

Beautiful BIBLE TREASURES For Children

Lesson 22

Level A—Little Bible Treasures:
Comparing and Coats

Level B—Children's Bible Treasures:
Comparing and Coats

Level C— Story Time with Jesus:
Comparing and Coats

Level D— What Does it Actually Say?:
Comparing and Coats

Level E— Bible Bits: Parables of Jesus—Friend at
Midnight and Mustard Seed/ Topic Treasures—Wishing
to Be Thought of as Better Than Others

Comparing and Coats

Jacob loved his son Joseph very much, and gave him a special coat.

It seemed to Joseph's brothers that he was getting all the best things, and they weren't very nice to Joseph.

It would have been better if they had been kind and had more faith that good things would come for them too.

God had something difficult for Joseph to do, so it was nice that he had a few special treats beforehand.

Joseph had to go to Egypt to be a helper there. He missed his family, but was able to learn things there that he would need to know in order to do a special job later on.

God was preparing him to do something that would be a great help to his brothers and father and family.



Comparing and Coats

Joseph was a special boy—special to Jacob, because he was one of Rachel's two sons. He also had a special job to do for God. But when he was young, his older brothers had a problem.

Have you ever been sad because it seemed as if your brother, or sister, or friend, or even someone you just happened to see one day, were getting much better things than you?



It will always seem like others have things you don't. But you know, you also have things they don't. Why? Because each one on Earth has different things happening to them at different times.

Each one learns different lessons and has different jobs to do in this world. But for those that love God and follow His way, in spite of difficult times, He'll make sure to bring the best things their way. Maybe not all the time, or just when they want something great, but when the time is right.



Joseph's father gave him a fancy, colourful new coat—just him. But his brothers didn't like that, or anything else that they thought Joseph was getting that seemed better than what they had.

They thought it would make things easier for them if Joseph lived in another place, so he was sent to live and work hard in Egypt. But that only made their father very sad, and the brothers regretted it.

God had a plan for Joseph and would bring some good things his way again. Even when things were hard for Joseph, God took good care of him and helped him to learn many new things.

Activity

*Let the children try to do some simple "weaving". Use a box and stretch yarn or strips of cloth over it, and secure them, tying the ends together at the bottom of the box. Then use strips of cloth or yarn to weave under and over, to make the weaving pattern.

Comparing and Coats



Seeds of jealousy and pride can be dangerous if you are trying to live in love and harmony with your brothers and sisters. Jealousy and negatively comparing with others can show up in all kinds of ways. Perhaps your brother or a friend seem to always be the first to get things they'd like, or it seems your parents do nice things for them that they never did exactly the same for you.

It's a dangerous thing to let that little ugly feeling start to stick around, like a plant taking root. Because once you do, things in the garden of your life will only get you down more and more, and soon you may feel angry and upset all the time. You have to stop those thoughts right when they first start.

Perhaps it's true, that someone got something nice today that wasn't given to you before. But the feeling and thought that tries to creep in, that "it's because you aren't special or loved", will make things so much worse! That thought tries to not only take away your happiness right then, but ruin the friendships you could have and the happy times you could be having.

Every day there will be things that others get that you never did! That's because every day is different for each person on Earth. Something new—or many new things—happen to each one on Earth each day, to help them learn something.

But there's not only sad or difficult things that happen—but good things also, or else people would get too discouraged trying to learn all of the lessons their life might be teaching them.

So sometimes great things, happy things, happen to others—or at least things appear that way to you, as you observe what gets given to others, or an event in someone else's life. Then there are the hard things too—really hard.

When you see someone get something you wish you could have had, and never got, it's good to remind yourself that it's like a little bit of encouragement for the many other difficult things they are having to learn and experience, or will yet have to .



Not everyone can have all the good things at the same time. Each one's day is different from anyone else's on Earth.

Think of it like fruit trees, or gardens and plants. Each different type grows best, and produces fruit best at different times of the year, and in different parts of the world. And each type of plant can manage to hold what is best for them.

If the mango tree was feeling bad that its fruit was much smaller than the watermelon, and the watermelon vine was sad that it couldn't stand tall and strong and have as many pieces of fruit on it as the mango tree, it would be silly! Watermelons wouldn't do well if they were on a tree. So each one has the things that happen in their lives that seem different—some good, some not so good—but all are for a purpose.

