Lesson 2: God Is Good

Overview:

Key Focus: God's goodness is shown through healing and provision. He can turn bad things that happen into good because He is always good.

Bible Story: Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors

Scriptures: Genesis 50:15–21

Memory Verse: John 10:10 (NKJV) The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Prep:

Materials Needed:

- Colorful shirt, coat, or towel
- Rope
- A picture of pyramid or passport
- A picture of a prison cell or paper with a prisoner number on it
- Pillow
- Sign with the words "God Is Good"
- Sign "Genesis 50:15–21"
- Painter's Tape

Engage:

Name a variety of words and have the children call out the opposite.

small/big, light/dark, clean/dirty, young/old, in/out, fast/slow, messy/neat, alive/dead, friend/enemy, fix/break, good/bad, God/Satan

God is always good but the opposite is Satan is always bad. This has been true from the very beginning in the Garden of Eden and will remain true forever. Today, we will learn how God's enemy causes harm, but God can turn things around to be good—because God is good!

Memory Verse Activity:
Display the verse. Call out a group, such as the color of their shirt, or name a favorite color, and have that group stand and say the first half of the verse. Then have everyone else stand and say the rest of the verse. Repeat several times and change the groups that you call out.

Memory Verse: John 10:10 (NKJV) The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly.

Bible Story:

Place painter's tape on the floor to create a timeline. As you tell the story of Joseph, have volunteers stand at an appropriate place on the timeline and hold an item representing what happened in Joseph's life relating to Genesis 37–50.

1. Childhood (colorful shirt, coat, or towel): **As a boy, Joseph had eleven big brothers and one younger brother. Out of all the boys, their father loved Joseph the most and gave Joseph a colorful coat. The older brothers were jealous. The older brothers were very angry when Joseph told them his dream about the brothers and father bowing down to him.**

2. Brothers tied and sold him (rope): **One day Joseph's father sent Joseph on a journey to check on his older brothers and the sheep. The brothers realized they had an opportunity to be mean to Joseph without their father knowing about it. They made a plan to kill him and lie to their father and blame a wild animal. When Joseph came near, they grabbed him, took off his colorful coat, and put him in a pit in the ground. Some men rode by and bought Joseph to be a slave in Egypt. The brothers put blood on the coat and told their father a lie. The father was so sad that his favorite son was dead.**

3. Life in Egypt (picture of pyramid or passport): **Joseph was sold as a slave and worked hard for his new owner. Joseph's boss was very pleased with Joseph's excellent work and gave him a promotion. Things went very well for Joseph until the boss's wife lied and said that Joseph did something bad to her. Joseph's boss believed his wife and had Joseph thrown into jail.**

4. Jail time (picture of a prison cell or paper with a prisoner number on it): **While in jail, Joseph did not throw a pity party or get angry or depressed. Instead of having a horrible time, God is always good and was with Joseph and gave him favor with the head of the prison. Joseph was in charge of the prisoners, and whatever Joseph did—God caused it to prosper! Did God cause Joseph to be in prison?** (No.) **God took the bad situation and turned it into a good situation by blessing Joseph to prosper—even in prison!**

5. Interpreted dreams (pillow): **One night, two of the king's prisoners had dreams. They told Joseph the dreams, and Joseph told them what each dream meant because God showed him the interpretation. One man was released to go back and serve in Pharaoh's house. Joseph told the man to remember to mention him to Pharaoh. Joseph wanted out of prison. The man forgot about Joseph, but God didn't! Two years later, Pharaoh had a dream, and the man remembered Joseph. Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and God showed Joseph what the dream meant.**

6. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge (God Is Good sign): **The king was impressed that God helped Joseph. Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the plan to save food for seven years, and then seven years later to sell the food during the famine where no food grew. Joseph's older brothers came during the famine to buy food from Joseph. They didn't recognize Joseph, but he recognized them! Joseph could have been mean to his brothers, but he chose to test them to see if they changed. The brothers returned a second time for more food, but they still didn't recognize Joseph. He tested them by telling them to bring the younger brother. Their father didn't want to send Benjamin but finally agreed. Joseph saw that his brothers were concerned about their father. At last, Joseph cried and showed the brothers who he was. He sent food and presents back home with them and had all of Joseph's family move to Egypt. For years, Joseph, his father, and the rest of the family lived in Egypt, and God blessed them.**

