

YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS.

HE'S GOT ANSWERS.





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	page 1
The Elements.....	page 2
How To Use The Lesson Plan Worksheet.....	page 3
Music CD Track Listing.....	page 4
Lesson 1: Can God Really Use Me?.....	page 5
Lesson 2: Do Dreams Ever Come True?.....	page 14
Lesson 3: How Can I Keep From Sinning?.....	page 23
Lesson 4: Why Is This Happening To Me?.....	page 33
Lesson 5: God, Have You Forgotten Me?.....	page 42
Lesson 6: Can God Ever Reach _____?.....	page 50
Lesson 7: Can I Ever Change The Way I Think?.....	page 59
Lesson 8: Do I Really Have To Forgive <i>Them</i> ?.....	page 68
Lesson 9: Why Do Bad Things Happen To Good People?.....	page 78
Lesson 10: How Can I Be A Success In Life?.....	page 87



Introduction

Joseph is one of the most studied and treasured Bible Heroes. His was a life of extremes. He began as the favorite son, then wound up in the pit. He went from the pit to being a servant in Potiphar's house. Just when things seemed to be looking up, he is falsely accused and imprisoned.

In prison, Joseph is faithful to God and to his calling as a servant. He is shown favor by God and finds himself eventually going from the prison to the second highest position in the country of Egypt. How does this young man handle these ups and downs? How does he respond to failure, success, and temptation?

In this series, we study the life of Joseph to help us answer some of life's toughest questions. Every lesson deals with a different question that is often asked by those of us who find life full of unpredictability.

We hope you enjoy this intensive look into the young man who went from the pit to the palace all in one lifetime.

For This Generation,

The High Voltage Kids Ministry Team





The Elements

The DVD:

Included on the DVD are the Lesson Intro Video segments and “Rap It Up” Videos featuring Milk Dud, a five-minute Countdown video to begin each series, plus bonus “Bloopers” segments. You can also find the mpg-1 files on the DVD-ROM portion of the DVD.

The Music CD:

Contained on this music disc are instrumental game songs, the “BIG IDEA” sound byte, “Let’s Play A Game” intro song, and the world famous “OFFERING TIME” song to introduce the Offering.

The Data CD:

This CD contains graphics and artwork of the logos for you to use for promo. Also included are PowerPoint games, slides for use during illustrated sermons, and PowerPoint slides for each Big Idea and Power Verse. In addition, you will find a “Family Devotion” for each lesson. These are designed to either send home with the parents (*to reinforce the lesson during the week*), OR they can be used as “small group segments” in your service (*to reinforce the lesson right away*).

The BIG IDEA:

This is the main thought you want to get across to the kids during the week’s lesson. The BIG IDEA is a simple statement that sums up the entire week’s lesson. Sometimes it rhymes, sometimes it relies on rhythm, and other times it is just crazy fun! The plan is to have the kids learn the BIG IDEA by repetition. Included on the CD is the sound byte “Hey! What’s The Big Idea?” (*track #1*). This is a sound byte that your sound engineer can play as many times during the service as desired. Each time the kids hear the sound byte, they should stand up on their feet and say the week’s BIG IDEA. We have also embedded the sound byte within the BIG IDEA slide in the PowerPoint presentation each week.

The Intro Video:

This video clip introduces the topic we will be tackling each week as well as teaches the BIG IDEA and Power Verse. Each segment lasts five to ten minutes! We suggest you open your service with this segment to help set the tone for the rest of the lesson.

Game Time:

Each week a game has been provided. Most of them are themed with the lesson being taught that week. There are also high energy instrumental game songs included on the Music CD. Some of them are 60-second versions (*to be used for games with a one-minute time limit*), and some of them are extended versions. More music can be found on our Crazy Kids Game Music CDs at www.highvoltage-kids.com.

Character Skits:

In this series, we introduce two brand new characters, Chuck Foo and Jen Soo. You may use these character skits exactly as they are provided. Or, you may change them up to fit with a puppet or character that your kids are familiar with in your ministry.

