

Don't Show Favouritism!

James 2:1-13

K-5 Joint Group Time

Main Point - Following Jesus will mean that we won't have favourites.

Memory Verse

James 1:22 (the words '*and so deceive yourselves*' have been omitted from this verse)

Leader: *Do not* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely listen* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely listen to the* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do not merely listen to the word* (children repeat)

Leader: *Do what it says.* (children repeat)

Leader: *James* (children repeat)

Leader: *James one* (children repeat)

Leader: *James one twenty-two* (children repeat)

Singing

Select 2/3 songs about our loving others the way God loves us.

Who Am I?

Need: write the clues outlined below on separate cards for leaders to read out for children to guess the answer.

Introduction:

- *Favouritism is when someone loves one person more than another.*
- *There are a few stories in the Bible where a Mum or a Dad loved one of their children more than the others.*
- *And because they did this, their children got hurt and very angry.*
- *Sometimes really bad things happened because of it.*
- *Let's see if we can find from these clues, which parents in the Bible had a favourite child.*

Clue: Who Am I?

I am a twin. I was born second. I was my mother's favourite child. But my brother Esau was my father's favourite. My mother helped me steal my brother's blessing, but I had to run away from home because my brother tried to kill me.

Answer: Jacob

Clue: Who Am I?

My father's name was Jacob. He loves me more than all my brothers. He loved me so much he gave me a special coat with many colours. But my brothers were jealous and hated me because of it. They hated me so much they were going to kill me, but instead sold me as a slave. Who am I?

Answer: Joseph

Conclusion:

- *Abraham's son and grandson both caused problems in their families because they love one child more than the others.*
- *Showing favourites causes jealousy.*
- *It makes people feel left out.*
- *It makes them angry.*
- *It makes them want to pay back.*
- *In James 2 it says, 'Don't have favourites!'*
- *Today we're going to think about favouritism, especially when we come to church.*

Don't Show Favouritism!

James 2:1-13

K-2 Group Time

Main Point - Following Jesus will mean that we won't have favourites.

My Favourites

Have each leader bring in a few of their favourite things (favourite picture, food, holiday spot, sport, game, piece of clothing...) and explain why it's their favourite.

Conclusion:

- *We all have favourite things we like.*
- *Favourite places to go.*
- *Favourite things to eat.*
- *Favourite memories.*
- *But when we start picking favourite people we can cause a lot of problems.*

Brainstorm all the problems that can happen when a school teacher has a favourite student:

- jealousy
- anger
- non-favourites stop trying
- can start fights amongst children
- favourite shows off
- non-favourites can get picked on and blamed for things they didn't do

Conclusion:

- *In James chapter 2 it says, 'Don't show favouritism'.*
- *There are a couple of stories in the Bible where people didn't listen to God.*
- *And really bad things happened in their family because they showed favouritism.*
- *Let's remember one of these stories.*

Story Time

Retell the story of Genesis 37 using the script of the Children's Talk titled, *Joseph, The Dreamer*. Use the conclusion below at the end of the story:

- *Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons.*
- *He showed it in many ways.*
- *One time he bought him a beautiful coat of many colours.*
- *This made the brothers jealous and angry.*
- *So angry they were going to kill him.*
- *Instead they sold him as a slave and made their father believe he'd been killed.*
- *Favouritism can cause lots and lots of problems in a family.*
- *And can do the same in a church family.*

Option 1

Retell the story using simple props. Encourage the children to say the repeated phrase throughout the retelling.

Props:

- duplo characters or plastic figurines
- plastic camels
- small cloak
- duplo blocks to make Joseph's house
- a floor mat with a winding road on it (Canaan at one end, Egypt at the other end)

Option 2

Retell the story using a series of chalk drawings. Encourage the children to say the repeated phrase throughout the retelling.

Picture 1: draw Jacob and 12 sons, circle Jacob and one son, Joseph

Picture 2: draw Joseph with his cloak, add angry brothers

Picture 3: draw eleven bundles of grain bowing to one

Picture 4: draw eleven stars, sun and moon, add one bright star at the top of the page

Picture 5: draw Joseph in a pit, add men on camels arriving

Discussion

1. *How did Joseph's brothers feel about their brother, Joseph? Why did they feel like this?*

(angry, jealous, so angry they wanted to get rid of him, their father loved him more than them, he had dreams that made

him sound better than them)

2. *How do you feel when you notice a teacher has a favourite in the class and it's not you?*
3. *Is it ever okay for a Mum or Dad to love one of their children more than another?*
4. *Who are your friends? Is it okay to have friends?*
(yes, Proverbs talks a lot about friendship and how to have good friends)
5. *Is it okay to sit, talk and play with your friends at Children's Church?*
(yes)
6. *Is it okay to sit, talk and play with only your friends at Children's Church? Why not?*
(no, it means you are only loving them and ignoring everyone else, you are showing favouritism)

Application:

- *If you were new to Children's Church what would you like people to do to help you feel welcomed?*
- *Have you ignored anyone at Children's Church? What can you do about it?*

Conclusion:

- *God loves each and every one of us.*
- *He loved each of us so much that he allowed his Son, Jesus to die to save us.*
- *Jesus is getting each one of us a room ready in heaven.*
- *Jesus is coming back to take each one of us to heaven.*
- *God is giving each one of us the same - we are all going to get to heaven!*
- *So, don't show favourites.*
- *Be like your Father in heaven and love each person the way you'd want them to love you.*

Prayer Time

Repeated Prayer

Dear Father, – thank you so much – for loving each one of us. – Please help us – to love other people – the way we would like them – to love us. – Help us not to ignore them – or not leave them all alone. – Please help us – not to show favouritism. – Amen

Individual Prayer

Encourage the children to pray about their answers to the application questions.

