

CMSI Children's Resource 2018



PEACE & FRIENDSHIP
IN EGYPT

Leaders' Guide

Introduction

Welcome to *Crossing Bridges* - CMSI's Children's Resource for 2018

Using Bible stories from the life of Joseph and snapshots of the Church in Egypt, *Crossing Bridges* explores themes of friendship, peace and reconciliation. We'll look at how God watches over, provides for and uses His people and how He helps people to cross bridges and come together. We hope and pray that the project will educate, inspire and encourage the children as they grow in their understanding of God and the mission of His global Church.

Introducing... The CMSI Children's Resource

Every year CMSI produces a resource for Sunday schools and churches in Ireland. The resource has the following **objectives**:

1. To help children and young people understand more about global mission - and their part in it.
2. To help churches learn about the work of CMSI's Global Partners and to encourage support for these partners.
3. To introduce a particular country - and highlight the mission work of the Church in that country.
4. To raise funds towards specific mission projects of the featured Global Partner

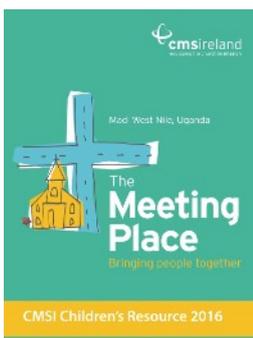
The focus of the Children's Resource changes each year – a different country, a different Global Partner, a different type of project. Recent packs have included:



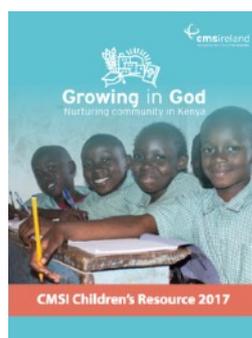
All Things New
2013, South Sudan



Little Lights
2015, DR Congo



The Meeting Place
2016, Uganda



Growing in God
2017, Kenya

Introducing... The *Crossing Bridges* Pack

Crossing Bridges has been designed for use by Sunday schools and other youth or children's groups. Material is provided for four age-groups over four sessions, but can be adapted to suit your own context. The age groups here are given as a guide only - there are no 'ages' on the workbooks:

Cobras: Under-6s

Camels: 9-12s

Crocodiles: 6-8s

Cranes: 13+

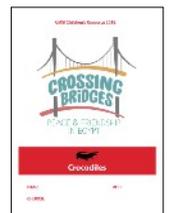


Leaders' Guide

This booklet contains everything you need to plan your programme, including background information and a session outline (with summary of activities) for the four age-groups. The final two pages of this Leaders' Guide include suggested material for a special **All-Age Service**.

Workbooks

Photocopiable workbooks are provided for the three younger age groups. You may like to make up a workbook for each child. Alternatively, you can order enough pre-printed, colour workbooks to allow each child to have their own copy.



DVD



There are two parts to the DVD:

- **DVD Films:** 4 short films to play as part of each session.
- **DVD-Rom:** The DVD-Rom contains additional material, including activity templates, printable versions of the workbooks and a selection of photographs.

(To access the DVD-Rom material, you need to insert the DVD into a computer. Once it's loaded, close down or 'minimise' the DVD player window, then find and select the Folder entitled 'Crossing Bridges 2018').

Sticker Sheets, Pencils & Craft Items

We'll include sticker sheets with each pack. You can also order pencils (25p/25c each) and handmade craft items (wooden cross keyrings) from the Diocese of Egypt (£1/€1 each).



Introducing... CMSI

The Church Mission Society Ireland (CMSI) is a Christian mission organisation that exists to help God's people engage in God's mission. We make connections between different parts of God's global family and we equip churches and individuals as they work together to share God's transforming love.

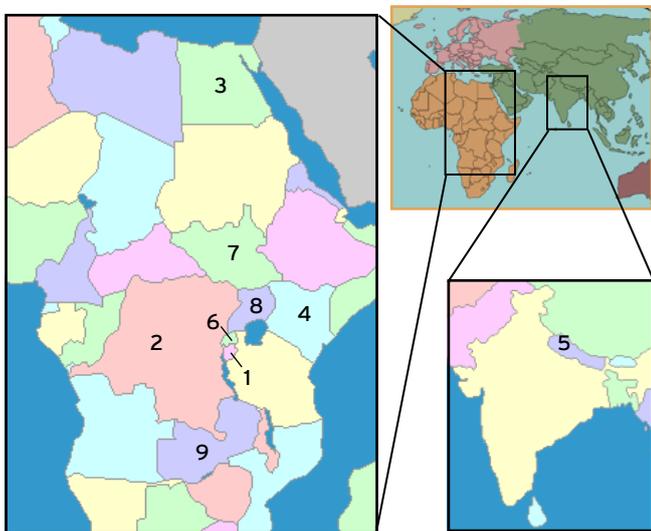
This Children's Resource is just one of the ways in which we resource the Church in Ireland and encourage parishes 'here' to support and be inspired by churches 'there'.

