

“Dream Big” - LESSON 1

“Nobody’s Perfect”

Main Focus:

God can use anyone who is willing to serve Him!



Power Verse:

“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”
– 2 Corinthians 5:17



Whatchagaddaknow:

“No Matter Who You Are Or What You’ve Done, God Can Use Us - Everyone!”

LEADER’S INFO

Many of us think that our past, our family history, or our supposed lack of ability exempts us from being eligible to be used by God. If we use those items as a checklist, MOST of us would most certainly be eliminated from consideration.

God, however, doesn’t see things the way we do. God looks beyond the outward appearance and present circumstances to see what we can become. If we allow Him, God can take our lives and use them in a big way.

In this lesson, the kids will learn that Joseph’s past, family, and situation was less than perfect. Yet, God used Joseph in a mighty way, just as He will use each child who is willing.



“The Spark” Intro Video

“Nobody’s Perfect”



“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

Big Ray teaches “Whatchagaddaknow”



Character Skit

“Darla Dreamer”



Offering Time



Game Time!

“Parachute Pop-Off”



Bible Story

“Joseph’s Dysfunctional Family”



Power Verse Video

“...anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!”

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Call To Action

“Nobody’s Perfect”



Rewind!

Review Game



Small Group Experience

Main Focus:

God can use anyone who is willing to serve Him!



Power Verse:

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Whatchagaddaknow:

“No Matter Who You Are Or What You’ve Done, God Can Use Us - Everyone!”

Lesson 1 Materials Needed:

“The Spark” Intro Video

- “Lesson 1 - The Spark” Intro Video

“Whatchagaddaknow” Video

- “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video
- “Whatchagaddaknow” Trigger Video

Character Skit

- “Darla Dreamer” Theme Graphic/Music

Offering Time

- “Offering Time” Bumper Video

Game Time!

- “Game Time!” Bumper Video
- “Parachute Pop-Off” Graphic
- Two Rainbow Parachutes
- Plenty Of Ball Pit Balls

Bible Story

- “Joseph’s Dysfunctional Family” Graphics

Power Verse Video

- “Lesson 1 Power Verse” Video

Call To Action

- “Nobody’s Perfect” Graphics
- A Large Lump Of Moist Clay
- A Clay Pot

Rewind!

- “REWIND!” Bumper Video
- “REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics

Small Group Experience

- Bible Story Pictures Print Piece
- Pictionary Drawing Prompts
- Whiteboard
- Dry-Erase Markers & Eraser
- Cup
- Scissors
- Timer Or Stopwatch
- Coat Print Piece
- Various Craft Materials

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“Nobody’s Perfect”

Rewind!

Review Game

Small Group Experience



Introduction to “The Spark” Intro Video

Leader: Hey, kids! Today, we are starting a series! It’s all about a famous person in the Bible named Joseph. No, not the father of Jesus. This Joseph was a young man in the Old Testament. This series is called “Dream BIG!”

I have a question for you. How many of you know someone who is “perfect.” That means they have never messed up, have everything all put together in their life, and are absolutely 100% perfect. Know anybody like that? *(allow response)*

Of course, you don’t. Nobody is perfect in today’s world. In fact, throughout history there has only been ONE perfect person - Jesus! Other than that - nobody’s perfect! Everybody has issues and things in their life that are less-than-perfect.

With that in mind, let’s dive into this video...

(play “The Spark - Intro Video Lesson 1”)

Leader: Nobody is perfect! But just because you are not perfect, your family isn’t perfect, or your past is not perfect - that does not mean that God can’t use you to do BIG things for Him! You have to Dream BIG and believe that God will use you in a special way.

God can use anyone who is willing. No matter who you are or what you’ve done, if you place your life in God’s hands He can use you to do great things.

We will learn all about that today. Right now, it’s time to find out “Whatchagaddaknow.”