If you use the things you learn in life to do good for others, and you don't waste your time or thoughts on trying to notice how others seem to be getting more and better things first, then you'll be much happier. In time, when things change, and it's your turn to get the better things, and others are having a harder time, you'll see how things really do all balance out.

When others are feeling bad and thinking that you have better things than they do, it doesn't help them if you tell them how great you think you are. Walking in loving humility, and not always talking about everything wonderful that you feel is happening to you, might help.

Put yourself in their place and say things that are kind, thoughtful and encouraging to them. Give them hope that things will get better for them too. Show love and kindness, and bring to their attention the good things that they might have forgotten or failed to see, due to their looking at the present lacks or losses. Point out the things that they are better at than you. Lift them up with your humble way of speaking.

One boy learned this the hard way. He was Jacob's son Joseph. Jacob had many sons, but one day he made a special coat just for Joseph. Isn't it nice to sometimes be the only one to get something special that's just for you? It can feel better than just getting something that's the same as everyone else has received, right?

Everyone wants to feel that cosy feeling of being loved as an individual. It's good to remember that. So when someone seems to be the only one getting something nice, remember that you like it when that happens at times to you too, and you wouldn't want people to get sad about that.

Don't you want people to act glad that you are enjoying something? It shows love when you can be glad that someone is happy.

Now, making coats back when Jacob was around was no simple thing. It took lots of time and effort. First they had to raise sheep, care for them and provide all that they need to grow strong and healthy and to grow good thick wool. Then came the job of shearing the sheep, and washing the wool. Then the thread had to be made from the wool.



To colour the thread, and not just leave it brownish-white, was a whole different process than it is today. There were no shops where they could buy clothing dye. They had to figure out how to make the dye, and do it themselves. Then came the long task of weaving and sewing it into clothes, one thread at a time. So, when Jacob gave Joseph a coat made of many colours, it was a big gift.

It would have been very hard for old Jacob to have made 12 coats—one for each boy, right? He wouldn't have had much time to do anything else, and it would have taken a very long time. But Joseph's brothers allowed those weeds of feeling angry towards Joseph into their heart.

Then, adding to it all, Joseph began to have some special dreams. Perhaps it would have been better not to have told his brothers about them. The dreams seemed to be telling how important Joseph was going to be, even more important than his brothers—that they would bow down to him one day.

The reason for the dreams wasn't to make Joseph feel proud and important, nor was it to make his brothers feel upset. God gave those dreams, and that special coat, and all the things that seemed to be going better for him, as a preparation. He was about to have the most difficult life of all of them. The brothers may not have had a coat like Joseph's, but what happened next didn't happen to them either.

All things work together for good to them that love God—and this story shows that clearly. Joseph had been sent to check on his brothers, who were older and taking care of the flocks at quite a distance away. The brothers felt they'd had enough of having Joseph around. Some of them decided to send him far away, to live in Egypt, with some travellers who were passing through right then on their way to Egypt.

They thought if he wasn't right there with them anymore, then they'd be happier. But that really didn't make them feel better. The brothers felt sad and afraid in their heart for so many years, because of the wrong they'd done, and their daddy missed Joseph so much.

It didn't make their father all of a sudden do all of these nice things for them. In reality things were worse, because their father was so very sad all the time.

The Lord was with Joseph as he began to work in Egypt, doing his best, even though the work was hard, the language was new for him, and he was there without his family. Eventually, things worked out for good, as you'll find out when you read on. But there was a long time of difficult feelings for everyone as a result of the choices those older boys made.

So the way to change that bad feeling when you are comparing and jealous, thinking someone else is getting all the best things, and that you aren't, isn't to just not have them around, or to try to make things hard for them.

Instead do as Jacob did with Esau—pray for peace and friendship, share and give what you can, be humble, think of others as better than yourself, and realise that God has a plan for each person, and things won't always be the best all the time for everyone.

Each person will have their turn-of-events, and hard times, maybe even harder than you've ever had or will have. If it's going rough for you now, you can be encouraged that things will get better one day, or special things will happen as time goes on, as you keep choosing God's way and loving Him more than anything and anyone else.



Let's Talk About It

*Being "happy for someone else" is the way to not get sad when comparing what you have or don't have with someone else. Imagine a situation that would be hard for you to stay happy in, if you saw something that someone else received, or got to experience? Can you imagine a good thought you could think that would help you to be happy because they are happy, and to remember something that you have that they don't?