Introducing... CMSI's Global Partners

Over many years, CMSI has developed strong, fruitful relationships with a number of Anglican Dioceses, indigenous churches and Christian organisations in Africa and South Asia.

These **Global Partners** are very much part of CMSI's 'extended family' and our partnerships with them provide the context for everything we do. Each of them engages in mission in their own context - offering hope, healing and life to many people.

CMSI currently has 19 Global Partners in nine countries:



1. **Burundi:** The Dioceses of Gitega and Matana
2. **DR Congo:** The Dioceses of Bukavu, Kindu & North Kivu
3. **Egypt:** **The Diocese of Egypt**
4. **Kenya:** Kajiado Diocese; Urban Development Programme
5. **Nepal:** SD Church; Human Development Community Services
6. **Rwanda:** The Diocese of Kibungo & Shyogwe
7. **South Sudan:** The Dioceses of Ibba, Kajo-Keji, Maridi & Yei
8. **Uganda:** The Dioceses of Luwero & Madi West Nile
9. **Zambia:** The Diocese of Northern Zambia

Introducing... Egypt



Egypt is a country that spans two continents, joining northeast Africa with southwest Asia. It's therefore part of both Africa and the Middle East. Egypt is bordered by Libya to the west, Sudan to the south and Israel and the Gaza Strip to the northeast. It has two coastlines - with the Red Sea (to the east) and the Mediterranean (to the north).

With an area of over one million square kilometres, Egypt is 12 times bigger than Ireland. The Sahara Desert makes up most of the terrain, making 95% of the country uninhabitable. Around 97 million people live in Egypt. The vast majority of these live in the large towns and cities along the Nile River, which runs the length of the country. The capital city, Cairo, is home to over 12 million people, with more than 20 million living in the Greater Cairo area.



Around 90% of Egypt's population is Muslim, with various Christian denominations accounting for the rest of the people. The Coptic church is the biggest Christian denomination; Anglicans only make up about 1% of the total population. Relationships between Christians and Muslims haven't always been easy. Christians and churches have often been the focus of violence and persecution by extremist Islamic groups.



Egypt is one of the oldest nation states in the world. As well as being famous for its ancient historical sites, like the Great Pyramids and the Sphinx, Egypt plays a significant role in the story of the Bible.

Background information

Information and suggestions to help you make the most of each of the four sessions

Crossing Bridges - this year's theme

Our Children's Resource theme for 2018 reflects CMSI's wider annual theme for 2017/2018 - *Crossing Bridges: Connecting People; Pursuing Peace.*

Bridges are often sites around which communities grow up, places where new life emerges.

Bridges are places for people to cross over; they are points of connection - spanning divisions and obstacles, joining opposing sides, bringing people together.



It's easy to see why a bridge is a fitting picture for the Church. This is particularly true for the Church in Egypt. The Anglican Church is playing a vital role in forging peace and understanding between Muslims and Christians, as well as providing services that allow vulnerable people to cross over and find hope and help.

The Children's Resource material introduces the **Diocese of Egypt** and shares some of the work that the Church in Egypt is doing to help people 'cross over' and find peace, friendship, help and hope.



10 Facts about Egypt

Some simple facts about the country - you may want to share some, or all, of these with your children.

1. It has coastlines on the Mediterranean and Red Seas.
2. The capital city is Cairo.
3. The Ancient Egyptian alphabet contained more than 700 hieroglyphs (symbols).
4. Over 130 pyramids have been discovered.
5. The official language is Arabic.
6. Cats were considered to be a sacred animal by the Ancient Egyptians. It's thought that most families kept a cat as a pet, which they believed would bring the household good luck!
7. 98% of the people live on 3% of the land.
8. The Ancient Egyptians invented toothpaste.
9. 90% of the population are Muslims, with Christians making up most of the remaining 10%.
10. The ancient Egyptians were the first to have a year consisting of 365 days divided into 12 months.