(play “Whatchagaddaknow” Teaching Video)



CHARACTER SKIT

Character: “Darla Dreamer” *(She is a creative and very imaginative girl who always has her head in the clouds trying to figure out her wacky dreams! This character should be somewhat of a “flower girl” who should have lived in the 70’s.)*

Darla: *(Enters with a puzzled look on her face, looking up as if trying to figure something out)* Hmm. Hmmm. Well... Hmmm. There has to be a deeper meaning.

Leader: Ma’am? Hello?

Darla: *(Asking a few kids)* Hello. Do you interpret dreams? No? How about you? No?

Leader: *(A bit louder)* Hello! Can we help you? You look like you’re confused.

Darla: Oh, yes, please! I hope you can. It’s driving me crazy! I must know!

Leader: Who are you?

Darla: Oh, sorry. My name is Darla. Darla Dreamer. Nice to meet you.

Leader: It’s nice to meet you as well, I think. Why are you asking kids if they can interpret dreams?

Darla: Well, I have some amazing dreams! In fact, I have dreams every night. I don’t remember them all, but some of them are like, **WHEW!** Very wild! Like the one I had last night.

Leader: Tell us about your dream last night.

Darla: OK! In my dream, I was flying on a giant marshmallow through a rainbow tunnel and something was hitting me in the face. I opened my mouth, and I realized it was Skittles! That’s my favorite candy! Soon, I landed on a cloud made of cotton candy!

Leader: *(Trying not to laugh)* Oh...wow!

Darla: See? So, now, I’m looking for the meaning, because there has to be a deeper meaning that can impact my life!

Leader: What did you have for dinner last night?

Darla: Oh, my dinner was super yummy! I had a burger with onions and jalapeños with a huge side of chili cheese fries!

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CHARACTER SKIT *(continued)*

Leader: Well, there you go! That’s why you have strange dreams.

Darla: What are you talking about?

Leader: I heard that if you eat stuff like that for dinner, then you always have super weird dreams. Once, I ate some chips and salsa and the salsa was super hot! That night, I dreamt that I was a tortilla chip being chased by a giant pepper!

Darla: That’s a cool dream! But, can we get back to mine?

Leader: Yes, sorry. Ok. Giant marshmallows, Skittles, and cotton candy, Hmmm. It could mean that you have a sweet and colorful personality.

Darla: Really? Do you think so?

Leader: Maybe, but I still think it was your dinner that caused the dream.

Darla: I’m gonna go with your interpretation. I am sweet, and my personality is very colorful.

Leader: You could not have shown up with your dream at a better time, Darla. We are starting a new series today about Joseph. This guy had some strange dreams, but his dreams were all sent by God Himself!

Darla: Maybe God sent me that dream last night! There must be a deeper spiritual meaning. I will keep searching. My family just thinks I’m crazy! I have brothers and sisters who think I’m making all of this up to get attention.

Leader: Joseph had that same problem! He had brothers who hated him because of his dreams. He really went through some hard times! But, God still used him in amazing ways, despite his broken family.

Darla: Wow! I can’t wait to learn more about Joseph.

Leader: It’s an amazing story, and it’s proof that not everyone is going to be for us, but if God is for us, we must remain faithful no matter what’s going on.

Darla: Right! Well, I have an appointment with a lady who is an expert with dreams, so I better go. She’s a veterinarian and can interpret animal dreams! Cool, huh? I’m Darla Dreamer! Always remember, if you have a crazy dream, wake up and eat some ice cream! BYE!

(EXITS WHILE HER THEME MUSIC PLAYS)



GAME TIME!

“Parachute Pop-Off”

Items Needed For Game:

Two rainbow parachutes; plenty of ball pit balls to fill both parachutes

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Preparation:

Choose five boys and five girls to play this game.
Cover each parachute with the ball pit balls.

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How To Play:

Have the players gather around their teams’ parachute. When you say, “Go!”, each player will grab a handle of the parachute and begin waving the parachute to send the ball pit balls flying. The first team to clear their parachute of balls is the winner!



