, coins, table and chairs for brothers, chair for Joseph (*separate from main table*), clothing such as scarves, headbands, towels for head coverings/turbans, robes, white sheet/robe for Joseph

(Steward and all the brothers except Simeon enter the area by the table. Simeon should be nearby. Egyptian servant extras may be in the background around the table.)

Steward: You are welcome in my master's house. You will eat a meal here.

Judah: The money we brought last time to buy grain was found in our sacks, but we've brought that money, and more, to pay.

Reuben: We don't know how the money ended up back in our sacks.

Steward: Don't worry. God gave you the money in your sacks. I had your money.

(The brothers stand at the table. The steward goes and gets Simeon and brings him in.)

Brothers: Simeon!

Judah: Are you okay? How were you treated?

Simeon: I was fed and treated just fine.

(Joseph enters and his brothers bow down to him.)

Joseph: Is your elderly father still alive? Is he well?

Brothers: Our father is alive.

Joseph: And this is your younger brother? *(Points to Benjamin.)*

Brothers: Yes.

Joseph: *(Speaking to Benjamin.)* God be gracious to you, my son.

(Joseph leaves the table area, wiping his eyes, and then speaks to his steward.)

Joseph: Serve the meal, and give Benjamin five times as much as the others.

(Joseph sits on his chair away from the brothers' table. Brothers sit down and pretend to eat and drink.)

Joseph: Tomorrow I will send you on your way with grain for your family.

Brothers: Thank you!

(Brothers stand up from table and pretend to be preparing for their journey. Joseph and his steward stand away from the brothers and talk so they can't hear.)

Joseph: Fill their sacks with grain, put their money in the sacks, and put my silver cup in the sack of the youngest brother.

(Steward takes a bag and slips the cup in it and hands it to Benjamin while other brothers are busy.)

(Brothers wave to Joseph and circle the room as if they're traveling.)

Joseph: *(Speaking to his steward.)* Go after them and ask them why they stole my silver cup.

(Steward runs after brothers, yelling for them to stop.)

Judah: Sir! What is it? Why have you come after us?

Steward: Why have you done evil to my master by stealing his special silver cup?

Brothers: We would never do such a thing!

Reuben: Whoever has stolen it, let him die, and the rest of us will be your master's slaves.

Steward: No, only the one who has stolen the cup will become a slave, the rest can go free.

(Steward checks hands/pockets/sack of each brother, ending with Benjamin. He pulls the cup out of Benjamin's sack. Brothers look surprised and horrified.)

Brothers: Benjamin!

Benjamin: *(Looking scared and confused.)* I didn't steal it! I don't know how it got there!

Judah: We all need to go back.

(Steward brings all the brothers back to Joseph, and they fall at his feet.)

Judah: There is nothing we can say that will prove we are not guilty. We are your slaves.

Joseph: No, only the one who took my cup will be my slave. The rest of you may go in peace to your father.

Judah: Please, my lord. We told you about our youngest brother. He is special to our father. If we go home without him, it will kill our father with sadness. Please let me stay as your slave instead of Benjamin.

Joseph: My servants, leave now!

(Steward and any servant extras leave. Joseph starts crying loudly.)

(Brothers look at each other, confused, until Joseph stops crying.)

Joseph: I am Joseph! Does my father still live?

Brothers: It can't be!

Joseph: It is me, Joseph, your brother whom you sold into Egypt!

(Brothers look scared.)

Brothers: Joseph?!

Joseph: Do not be sad or angry because you sold me. I forgive you. God sent me here to save your lives. I am lord of Pharaoh's house and ruler of Egypt. Two years of famine have passed, and five more are coming. You must bring Father and the rest of the family here. I will take care of you and give you food.

Brothers: We can't believe it! It's really him!

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