7. Joseph and his brothers alone again (Genesis 50:15–21 sign): **Joseph's father finally died. The brothers worried that Joseph was just kind to them while their father lived, but now would be mean to them.** Read Genesis 50:15–21. **Joseph had the opportunity to get even with his brothers, but he chose to continue caring for them. Joseph knew that God was good and turned the bad things in his life to work out for good. During most of Joseph's life in Egypt, bad things happened to him. Who did Joseph give the credit for the good in his life?** (God) **The last verse in Genesis 50 tells us that Joseph lived to be 110 years old. Joseph's life reminds us that God is good and took good care of Joseph and his family.**

Bible Story Questions:

- **How many brothers did Joseph have?** (12)
- **What problem did Joseph have as a boy?** (His father loved him the most and gave him a colorful coat. His brothers were jealous of him. Then Joseph told his brothers about his dream of them bowing to him. His brothers threw him in a pit and sold him to be a slave.)
- **What problems did Joseph have in Egypt**? (His boss's wife lied about him, and then Joseph was thrown in prison. In prison, he told two men their dreams, but one man forgot for two years to tell Pharaoh.)

- **Did God cause Joseph's problems?** (No.) **What did God do with Joseph's problems?** (God turned them around to be good so that Joseph prospered and could save his family and the people of Israel.)
- **How does John 10:10 explain what happened to Joseph**? (Joseph's brothers wanted to harm him, but God had a good plan for his life.)
- **How have you seen God be good in your life?** (Answers will vary.)

Bible Story Activities:

Games:

- Designate one side of the room as "good" and the opposite side as "bad." Have all the children gather in the center of the room. When you say something "good," the children run to the "good" side and shout, "God is good! If you say something "bad," the children run to the "bad" side and shout, "That's not God."
  Examples: sickness – kids stand by the "bad" side of the room and shout, "That's not God." Items to name: baby sister born, a house burned down, sunshine, pizza, poison, water, etc.
  Depending on your classroom, you might want to substitute an action for "good" (jumping jack) and "bad" (sit on the floor) rather than moving around the room.

- Ideas for Working with Younger Kids:
  Play "Duck, Duck, Goose" but substitute "Good, Good, God."

Discussion:

- Ideas for Working with Older Kids:
  Have the children work together in small groups to list Bible stories where something bad happened, but God turned it into something good. Then have the groups share their lists to see how many Bible stories of God's goodness the class found.

Worksheet:
Read the crossword clues together and allow the children to work in pairs to complete the crossword puzzle. If they finish early, have them turn their papers over and draw a picture or write about their favorite part of Joseph's story.

Affirmation/Declaration:
God has good plans for me.
I can always trust God to be good.

Make Connections:

Biblical Worldview Connection:
Some people blame God for causing their problems or believe God sends problems and sickness to teach them a lesson. God is ALWAYS good. If it's good, it's from God; if it's bad, it's from the enemy. A biblical worldview refutes lies that place God as the mean, angry God looking to cause pain and to pay back people for their sins. Encourage the children to be walking advertisements for the goodness of God shown in their lives through His provision, health, and blessings!

Missions Connections:
Many cultures have gods that judge and punish. In these cultures, people work to earn favor or goodness. We have the only good God who showers His goodness on His people, not because the people are good—but because He is good. Lead the children in prayer for missionaries to share about God's goodness.

Family Connection:
At mealtime or bedtime, encourage each family member to share a way they saw that God was good. Help your children recognize that when they start looking for God's goodness, they will see it more and more.