Bible Story

“Joseph’s Dysfunctional Family”

Materials Needed:

The graphic slides for Lesson 1; begin with the slide that says “Bible Story”; follow the instructions below, changing the slides to follow along with the story (*as shown*)

Preparation:

Familiarize yourself with the story in Genesis 37; have your open Bible in your hands as you tell the story

The Story:

Today’s Bible Story is found in the book of Genesis, chapter 37. It is a story about a famous hero in the Bible named Joseph. (*show pic*) Joseph’s life didn’t begin in a very heroic way at all. He was just a normal, ordinary young man born into an average family.

When Joseph was about seventeen years old, he started taking care of his father’s sheep. He did a very good job because he knew how important these sheep were to his father. His brothers also worked in the fields with him. Many times, Joseph saw his brothers do things that were terrible - even sinful.

Joseph knew he couldn’t keep what his brothers were doing to himself, so (*show pic*) he went to his father and told him, “Father, I have a bad report to bring you about my brothers.” His brothers got in trouble, so they were very angry at Joseph for telling on them (*show pic*). His father, however, was very pleased with Joseph.

In fact, Joseph’s father loved him much more than his brothers. Joseph was by far his father’s favorite son. Now, that wouldn’t have been so bad if his father kept quiet about the fact that Joseph was his favorite. But, Joseph’s father, Jacob did something that really made things hard for Joseph.

(*show pic*) Jacob had a colorful coat made for Joseph. He placed it on Joseph and made Joseph wear it proudly. Of course, Joseph’s brothers did not like this at all. They hated Joseph even more because their father showed Joseph so much special attention. None of them got a colorful coat - only Joseph. The Bible says that Joseph’s brothers hated him so much they couldn’t even speak a kind word to him - ever!

Can you imagine how hard it must have been to have such a dysfunctional family? It would be easy for us to look at how messed up Joseph’s relationship with his brothers was and how messed up his whole family relationships were and think, “There’s no way God can use someone like this. Joseph was a tattle-tale from a messed up family.”

In your lesson today, you are going to learn that there were even MORE problems with Joseph’s family than this. You are also going to learn that, even with all of these problems, God still used Joseph in a great way!





Call To Action

“Nobody’s Perfect”

Materials Needed:

The “Nobody’s Perfect” graphics; a large lump of moist clay; a clay pot (*the more ornate, the better*)

Preparation:

Begin with the slide titled, “Nobody’s Perfect”



The Message: (*title slide*)

Have you ever looked at your life and asked the question, “Can God really use someone like me?” You know, you look around and see people doing all kinds of big things for God - pastors, Sunday School teachers, worship leaders, and even other kids. Then, you think to yourself, “Those people must be special. They must have grown up in a special family in order to be used by God like that. God could never use someone like me.”

Joseph was born into a pretty different home. Joseph had three stepmothers, ten stepbrothers, and a step sister all living in the home at the same time. Now, that is one big and very “different” family. Joseph’s father, Jacob, had lied to Joseph’s grandfather in order to trick him into giving his birthright to Jacob instead of his brother, Esau. As a result, Joseph’s uncle and his dad fought with each other for years, so much so that his dad, Jacob, had to run for his life in order to escape.

We already learned about how Joseph’s dad loved him more than the rest of his brothers, so he treated him a lot better. Plus, his dad gave him a beautiful “coat of many colors,” but didn’t give his brothers anything. By doing that, Joseph’s dad was saying, “This is my favorite son and he means more to me than the rest of you do.” Wouldn’t that make you mad if your brother or sister were treated so much better than you? Well, it didn’t go over very well with Joseph’s brothers, either. They hated him so much they couldn’t stand him.

Joseph wasn’t perfect, himself, either. As we learned in our Bible Story, several times he tattled on his brothers and got them in big trouble. Not only that, but he put it “in their face” that he was Dad’s favorite son. Was that the right thing to do? (*allow kids to respond*) No, Joseph’s choices weren’t always the best.