The Flag of Egypt

The flag was officially adopted in October 1984, but it is based on the *Arab Liberation Flag* from the Egyptian Revolution of 1952. The red band symbolises the period before the revolution, a time characterised by the struggle against the monarchy and British occupation. The white band symbolises the bloodless nature of the Revolution. The black band symbolises the end of the oppression of the Egyptian people at the hands of the monarchy.



Suggestions for using the DVD



Each session outline includes a time to watch the short film on the DVD. After showing the DVD film, you may want to ask a few questions about what the children have just seen. A few suggestions are listed below.

You can adjust these questions, as appropriate, for the various ages and you may want to use some of them *before you watch*, to help the children focus.

Film 1

This film introduces the country of Egypt.

- ★ Has anyone here ever been to Egypt? If so, what was it like?
- ★ What struck you about Egypt? Did anything stand out?
- ★ Name some of the differences between Egypt and (Northern) Ireland.

Film 2

This film introduces the Church in Egypt.

- ★ What did you learn about the Church in Egypt?
- ★ What sorts of things does the Church in Egypt do? How does this compare with the Church in Ireland?

Film 3

This film introduces the 'Deaf Unit' and the 'Tree of Hope' initiative.

- ★ What did you learn about the deaf unit in Cairo?
- ★ What did you learn about the Tree of Hope initiative?

Film 4

This film shows us some ways in which we can help the Church in Egypt.

- ★ How can we help the Church in Egypt?
- ★ What can we learn from the Church in Egypt about how to care for people where we live?

Introducing the Youth Sessions ('The Cranes')

We have provided outlines for four 'Youth Sessions' - primarily aimed at the 13-15 age group. These can be found towards the back of this Leaders' Guide (purple pages). Each youth session has suggested activities for a 60-minute programme. These activities can be used and adapted to suit your particular group and the time available.

For those groups with more time available, perhaps the young people could work on a collaborative craft project under the title '**Crossing Bridges**' - eg. a bridge 'sculpture' or big collage.

There may also be activities from the *Camels* group (Blue) that you feel are appropriate for the younger members of your youth group. You could even use the blue workbooks with your young teens.

You should use and adapt whatever material (in the Resource Pack) that you feel is most appropriate.

Competition Instructions

On the back page of the workbooks there is a competition page for each of the age groups. This can be photocopied and distributed to the children.

- *The Cobras should submit their colouring activity from Week 4. Please remember to write in their names and age for them.*
- *The Crocodiles should each colour-in and decorate the picture and title.*
- *The Camels should each design and draw a poster related to something they've learned throughout the project.*
- *The young people in the Cranes group can also enter the competition, by designing an A4 poster with the title **Crossing Bridges**. Encourage your young people to think creatively about what they've learned throughout the different sessions.*

Any entries returned to our offices before the end of October will receive a certificate (one per child). If you want certificates for your Children's Day services, please ensure we receive your entries in plenty of time - and indicate your service date.

Entries received by the **25th May** will be included in the 'competition'. The winners will be announced on the CMSI website in June.

Please remember to put the child's name, age and church on each entry and supply a list of all your entries on a separate page to ensure we add the correct details to certificates.

Fundraising - Supporting the Diocese of Egypt

Each year, money is raised through the Children's Resource to help our Global Partners engage in real, loving, life-changing mission. This money, and the prayers that go with it, really make a difference. All the money raised for these projects goes from CMSI to the Global Partner.

This year, we want to help the Church in Egypt by providing support for two of its programmes. Money raised through this year's project will be used:

1. To fund the 'Tree Of Hope' programme in one primary school, including:

- ➔ Training Christian and Muslim teachers in how to promote and develop mutual understanding and respect with their students;
- ➔ Supporting children's cultural activities within the school to help Christian and Muslim children learn about each others' faiths and cultural traditions.

2. To provide resources for the Deaf Unit (a school run by the diocese) - helping deaf children to receive quality education in a loving, caring context.

Every pound/euro donated for the Crossing Bridges project will be used to support these two initiatives.



Key lesson - God cares for His people and watched over them.

Egypt focus - Introducing Egypt.



Group Time

Introduce the children to the *Crossing Bridges* Children's Resource and briefly explain what they will be learning about in the coming weeks. Spend some time looking at the map of the world and point out where Egypt is. On the Egypt map, highlight the key features and show the children where Cairo is. Use the Background Information (Pages 2 & 3) to talk about Egypt.