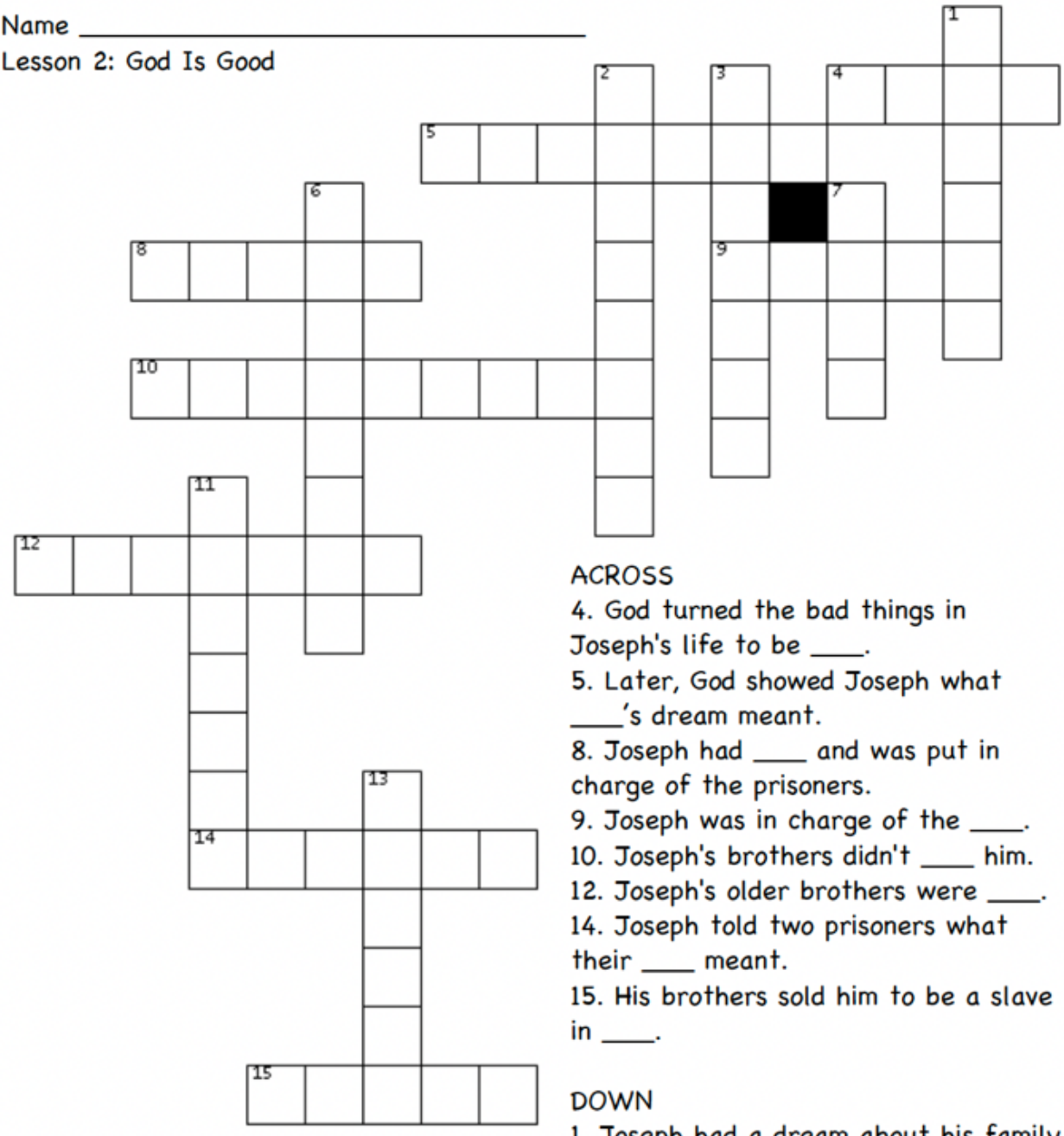
Prayer Points:
Explain that we should start our prayers praising God and reminding Him and us how good God is.

Praising God is complementing Him and saying how awesome He is. What are some compliments you have for God that praise Him? *(Ex. You're the best; I love that You are holy; You're awesome; Thank You that you are good all the time.)* Have volunteers share their prayer requests by praying, "*Dear God, I know you are a good God, and you will help with… . In Jesus' name, amen.*"

God is good

Name _____

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ACROSS

4. God turned the bad things in Joseph's life to be ____.
5. Later, God showed Joseph what ____'s dream meant.
8. Joseph had ____ and was put in charge of the prisoners.
9. Joseph was in charge of the ____.
10. Joseph's brothers didn't ____ him.
12. Joseph's older brothers were ____.
14. Joseph told two prisoners what their ____ meant.
15. His brothers sold him to be a slave in ____.

DOWN

1. Joseph had a dream about his family ____ down to him.
2. Joseph had 11 older ____.
3. Joseph ____ his brothers.
6. His father gave him a ____ coat.
7. His boss's wife lied and Joseph was thrown into ____.
11. Joseph's boss was very ____ with him.
13. Joseph's ____ needed grain, so his brothers went to Egypt.

