Preschool–Grade 5

Joseph Coat of Many Colors Craft

The coat and the sack of corn · Genesis 37–50 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



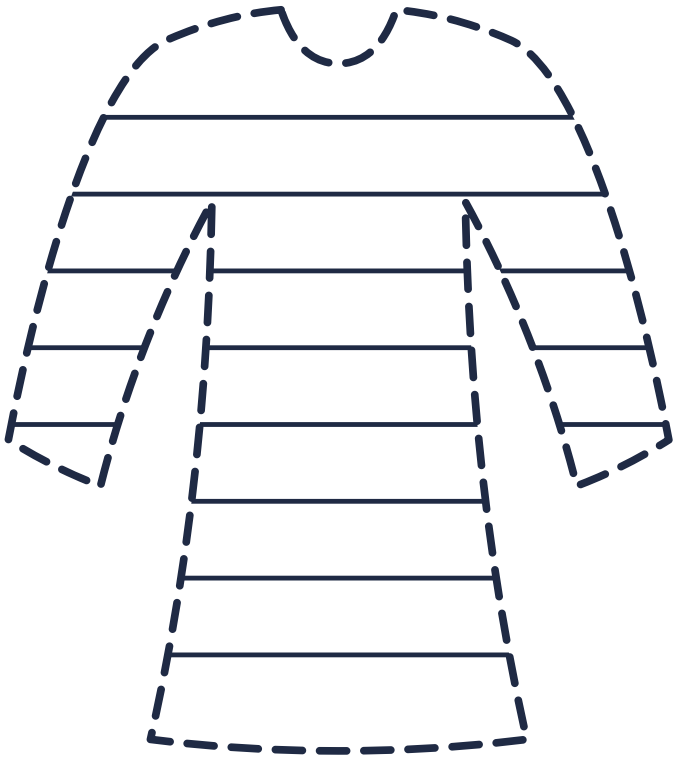
Harder

Both levels have Joseph's coat with every stripe a different color, because Jacob made him "a coat of many colours" (Genesis 37:3), and a sack of corn, because his brothers came to Egypt to buy corn in the famine (42:3). Medium (left): the coat and the sack on dark blue paper. Harder (right): the dream sky from page 3 across the top, with the sun, the moon and eleven stars (37:9).

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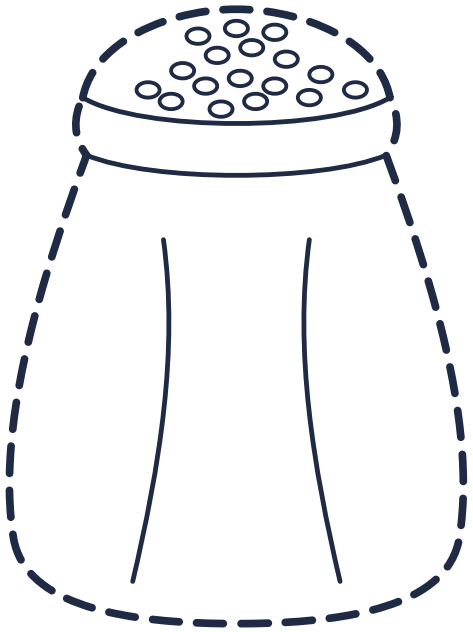
Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



Coat: color each stripe a different color

Use any colors you like.



Sack of corn (grain)

sack: light brown
corn at the top: yellow

But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good,
to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive.

Genesis 50:20 (KJV)

Color every stripe of the coat a different color, the sack light brown and the corn yellow. Cut out the coat, the sack and the verse strip on the dashed lines, and cut carefully around the neck and the sleeves. Glue the coat on the left half of the dark blue paper and the sack on the right half.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Dream sky (harder level)



Use the coat, the sack of corn and the verse strip from page 2.

How to make the dream sky

1. Make the coat and the sack of corn from page 2 and glue them near the bottom of the dark blue paper, the coat on the left and the sack on the right.
2. Count the stars on the dream sky. There are eleven, like the eleven stars in Joseph's second dream (Genesis 37:9).
3. Color the sun yellow and its rays orange. Color the moon and all eleven stars yellow. Leave the rest of the sky white.
4. Cut out the dream sky on the dashed lines. Cut the inside curve too.
5. Glue the dream sky across the top of the dark blue paper, above the coat and the sack, with the sun on the left and the moon on the right.
6. Joseph dreamed that "the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance" to him (Genesis 37:9). **Obeisance** means they bowed down. Years later, his brothers bowed down before him in Egypt (42:6). Say Genesis 50:20 from memory.

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/joseph-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), one sheet of dark blue construction paper per child (9 by 12 inches), crayons or markers in many colors (including light brown and yellow), scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and an orange crayon.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out each child's coat, sack of corn and verse strip.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's coat, sack of corn and verse strip. Kids color every stripe of the coat a different color and color the sack light brown and the corn yellow. Then they glue the coat on the left half of the dark blue paper and the sack on the right half. You glue the verse strip on the back. Read the verse together, or just "God meant it unto good."
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the coat, the sack and the verse strip, and glue them on the dark blue paper. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the coat and the sack like the medium level, then color and cut out the dream sky from page 3, count its eleven stars and glue it across the top of the paper. Kids say Genesis 50:20 from memory before they take it home. This is the craft in the second photo.

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Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color each stripe of the coat a different color. Use any colors you like: the Bible says Jacob made Joseph "a coat of many colours" (Genesis 37:3), and it doesn't name the colors. Color the sack light brown and the corn at the top of the sack yellow.
2. **Cut:** cut out the coat, the sack of corn and the verse strip on the dashed lines. Cut carefully around the neck and the sleeves.
3. **Coat:** hold the dark blue paper the wide way. Glue the coat on the left half, near the bottom.
4. **Sack:** glue the sack of corn on the right half, near the bottom. Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy corn, which means grain, because of the famine (42:1–3).
5. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back and read it together.
6. **Tell the story:** point to the coat. Joseph's brothers took off his coat and sold him (37:23–28). Then point to the sack. God was with Joseph (39:2) and used him to store up corn and save many people from the famine (41:49, 50:20).

Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to your coat. Who made Joseph's coat? *(His father Jacob, also called Israel, Genesis 37:3)* What did Joseph's brothers do with it? *(They stripped it off him, 37:23)*
- Point to your sack. Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt? *(To buy corn, because of the famine, 42:1–3)* Did they know Joseph? *(No. Joseph knew them, but they knew not him, 42:8)*
- What did Joseph say to his brothers at the end? *("Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good," 50:20)*

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Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** ye = you; thought evil against me = planned something bad for me; meant it unto good = planned it for good; to bring to pass = to make it happen; to save much people alive = to keep many people alive; corn = grain; obeisance = bowing down.
- **What the Bible says:** Genesis 37:3 calls it "a coat of many colours" and doesn't name the colors, so kids choose their own. Joseph filled the brothers' sacks with corn (42:25). The craft shows no people.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything before class, and use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Hold up a finished craft so they can see the goal.
- **Cutting the coat:** cardstock makes the sleeves sturdier. Show kids how to turn the paper, not the scissors, around the neck and the sleeves.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Joseph Sunday school lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/joseph.

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