Illustrated Messages:

Because kids tend to learn best if you combine speaking the truth with visual illustrations, we have written an illustrated sermon to be used each week. Materials are listed, and manuscripts are provided. Each illustrated sermon comes with a PowerPoint slide for each main point.

YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS. HE'S GOT ANSWERS. LESSON 1

MAIN FOCUS

God can use anyone who is willing to serve Him!

POWER VERSE

"...the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17

BIG IDEA

"No Matter What I've Done, No Matter Where I've Been, God's Got A Future Where I Can Win!"

Leader's Info

Many of us think that our past, our family history, or our supposed lack of ability or gifting 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 today's 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.

★ **INTRO VIDEO**
"CAN GOD REALLY USE ME?"

★ **CHARACTER SKIT**
"MEET CHUCK FOO"

★ **OFFERING TIME**

★ **PRAISE SONGS**

★ **GAME TIME**
"NOT-SO-PERFECT BIBLE HEROES"

★ **POWER VERSE REVIEW**
"...THE OLD LIFE IS GONE. A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN!"
- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

★ **WORSHIP SONGS**

★ **ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE**
"CAN GOD REALLY USE ME?"

★ **"RAP IT UP" VIDEO**

★ **REVIEW QUESTIONS**

YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS. HE'S GOT ANSWERS. LESSON 1

MAIN FOCUS

God can use anyone who is willing to serve Him!

POWER VERSE

"...the old life is gone. A new life has begun!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17

BIG IDEA

"No Matter What I've Done, No Matter Where I've Been, God's Got A Future Where I Can Win!"

INTRO VIDEO

"CAN GOD REALLY USE ME?"

CHARACTER SKIT

"MEET CHUCK FOO"

OFFERING TIME

PRAISE SONGS

GAME TIME

"NOT-SO-PERFECT BIBLE HEROES"

POWER VERSE REVIEW

"...THE OLD LIFE IS GONE. A NEW LIFE HAS BEGUN!"
- 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

WORSHIP SONGS

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

"CAN GOD REALLY USE ME?"

"RAP IT UP" VIDEO

REVIEW QUESTIONS

ORDER OF SERVICE

1. _____
by _____
2. _____
by _____
3. _____
by _____
4. _____
by _____
5. _____
by _____
6. _____
by _____
7. _____
by _____
8. _____
by _____
9. _____
by _____
10. _____
by _____
11. _____
by _____
12. _____
by _____
13. _____
by _____
14. _____
by _____
15. _____
by _____
16. _____
by _____
17. _____
by _____

YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS. HE'S GOT ANSWERS. LESSON 1

CHARACTER SKIT

Characters: Chuck Foo *(a wanna-be Karate Instructor with a Minnesota accent)*
Jen Soo *(Chuck's assistant and a woman of few words)*

Leader: I am so excited to start our series on the Life Of Joseph today. It's going to... *(all of a sudden "Everybody Was Kung-Fu Fighting" begins playing. Chuck Foo comes out karate chopping the air, screaming, and making noise like he's in a Bruce Lee movie. Jen Soo is calmly walking behind him. Music fades.)* Who in the world are you???

CHUCK: How you doin' dere, my name is Chuck Foo! *(high kicks the air)*

Leader: Chuck...Foo? Your name is Chuck Foo?

CHUCK: Actually my name is Charles Merkowitz. I am from Minnesota and for the past few years I have been an amateur stunt man and Kung Fu Master. My friends call me Chuck Foo, but my enemies call me "PAIN!!" *(karate chops the air, misses and falls flat on his face)* It's alright! It's ok, I planned that! That was all planned! *(Jen Soo helps him back up.)*

Leader: Wow..are you ok?

CHUCK: Do NOT touch me, my hands are lethal weapons! If my assistant Jen Soo will assist me here I will show you just how dangerous a man of my training can be.

Leader: This is your assistant?

CHUCK: Yes, this is my student, my assistant, my padawan learner, Jen Soo.