DVD - Film 1

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw or what differences they see between Egypt and Ireland.



Story Time

Today's story is about Joseph, whose brothers hated him so much, they wanted to kill him. But twice in today's story, God intervenes and protects Joseph from death – He has plans for Joseph and He keeps him alive and safe.

Read through today's passage: **Genesis 37** (either the whole chapter or just verses 1-14 & 18-28).

Although God isn't mentioned in this story, He is very much involved. As we'll see over the coming weeks, God was watching over Joseph and keeping him safe. God had a plan for Joseph's life – a plan that involved him going to Egypt!



Workbook Activity

Colour-in the picture of Joseph in the well and, if you there is time, complete the flag, using the colour key.



Craft activity - Joseph in the well

Materials - paper cup, paint and decorating materials, wooden lollipop stick/wooden peg, memory verse printed onto paper strip, glue, stapler.

Instructions:

- ★ Decorate the paper cup so it looks like the stone well from today's Bible story.
- ★ Using art materials, transform the lollipop stick/ wooden peg into Joseph. You can be as creative as you like, adding clothes and hair etc! If time is an issue - consider using a lego figure or small toy man.

- ★ Once everyone has completed their well, see if the children can drop Joseph into the well. Try this from different heights.
- ★ Talk about how Joseph would have felt - being left hurt and abandoned by his brothers.
- ★ Staple the memory verse over the top of the well as a handle, to remind the children that God was with Joseph even in his difficult situation.



Memory Verse - Joshua 1:9

"Don't be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Write the memory verse out on different pieces of card. Hide the words around your hall/room and ask the children to hunt for the cards. Once they have all been found, help the children to arrange the verse in the right order.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the red or blue workbooks.



Additional Craft - Egypt Mural

Materials - art and craft materials, large sheets of paper/ back of wallpaper. (Images can be found on the DVD-Rom).

Why not make a large display to help the children share what they are learning about Egypt and the story of Joseph? As you learn more things each week of *Crossing Bridges*, add more things to your Egypt Mural. Begin by cutting out and decorating Joseph and his brothers. Why not add some Pyramids and Egypt flags?



Key lesson - God uses His people to help and bless others.

Egypt focus - Introducing the Church in Egypt.



Group Time

Explain that today, we're going to think about how God uses His people to support, help and bless others. Talk about the different leaders in your church and what they do in their role - e.g. minister/Sunday school teacher/family worker. How do these people help and bless others?



Workbook activity

Help the children to find their way through the 'J maze' (draw a line through the capital Js) - and help Joseph get to Egypt!



DVD - Film 2

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what sort of things the Church does in Egypt - how is it different to your own church?



Going Global

For those parishes with a specific Partnership Link or an interest in a particular country, this would be a good time to share something about your link and to share what things your Global Partners do.



Story Time

Background: After Joseph was taken to Egypt as a slave, he worked for Potiphar, who was captain of the palace guard for the king. Potiphar liked Joseph and saw that God was watching over him. He made Joseph his attendant. God used Joseph to help and bless Potiphar.

However, Potiphar's wife fancied Joseph, but when he gave her no attention, she told lies about him and he was put in prison. But God was still watching over Joseph and looking after him. The prison warden was impressed with Joseph and put him in charge of all the prisoners.

Some time later, the king was angry with his chief cupbearer and his chief baker and put them both in prison. While they were there, God helped Joseph to interpret their dreams. And the interpretations came true - the cupbearer got his job back, but the baker was executed.

Read through today's passage: **Genesis 41:1-16; 25-40**

The rest of Genesis 41 tells us that because of how God worked through Joseph, Egypt is blessed and flourishes.



Game - Pharaoh says

This game is just like Simon says. Pick one person to be the leader and everyone must do the same action but only when the instruction begins with: "Pharaoh says..." You are out if you do the action without Pharaoh saying so!



Workbook Activity

Colour-in the picture of Joseph leading people in Egypt.



Memory Verse - Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me".

Blow up balloons of different sizes and colours and write one or two words of the memory verse on each balloon. Repeat the memory verse and after each reading, pop one of the balloons. Repeat until all the balloons have been burst and the children can say the whole verse.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the red or blue workbooks.



Additional Activity - Egypt Mural

Continue to add to your Egypt Mural. Why not write your church's name in hieroglyphics? Or make a collage picture of Pharaoh (the king) with lots of gold and shiny paper scraps.