*What could you say or do for someone who feels like you are the one getting the things that they wish they had? If someone is comparing negatively with you, is there anything you could do to help them feel better?

Activity

*Try to make something with cloth! (Simple hand stitches with a needle and thread, or sewing on a button, or doing simple stitch designs and embroidery, or making something that can simply be cut out of cloth—like little sheets for a doll's bed, etc.)

Comparing and Coats



Connect and Communicate

*Play charades and act out favourite Bible characters for each other to guess.

Study Fun

Repeat aloud: Any questions that you notice in this passage.

Select: The phrases of the "wrong way to do things" and think of, or find a Bible verse that reminds you of the right and loving way to be.

Summarise: What Joseph's dreams were about.

Genesis

35:27 And Jacob came unto Isaac his father unto Mamre, unto the city of Arbah, which is Hebron, where Abraham and Isaac sojourned.

37:3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

37:4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

37:5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

37:6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

37:7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.



37:8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

37:13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

37:14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

37:15 And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

37:16 And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.

37:17 And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

37:19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

37:23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

37:24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

37:25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold, a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

37:28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit ... and they brought Joseph into Egypt.



Activity

*Play a "count your blessings" game. One person states an imaginary idea of someone who has something that they don't. Then everyone else tells ideas of what that person, who doesn't have it, has instead. (For example: "If I saw someone who had a large, big house, I could remember..." and others might say things like: "you have good health," "you aren't blind," "you have caring parents," etc.)



Fountain of Faith

1Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Psalms 18:2

The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.



Parables of Jesus—Friend at Midnight and Mustard Seed

Prayer

Matthew 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

*Set an empty chair "in the midst", and talk to Jesus, as if you can see Him sitting there, just like you'd do with your father, if he were there. (Matthew 18:20—For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.)

Friend at midnight

Luke

11:5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

11:6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

11:7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

11:8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

11:10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

Discussion Questions:

*Is there something that you would really like or feel is important? Have you prayed for it?

*Do you always see the effect of answered prayers at the very moment you pray? What does this story tell us that we might need to do?

Mustard Seed

Mark

4:26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;

4:27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

4:28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

4:29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

4:30 And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it?

4:31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth:

4:32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.

Discussion Questions:

- *Is the whole world, right now, like God's Kingdom? Why not?
- *What is the "seed" we can sow now to help things to get better and people and nations prepare to go God's way?
- *When the time is right and Jesus comes back and is King of all, what are some things you'll be glad to have Him change and make right?

Activity

*Make your own "Parables of Jesus" picture book, and draw pictures for each parable read about here. Colour them, if you want to. You can retell the story lesson to your younger brothers and sisters, showing your art!



Topic Treasures

— Wishing to Be Thought
of As Better Than Others

Study Fun

Repeat aloud: One or two key phrases or words from some of the verses, after reading a verse and noticing a catchy important phrase that's worth repeating.

Select: A verse to commit to memory. Chant it together until you know it by heart.

Summarise: The life of Jesus, as brought out in Philipians 2:5,7-8, and the situations and instances in His life that these verses remind you of.

Galatians 5:26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

Philippians 2:3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

James 3:16-17 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.



Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 16:20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.

James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

1 Peter 5:5-6 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.

Philippians 2:5,7-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

1 Corinthians 8:2 And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.

John 12:43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Luke 14:10 But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee.



Daily Diary

*Everyone wants to be well thought of by others, but what type of people do you actually admire the most? What type of qualities do you want to find in others, and want to strive to have yourself?

Here's an example to get you thinking. Say you are going to a party, and Mr. Excellent walks in. He's good looking and has nice clothes, and seems to be capable at doing most things, and hopes everyone realises how great he is. Well, you might think when looking at him, "I want to be like that!" But that's not what we are talking about here. Those are things he seems to have, that you might wish for. But how does he make you feel, personally? Has he helped you reach your dreams and goals, and brought you closer to Jesus?

So then in walks someone else, looking not quite as attractive on the outside. You'd hardly know they even walked in at all, except for the smiles on people's faces after talking with this person. Each person they meet feels happier, loved and appreciated. What is it that they have that is causing good reactions in others? When the party is over, who did people really think the best of in the end?