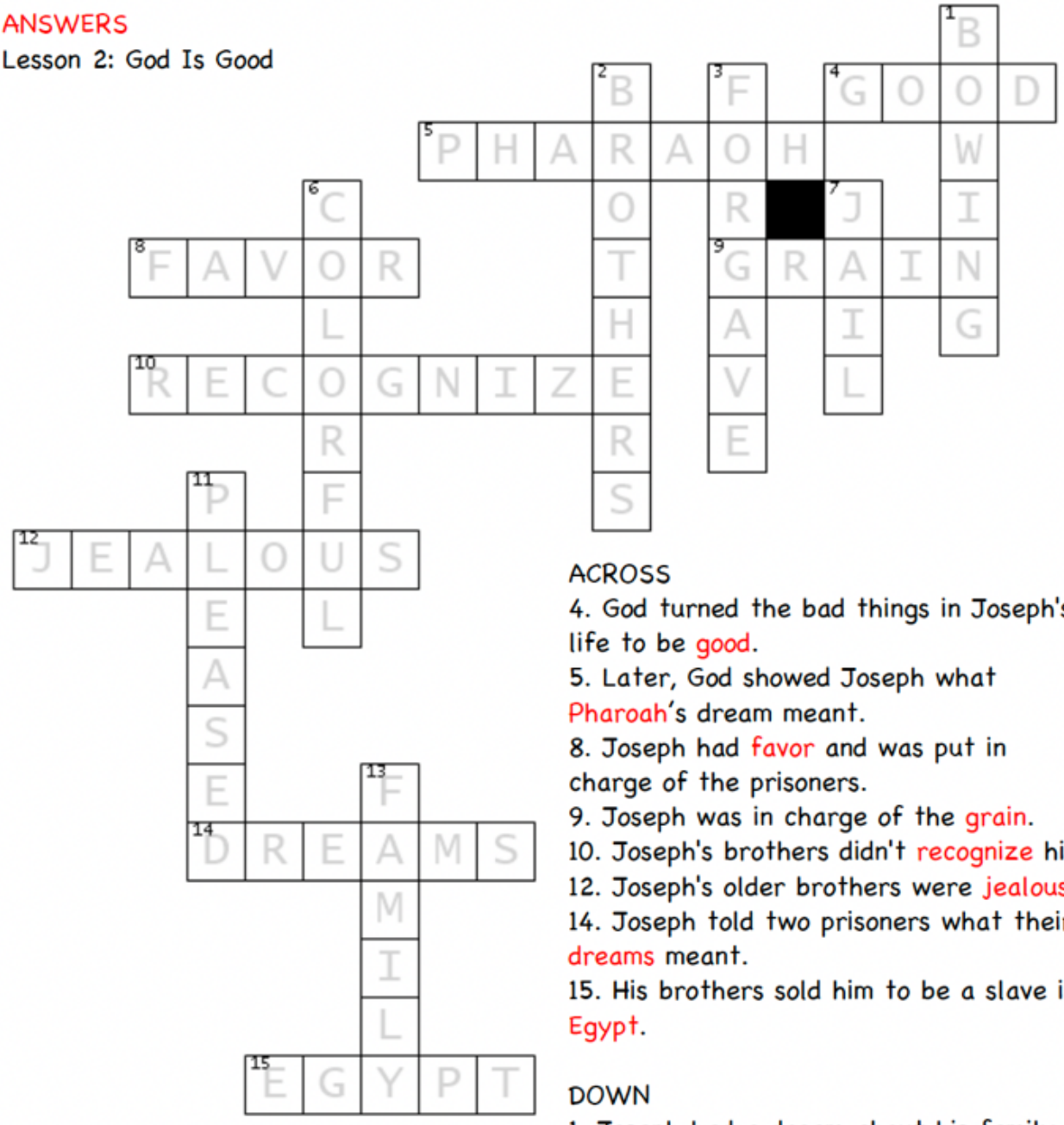
Word Bank:

Pharaoh, brothers, Egypt, recognize, colorful, favor, bowing, dreams, forgave, pleased, grain, jealous, family, jail, good

God is good

ANSWERS

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ACROSS

4. God turned the bad things in Joseph's life to be good.
5. Later, God showed Joseph what Pharoah's dream meant.
8. Joseph had favor and was put in charge of the prisoners.
9. Joseph was in charge of the grain.
10. Joseph's brothers didn't recognize him.
12. Joseph's older brothers were jealous.
14. Joseph told two prisoners what their dreams meant.
15. His brothers sold him to be a slave in Egypt.

DOWN

1. Joseph had a dream about his family bowing down to him.
2. Joseph had 11 older brothers.
3. Joseph forgave his brothers.
6. His father gave him a colorful coat.
7. His boss's wife lied and Joseph was thrown into jail.
11. Joseph's boss was very pleased with him.
13. Joseph's family needed grain, so his brothers went to Egypt.

Word Bank:

Pharaoh, brothers, Egypt, recognize, colorful, favor, bowing, dreams, forgave, pleased, grain, jealous, family, jail, good

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