

Program Ideas and Bible Study

May 2001

# SABBATH LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

**Caring People  
Listen Carefully**

How to Satisfy  
Young Adults

**Tips for  
Adult VBS**

**Being Heard Warms the Heart**

# Our Examples

**Purpose:** To observe through the window of Scripture how God delivers His people "through" their trials that His name may be glorified and His providence revealed.

**Materials Needed:** Bibles, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, notebook paper, dry erase board with marker and eraser.

**Theme Texts:** Genesis 37, 39-47:7; 2 Timothy 3:12; Psalm 147:5-7; Revelation 3:10, 11.

**Note:** When reading Spirit of Prophecy materials in class, refer to the books as "useful resources" and Ellen G. White as a "well-known Christian author."

## May 5: From Pit to Palace

**Texts:** Genesis 45:4-8; 50:18-20.

**Discussion:** God had a purpose for his life and through great trials, Joseph fulfilled that purpose. Joseph was betrayed into the hands of the enemy by his own brothers, accused falsely, imprisoned further though he was already a slave, and mistreated. Joseph's life typifies that of Christ's. **Activity:** Read Genesis 39:2-6; Philippians 2:13-15; and Matthew 5:13-16. Ask: What can be learned from Joseph's example of representing his God in the midst of adversity? Role-play how patience under pressure can glorify God. Search for more Bible examples of such patience. Share personal examples.

## May 12: Siblings in Contention

**Texts:** Genesis 37:26-34; Matthew 5:21, 22; Exodus 20:12.

**Discussion:** Joseph's older brothers were in conflict with God, Joseph, one another, and themselves individually. The controversy between Christ and Satan is clearly represented here. What sins did Joseph's older brothers cherish that put them in danger of the judgment as if they murdered him? Describe how they dishonored their father in this situation. **Activity:** Divide the class into four groups, and discuss for a couple minutes

how Joseph was in contention in the ways described above, one group for each category of contention. Choose one person to write the findings of each group on a dry erase board. Now beside each list, show two or three ways that the strife could have been avoided. Be certain to give everyone an opportunity to give his or her input.

## May 19: Children Showcased

**Texts:** Genesis 49.

**Discussion:** The male children of Jacob were as vastly different in disposition as snowflakes. They can represent the many ways people choose to relate to God. A close look at each son and the tribe he represents would provide sound counsel for our journey toward God. Let us recognize that God has many children who are different, but have equal challenges in this life. All are tempted and tried; however, God has provided a way of escape, and we can choose to avail ourselves of this power, or choose to serve another master to our demise. As Jacob wanted the best for his children, our heavenly Father has demonstrated His supreme love for us by sending His son to be our substitute that we may be adopted into the family of God. **Activity:** In many ways Reuben was unstable. Read aloud *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 211, and discuss whether his love for Joseph was adequately demonstrated. Was Reuben ruled by the spirit of truth or fear? Jacob's proclamation that Reuben was unstable was accompanied with the statement that he would not excel. Read aloud *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 235 and 236, and contrast the proclamation about Reuben with the blessing of Judah. What is most impressive about the blessing of Judah and his posterity? Consider what Jacob said about Gad in Genesis 49:19 and invite class members to share with one another some encouragement about the walk with Christ.

Together, explore James 1:12 and Revelation 2:10.

## May 26: The Personal Factor

**Texts:** Matthew 5:44; Hebrews 4:7; 1 John 5:11-13.

**Discussion:** Joseph prefigures Christ. Both were betrayed. Both Joseph and Jesus were patient through their persecution, even though they did not deserve the harsh treatment they received. Joseph was a savior and refuge for his family during the time of famine. Jesus is our Saviour and refuge if we choose to be a part of His family. As a result of Joseph's having the spirit of Christ within, he was able to forgive those who spitefully used him. What can we learn from these powerful parallels? Just as the people were in a time of famine during Joseph's day with the option of receiving or rejecting help, the world is spiritually famished. What will your personal decision be? Will you choose to accept God's will for you to live eternally? Will you accept His aid through the Holy Spirit to be victorious over sin? While it is today, why not choose Jesus? As long as you are willing, obedient, and trust His wisdom, you will not be disappointed. Come on, friend. Jesus is waiting. **Activity:** Read *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pages 239 and 240. Share some examples of how Joseph was like Christ. Show how it is possible for us to be victorious no matter what the situation. Take a sheet of paper and write down some benefits you have received personally from accepting Christ. Write and share some things you would like to experience in the near future as your relationship with Christ grows.

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