JEN SOO: *(does a karate chop in the air, which looks a lot better than Chuck's)* Hiyahh!

Leader: Wow! She's pretty good.

CHUCK: Yes, a little too good. *(turns his head and "whispers" to JEN)* I told you about showing me up like that. I need you to bring it down a notch. I'M the master, here.

Leader: Well, what brings you here today, Chuck Foo?

CHUCK: A very important matter has come to my attention. My young padawan learner, Jen Soo, has a bit of a problem. See, she wants to join the ministry team at her church, but she can't.

Leader: What do you mean she can't?

CHUCK: Just like I said, she can't. I won't let her. It seems that Jen Soo has a bit of a "past" before she became a Christian. She used to lie a lot. Hard to believe since she hardly ever talks, but it's true. She lied all the time, so therefore and hereafter she will not be allowed to be involved in ministry. Too many problems with her past.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS. HE'S GOT ANSWERS. LESSON 1

CHARACTER SKIT (CONTINUED)

Leader: Chuck, just because she made a lot of mistakes *before* she accepted Jesus doesn't mean she can't be used of God in ministry NOW.

CHUCK: It doesn't? How do you know?

JEN SOO: *(starts to get excited, jumps up and down, but doesn't make any noise)*

CHUCK: Hold on, there Jen Soo. Don't get too excited there. *(turns to the leader)* Because, see there's something else you need to know. Jen Soo comes from a family of kung fu mercenaries. They attack people and hurt them for no good reason. So, THAT is the reason Jen Soo can't do the whole ministry thing. God can't use someone from a messed up family like that.

Leader: That's not true, either.

CHUCK: *(acts shocked and gets in a karate stance)* What? Now, listen here. Don't make me break ya in half. What do ya mean it's not true? I ain't no liar!

Leader: I didn't mean you were lying. I mean you don't understand something very important. God can use ANYONE. It doesn't matter what their past is like, what their family is like, or anything else. If Jen Soo gives her life to God and follows Him, He can use her in all kinds of ways.

CHUCK: Really?

Leader: Really.

JEN SOO: *(does a karate kick in the air)* Awesome!

CHUCK: Yes, it is awesome. I am so excited to hear this information here. *(to Jen Soo)* Jen Soo, I give you permission now to be a part of that ministry at your church. After all, it doesn't matter what your past or your family looks like, God can use anyone. That's what I have been trying to tell you all along.

Leader: Well, I'm glad we got that straightened out. Until next time...

(CHUCK and JEN stand back to back in a fighting stance)

CHUCK: CHUCK FOO!

JEN: JEN SOO!

CHUCK AND JEN: KICK IT!

(CHUCK and JEN high kick into the air and "Everybody Was Kung Fu Fighting" plays as they kick/punch/karate chop their way off stage.)

YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS. HE'S GOT ANSWERS. LESSON 1

GAME TIME

"NOT-SO-PERFECT BIBLE HEROES"

Items Needed For Game: The Data CD; Open the PowerPoint presentation for Lesson One; begin with the slide titled, "Not-So-Perfect Bible Heroes"



How To Play: Choose one boy and one girl to compete in this game (with the help of their team members in the audience). Explain that you will be reading statements that describe a "hero" of the Bible that make mistakes. They will take turns answering the questions with the help of their team members in the audience. For every correct answer, their team will receive a point. The team with the most correct answers wins the game.

After The Game, Say: *"Kids, many times we think that if we have made mistakes in the past, then God can't use us. Today, we are going to learn about some of the mistakes that Joseph made. But, God still used Joseph in a big way, just as He will use each and every one of us."*

YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS. HE'S GOT ANSWERS. LESSON 1

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

"CAN GOD REALLY USE ME?"

Materials Needed: The Data CD; a large lump of moist clay; a clay pot (*the more ornate, the better*)

Preparation: Open the PowerPoint presentation on the Data CD titled "Lesson One," begin with the slide titled "Can God Really Use Me?"

