

Sunday School Family Sheet: Do Not Murder

Sunday, December 13, 2020

This sheet is for an adult member of the home to use as a guide for discussing the Sunday School Bible lesson with children.

For this lesson: You will need either:
1) a Bible, or
2) 365 Bible Stories and Prayers
ISBN: 978-1-68052-407-9
(Call the church office 9715-848-7286 for help getting one)

1. **Read and Talk.** Read aloud either Genesis 37:18-35 or pp. 47-48 in 365 Bible Stories and Prayers. Before reading aloud, explain the following: “Remember how Jacob spoiled Joseph and treated him better than he treated his other sons? In this next story, we’re going to hear how the brothers responded. God wants us to respect life and help others have a happy life . . . but what do those brothers do?” Then ask the children to keep these questions in mind. **Then, *after reading*, go over the answers and guide them towards the answers here:**

- a. What do Joseph’s brothers want him to do at first?
(They wanted to kill him.)
- b. Which brother tries to think of a way to save him?
(Reuben tried to think of a way to save him.)
- c. What do the brothers do instead? *(They sold him as a slave to Egypt.)*
- d. How do they convince Jacob that he is dead?
(They dipped his torn coat in goat’s blood.)

2. **Teach.** After you’ve talked a bit, share these or similar thoughts: So Joseph’s brothers’ didn’t kill him! But did they respect his life? No, they really didn’t. They took him away from his father and family and took away his freedom by selling to be a slave in Egypt. *Slaves* have to do what others tell them and are not treated well—they are like prisoners! So even though they did not *kill* Joseph, they did not respect his life, either. They did not keep the commandment: “You shall not murder.”

What are some ways that they *could* have dealt with their anger at Joseph? How could they have made that problem better without treating Joseph so badly? *(Guide them towards answers, such as, talked to Joseph and their father about it; treated each other very well; asked Jacob, their father, to treat them better.)* How do you think you should treat your brothers, sister, cousins, or friends? *(receive their answers as they give them.)*

3. **Pray.** Continue to teach the children to remember their Baptism by crossing themselves and saying, “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Also, lead them in a prayer for life: “Dear God, who wants all life to grow and be well: help us to love, even when others don’t treat us well, and to respect the life of those who may not respect us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”