Week 3
Cobras

Key lesson - God provides for His people's needs.

Egypt focus - Exploring the work of the Church in Egypt.



Group Time

Recap on the theme of *Crossing Bridges* and remind the children of the key lessons from the first two weeks.

Why not start the lesson by thinking of all the ways God provides for us? Ask the children to make suggestions and write them on a large sheet of paper. Teach the children to give thanks for all the ways in which God has provided for them.



DVD - Film 3

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they learned or noticed about the two programmes run by the Church in Egypt. (The Deaf School and the 'Tree of Hope' project). You may need to explain why it's important for the Church in Egypt to work hard at maintaining peace between Muslims and Christians.



Story Time

Pharaoh's dreams about the famine came true. Egypt had seven years of bumper harvest – and Joseph made sure that plenty of food was stored. When the seven years of famine came, there was enough food for everyone who lived in Egypt – and extra food that they could sell to people from other countries.

Joseph's family – his father Jacob, his mother and all of his brothers – were still living in Canaan and they didn't have enough food. But God was watching over them and He was going to provide for their needs.

Read **Genesis 42** (Read the whole chapter if possible, but otherwise, just read verses 1-8;18-19;25-26).



Workbook activity

Complete the dot-to-to bridge and colour it in.

Chat about famous bridges. If you have time, show photos of famous bridges from the DVD-Rom.

Help the children to come up with as many words as possible using the phrase "crossing bridges". This might be a good task to complete as a group.

Colour-in the picture of Joseph and his brothers.



Memory Verse - Psalm 16:2

"You are my Lord. Every good thing I have comes from you"

Read the verse aloud and add actions to some of the words (e.g 'my', 'Lord', 'good', 'you'). Ask the children to repeat the verse with you and copy your actions. You could even try 'saying' the verse without speaking!



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the red or blue workbooks.



Additional Activity - Egypt Mural

Continue to add to your Egypt Mural. Why not include a drawing of a bridge? Or perhaps make a 3D model of a bridge using scrap/recycled materials?



Key lesson - God brings people together and restores relationships.

Egypt focus - Supporting the work of the Church in Egypt.



Group Time

Spend some time reminding the children of all the things they have learned about Egypt and the work of the Church there. Use the photos on the DVD-Rom or in the red/blue workbooks to help jog their memories.

Can the children think of one way they would like to "cross bridges"? Perhaps something they have learned from the stories of Joseph in the Bible?



DVD Film

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them how they can help the Church in Egypt to share God's love and bring people together from all parts of the community.



Story Time

In our last story from the life of Joseph, things were left as a cliff-hanger. Joseph's brothers had returned home with food for their father, Jacob and his household. But they didn't realise that the person who had given them the food was their brother Joseph. And one of the brothers, Simeon – had been kept in prison until they returned to Egypt with their youngest brother, Benjamin.

After a while, the food ran out again and Jacob told his sons to return to Egypt to buy more grain. They persuaded him to let Benjamin go with them, just as Joseph had asked. On this visit, Joseph released Simeon and treated his brothers to a huge feast. He then sent them on their way with more food. But he played a trick on them by hiding his special silver cup in Benjamin's sack of food and then pretending to be angry that Benjamin had stolen the cup. He brought them all back to his house in Egypt.

Read today's Bible passage – **Genesis 45:1-15** – which tells the story of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers.

After this story, Pharaoh invites Joseph's brothers to bring their dad and their families to come and live in Egypt, where he will give them the best land to live on and plenty of good food. Joseph enjoys a very special reunion with his dad – the reconciliation is complete.



Workbook activity

Complete the competition on the back page of the workbook by colouring-in the picture of Joseph and his coat of many colours. Feel free to add stickers or glitter to make this bright and colourful.



Memory Verse - Proverbs 19:21

"A man may have many plans in his heart. But the Lord's purpose wins out in the end."

Draw a heart-shaped jigsaw using the words of the memory verse on a large piece of card and cut out each jigsaw piece. Start with a complete jigsaw and and repeat the verse. Then ask a child to remove a piece of the jigsaw. Repeat this until there are no pieces left.



Fundraising

If you haven't already done so, you could talk to your children about how to raise money for the *Crossing Bridges* project in Egypt.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

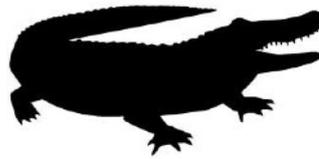
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Prayer

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Key lesson - God cares for His people and watched over them.