The Message: (*title slide*)



"Can God Really Use Me?" Have you ever asked that question? You know, you look around and see people doing all kinds of big things for God; pastors, Sunday School teachers, worship leaders, even other kids, and you think to yourself, "Those people must be special. They must have done something special or grown up in a special family in order to be used by God like that. God could never use someone like me."

Some kids look at themselves and wonder, "Can God really use me?" They think that God can't use them because of something that they have done in the past, or something they have gone through, or the kind of family they came from. Well, today, we are going to look at the life of Joseph and answer that very question, "Can God really use me?"

Joseph was born into a pretty messed up home. Joseph had three stepmothers, ten step-brothers and a step sister all living in the home at the same time. Now, that is one big and very "different" family. Joseph's dad lied to his Dad, Isaac, in order to trick his Dad into giving the birthright to Jacob, instead. As a result, Joseph's uncle and his dad feuded for years, so much so that his Dad had to run for his life in order to escape.

Joseph's sister, Dinah, was hurt by a bunch of mean men when she was young. When they saw their father was going to do nothing about it, Joseph's other brothers took matters into their own hands. They devised a plan and killed not only those men, but all the men that lived in the city. Can you believe that? How terrible! When Joseph's dad found out what his sons had done, he did nothing.

Joseph's dad loved him more than the rest of his brothers, so he treated him a lot better. He didn't make him do the chores that his brothers had to do. Plus, his dad gave him a beautiful "coat of many colors", but didn't give his brothers one. By doing that, Joseph's dad was saying, "This is my favorite son and he doesn't have to do all the work the rest of you have to do."

Wouldn't that make you mad if your brother or sister didn't have to do all the work you had to do? Well, it didn't go over very well with Joseph's brothers either. They hated him so much they couldn't stand him. And Joseph didn't handle himself the best way either. Several times he tattled on
(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS. HE'S GOT ANSWERS. LESSON 1

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

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 when he was young. It got so bad that his brothers plotted to kill him.

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, messed up everything? It's very simple. Joseph understood some important things that you and I need to understand:

1. 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 divorced families, single-parent families, blended families. Some of you might come from homes where a family member is an 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.

But, 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. *(at this time 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.

2. 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.

Boys and girls, 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. But, God can forgive us and make us brand new. The old life is gone, and we have a new life and a new chance to do something big for God. He forgave Joseph, He forgave me, and He will forgive you and use you to do big things for Him. You see, kids:

3. 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.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

YOU VE GOT QUESTIONS. HE S GOT ANSWERS. LESSON 1

ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

You look at it and say, "What a dumb blob of clay. How useless. It's dirty. It's smelly. It's nasty. 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, this pottery started off as a lump of clay. The potter puts it on his potter's wheel and works with it. He molds it, shapes it, and turns 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 and I will mold you and shape you and turn you into a work of art. You may feel like a lump of clay, but I will make you into someone that I can use to do BIG things for me." He did it for Joseph. He did it for me. He will do it for you.

ALTAR MUSIC: *(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.

YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS. HE'S GOT ANSWERS. LESSON 1

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What was today's Big Idea?
Answer: *"No Matter What I've Done, No Matter Where I've Been, God's Got A Future Where I Can Win!"*
2. What was the name of the karate instructor we met today?
Answer: *Chuck Foo*
3. What is the name of the Nerd who is hosting the videos?
Answer: *Norm*
4. What is the name of the Extreme Sports athlete who taught us the Power Verse?
Answer: *Ban Daid*
5. Was Joseph's family perfect?
Answer: *no*
6. Did Joseph always make the right decisions?
Answer: *no*
7. Can God use anyone, even if they have an imperfect family?
Answer: *yes*
8. What did the lump of clay turn into once it got in the hands of the potter?
Answer: *a beautiful piece of pottery*
9. Did God end up using Joseph in a big way later in his life?
Answer: *yes*
10. Where was our Power Verse found?
Answer: *1 Corinthians 5:17*