

# **Families 4**

## **Jacob & Joseph: The Place of Favouritism and Hope.**

### **Preamble**

This is the fourth of four assemblies on families.

The focus of this assembly is the story of Jacob & Joseph where Joseph is sold as a slave to merchants.

### **Preparation**

Clothing items obtained for story/ spontaneous melodrama.

CD track: Fischy Music "Dreaming" from "I Wonder Why" album

<b>Rationale</b>	The stories common to Jewish and Christian faiths can help exploration of issues contemporary to pupils and staff today. This series on families raises such issues. This assembly on betrayal is based on the story of Jacob and Joseph
<b>Title</b>	Favouritism and Hope
<b>Aims</b>	To explore favouritism and hope and challenge pupils to have hope even when life seems unfair.
<b>Stage</b>	P 1 - 7
<b>Objectives</b>	1] At the end of this pupils will have experienced sense of meaningfulness  2] At the end of this pupils will be able to state the facts of the of the story of Jacob and Joseph
<b>Link with ACfE</b>	Successful learners: openness to new thinking and ideas.
<b>Is this part of a series</b>	Forth of four
<b>Introduction</b>	Fischy Music song Dreaming" from "I wonder why" Album.
<b>Stimulus/ stimuli</b>	Story from Genesis chapter 37: 12 – 36.
<b>Guided Reflection</b>	Comment
<b>Response &amp; Possible Next Steps</b>	Thinking while song played again.
<b>Evaluation (a)</b>	Discussion with pupils
<b>Evaluation (b)</b>	RO team discussion
<b>Evaluation (c)</b>	Observation of pupils during the event

## Introduction

Play the song “Dreaming” from Fischy Music “I Wonder Why” album, track 9.

Today we pick up the story of Jacob after many years. He now has twelve sons. The second youngest is called Joseph. When Jacob was young his mother treated him better than her other son. Now Joseph does the same with one of his sons. This hurts the other sons and makes them angry

## The Story

Tell the story as spontaneous melodrama. This requires four pupils and some dressing up clothes. As you tell the story, the pupils will repeat their lines after you and will perform actions to illustrate aspects of the story e.g. tired, hungry, cunning.

Use one outfit as previous week with different pupils.

For Jacob: Chef’s hat and apron.

Joseph – a brightly coloured coat or jacket

Three other brothers.

Jacob had a son called Joseph. It was a big family. Jacob actually had twelve sons. He had two wives and two other women friends and between them he now had twelve sons. His favourite was son number 11: Joseph. Jacob’s women weren’t exactly happy with the situation. Because he liked Joseph the best, Jacob gave him a fantastic coat. He told his father if his brothers ever did anything wrong. He had dreams in which he was more important than them and he became ruler over them. He was stupid enough to tell them about his dreams.

His brothers were so angry that they couldn’t speak to him. They hated him

Jacob said Joseph... Go out into the fields where your brothers are looking after the sheep and come back and tell me how they are doing?

So Joseph set off and eventually found them.

His brothers saw him in the distance. They began to say to each other; “how about if we kill him and say a wild animal has eaten him?” They grabbed him, took his coat and threw him into a well. They then sat down to have their sandwiches.

While they were eating, camels loaded with spices and perfume passed by. Merchants were taking them to Egypt. The brothers hauled scared dirty angry Joseph out of the well. They sold their brother to the camel owners for twenty silver coins and took his coat and put goat’s blood on it. After this they went home and told their father that Joseph had been eaten by wild animals. They had dealt with their problem brother and no more would they have to put up with his boasting and their father’s favouritism. For many days Jacob wept in his tent. Maybe his brothers wondered if they had done the right thing. They had made a decision they had to live with it.

That week no-one knew the end of the story, but a good end was coming and what Joseph’s brothers had meant to be harmful turned out to be the best thing for them that could have been.

## **Guided reflection**

Questions: how do you think Joseph's brothers felt when they saw he was treated differently from them? Aim of questioning is to draw out how when someone else seems to be treated better it can make us feel less important, discarded, angry and wanting to get our own back.

Mums and dad can be unfair. They don't mean to but sometimes they get it wrong.  
Teachers can be unfair. They don't mean to be but sometimes they get it wrong.  
Referees can be unfair. They don't mean to be but sometimes they get it wrong.  
Before we criticise too much we have to think are we always fair.

Some people, Jews and Christians believe in a time to come when God will sort out all the unfairness and the world will be a different place. The song we heard at the beginning could speak of that day.

In Joseph's life it happened in this life. A day arrived for his brothers when all was made well and broken hearts were mended. When after many adventures he ruled Egypt and was able and willing to help his brothers when they were hungry and came to ask for help. The family were reunited. We can live in hope that for us even where hearts are broken there can again be peace, laughter and joy. .

## **Response and Next Steps**

As we go, we will play the song again. What dreams do you have? Treasure them and hope for their arrival.