So, there you have it...Joseph’s situation. Now, when you listen to this description of Joseph’s life...would you ever think that he would end up doing something big for God? Probably not. But, as we will find out later in this series, God DOES use Joseph to do AMAZING things for Him. But, how? How can God use someone with such a messed up life, messed up family, and messed up everything? It’s very simple...

Nobody’s Family Is Perfect (*slide*)



We look at other people’s families and we think, “Their family is so perfect.” We look at our family a lot of times and think, “Man, we are messed up!” Some of you might come from homes where a family member is an
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Call To Action *(Continued)*

alcoholic, a drug addict, depressed, lost their job, whatever. You might think, “My family is so messed up, God can never use me to do big things for Him.” The truth is, God can use you even if your family situation isn’t exactly perfect. Nobody’s family is PERFECT. Joseph’s wasn’t, and neither is yours. *(share a quick story about your family that will show your family wasn’t perfect either)* Even if your family isn’t perfect, God CAN use you.

Nobody’s Past Is Perfect *(slide)*



Joseph made some really bad decisions in the way he handled his relationship with his brothers. He showed off his coat of many colors, put it in their face that he was the favorite, and tattled on them all the time. He didn’t do everything exactly right all the time. But, God still used Him to do big things for Him.

Nobody’s past is perfect. *(tell a quick story of a mistake you made as a child)* The Bible says in Romans 3:23 that we have all sinned and made mistakes. God forgave Joseph, and He will forgive you.

God Can Use Anyone *(slide)*



It doesn’t matter what your past looks like, what your family looks like, or whatever. *(pull out the lump of clay)* When you look at this lump of clay you probably think it would never amount to much. You look at it and say, “What a boring blob of clay. How useless. It’s dirty. It’s smelly. That will never be worth anything.” But, you are wrong. Sure, by itself it is not that big of a deal. It’s just a nasty old lump of clay. But, in the hand of a master potter, it can become something amazing.

(pull out the clay pottery and show how amazing it looks) You look at this pottery and think, “Whoa! That’s beautiful!” But, did you realize this pottery started off as a lump of clay? The potter put it on his potter’s wheel and worked with it. He molded it, shaped it, and turned an ordinary lump of clay into a beautiful work of art.

The Bible says that God is the Potter and we are the clay. In **Jeremiah 18:6** God says, “As the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand.” You might think, “Can God really use me? My family isn’t perfect. My past isn’t perfect. I’m not perfect.” But, God says, “Give your life to me. I will mold you and shape you and turn you into a work of art. You may feel like a dirty lump of clay, but I will make you into someone that I can use to do BIG things for Me.” God did it for Joseph, and He will do it for you.

ALTAR RESPONSE *(play soft music)*

Pray for the children who feel like their past, their family, or their situation would keep them from doing big things for God. Pray that God will give them confidence in who they are in Christ. Pray that God will help them see themselves not as a lump of clay, but as a work of art in the hands of the Master Potter.



Materials Needed:

“REWIND!” Lesson 1 Graphics; “REWIND!” Bumper Video

Preparation:

Play the “REWIND!” Bumper Video; Begin with the slide titled “REWIND!”; there is a slide for each question

1. Whatchagaddaknow today?

Answer: “No Matter Who You Are Or What You’ve Done, God Can Use Us - Everyone!”

2. What was the name of the young man in our Bible Story today?

Answer: Joseph

3. What did Joseph’s father give him as a present?

Answer: A Colorful Coat

4. Did Joseph’s brothers appreciate it when Joseph told on them?

Answer: No

5. Which of his sons did Jacob choose as his favorite?

Answer: Joseph

6. According to our lesson today, “Nobody’s Family Is _____.”

Answer: Perfect

7. According to our lesson today, “Nobody’s _____ Is Perfect.”

Answer: Past

8. According to our lesson today, “God Can Use _____.”

Answer: Anyone

9. Did Joseph always make the right decisions with his family?

Answer: No

10. Where was our Power Verse found?

Answer: 2 Corinthians 5:17