Imaginary Play Activities

- Story play - provide a floor mat with a road on it, plastic camels, foam blocks to make a well and wooden people. Encourage the children to retell the story of Genesis 37 to each other.
- Dress ups - provide a variety of coats for the children to dress up in. Remind the children that Joseph's father gave him a special coat of many colours.
- Felt boards - provide individual felt boards and felt shapes of things mentioned in Joseph's dreams (stars, moon, sun, bundles of wheat) for the children to create pictures with.

Coat

- Download the file titled, *James Stencils*. Find the stencil of a coat and the title, *Jacob loved Joseph more than all his other sons. He gave Joseph a coat. This made Joseph's brothers angry. Favouritism hurts. In the book of James it says, 'Don't show favouritism.'* *James 2:1*
- Make one copy per child on A3 paper.
- Provide strips of coloured paper for the children to decorate the coat.

Camels

- Download the file titled, *James Stencils*. Find the stencil of a legless camel.

- Copy and cut one camel per child from cardboard.
- Provide brown strips of paper for children to decorate the camel.
- Attach wooden pegs for legs and stand the camel up.

Remind the children as they make their camel what happened to Joseph because his Dad loved him more than his brother.

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James 2:1-13

3-5 Group Time

Main Point - Following Jesus will mean that we won't have favourites.

Favouritism

Divide children into groups and have them create a short role play whereby a teacher at school clearly demonstrates that he/she has a favourite student in the class and how the other children react to this situation.

Conclusion:

- *We hate it when a teacher has a favourite.*
- *It's just not fair.*
- *The favourite gets away with everything and gets picked to do everything.*
- *The good news is God does not have favourites.*
- *He loves each and every one of us.*
- *So, following Jesus means that we won't have favourites.*

Story Time

Introduction:

- *In James chapter two it says, 'Don't show favouritism'.*
 - *There are a couple of stories in the Bible where people didn't listen to God.*
 - *And really bad things happened in their family because they showed favouritism.*
- Let's remember one of these stories.*

Retell the story of Genesis 37 using the script of the Children's Talk titled, *Joseph, The Dreamer*. Use the conclusion below at the end of the story:

- *Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons.*
- *He showed it in many ways.*
- *Once he bought him a beautiful coat of many colours.*
- *This made the brothers jealous and angry.*

- *So angry they were going to kill him.*
- *Instead they sold him as a slave and made their father believe he'd been killed.*
- *Favouritism can cause lots and lots of problems in a family.*
- *And can do the same in a church family.*

Option 1

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Small Group Discussion

1. *How did Joseph's brothers feel about their brother, Joseph? Why did they feel like this?*
(angry, jealous, so angry they wanted to get rid of him, their father loved him more than them and he had dreams that made him sound better than them)
2. *How do you feel when you notice a teacher has a favourite in the class and it's not you?*
3. *Is it ever okay for a Mum or Dad to love one of their children more than another?*

Read James 2:1-9

1. *What is the command in verse 1?*
(treat everyone the same)
2. *We are all different. We are not the same. What do you think it means?*
(to show the same kindness, respect, love, attention to everyone)
3. *What is the example in verses 2-4?*
(giving attention to a rich person who comes to church, giving them the best of everything, but the poor person gets nothing)
4. *What has God done in verse 5? How does this help us?*
(God has chosen us when we were his enemies, poor and full of sin, we need to show the same kindness to others that God has shown to us)
5. *What is the royal law in verse 8 that helps us work out how to treat other people?*
(love others the way you want to be loved)

Application:

- *If you were new to Children's Church what would you like people to do to help you feel welcomed?*
- *Who at Children's Church have you ignored? What can you do about it?*

Conclusion:

- *God loves each and every one of us.*
- *He loved each of us so much that allowed his Son, Jesus to die to save us.*
- *Jesus is getting each one of us a room ready in heaven.*
- *Jesus is coming back to take each one of us to heaven.*
- *God is giving each one of us the same - we are all going to get to heaven!*
- *So, don't show favourites.*
- *Be like your Father in heaven and love each person the way you'd want them to love you.*

Prayer Time

Encourage the children to pray about their answers to the application questions.

Origami Camel and Coats

- Search the internet for origami patterns (i.e. paper folding) for both a coat and camel.
- Provide origami paper and have children create a coat and camel to remind them of the problems favouritism causes.