Egypt focus - Introducing Egypt.



Group Time

Introduce the children to the *Crossing Bridges* Children's Resource and briefly explain what they will be learning about in the coming weeks. Spend some time looking at the map of the world and point out where Egypt is. On the Egypt map, highlight the key features and show the children where Cairo is. Use the Background Information (Pages 2 & 3) to talk about Egypt.



Workbook activity

Complete the 'What do we know about Egypt?' activity and the 'Colour the Flag' activity using the colour code.



DVD - Film 1

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw or what differences they see between Egypt and Ireland.



Story Time

Today's story is about Joseph, whose brothers hated him so much, they wanted to kill him. But twice in today's story, God intervenes and protects Joseph from death – He has plans for Joseph and He keeps him alive and safe.

Read through today's passage: **Genesis 37** (either the whole chapter or just verses 1-14 & 18-28).

Although God isn't mentioned in this story, He is very much involved. As we'll see over the coming weeks, God was watching over Joseph and keeping him safe. God had a plan for Joseph's life – a plan that involved him going to Egypt!



Workbook Activity

Complete the 'colour the picture' activity and the 'Joseph in the well' maze.



Craft activity - Joseph in the well

Materials - paper cup, paint and decorating materials, wooden lollipop stick/wooden peg, memory verse printed onto paper strip, glue, stapler.

Instructions:

- ★ Decorate the paper cup so it looks like the stone well from today's Bible story.
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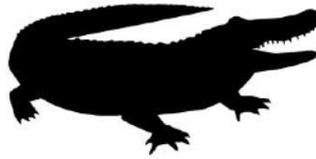


Additional Craft - Egypt Mural

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Why not make a large display to help the children share what they are learning about Egypt and the story of Joseph? As you learn more things each week of *Crossing Bridges*, add more things to your Egypt Mural.

Begin by cutting out and decorating Joseph and his brothers. Why not add some Pyramids and Egypt flags?



Key lesson - God uses His people to help and bless others.

Egypt focus - Introducing the Church in Egypt.



Group Time

Explain that today, we're going to think about how God uses His people to support, help and bless others. Talk about the different leaders in your church and what they do in their role - e.g. minister/Sunday school teacher/family worker. How do these people help and bless others?



Workbook activity

Complete the "Joseph interprets Pharaoh's dreams" activity. Can they find all the words in the word search?



DVD - Film 2

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what sort of things the Church does in Egypt - how is it different to your own church?



Going Global

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Story Time

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Game - Pharaoh says

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Workbook Activity

Think of different things that make a good leader - fill in the missing stars with your ideas. Explain to the children about Egyptian Hieroglyphs (picture symbols, letters etc used as writing) and help them complete Joseph's name using the chart. If there is time, they can write their own name too!



Memory Verse - Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me"

Blow up balloons of different sizes and colours and write one or two words of the memory verse on each balloon. Repeat the memory verse and after each reading, pop one of the balloons. Repeat until all the balloons have been burst and the children can say the whole verse.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



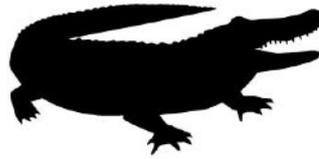
Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the red or blue workbooks.



Additional Activity - Egypt Mural

Continue to add to your Egypt Mural. Why not write your church's name in hieroglyphics? Or make a collage picture of Pharaoh with lots of gold and shiny paper scraps.



Key lesson - God provides for His people's needs.
Egypt focus - Exploring the work of the Church in Egypt.



Group Time

Recap on the theme of *Crossing Bridges* and remind the children of the key lessons from the first two weeks.

Why not start the lesson by thinking of all the ways God provides for us? Ask the children to make suggestions and write them on a large sheet of paper. Teach the children to give thanks for all the ways in which God has provided for them.



DVD - Film 3

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they learned or noticed about the two programmes run by the Church in Egypt. (The Deaf School and the 'Tree of Hope' project). You may need to explain why it's important for the Church in Egypt to work hard at maintaining peace between Muslims and Christians.



Story Time

Pharaoh's dreams about the famine came true. Egypt had seven years of bumper harvest – and Joseph made sure that plenty of food was stored. When the seven years of famine came, there was enough food for everyone who lived in Egypt – and extra food that they could sell to people from other countries.

Joseph's family – his father Jacob, his mother and all of his brothers – were still living in Canaan and they didn't have enough food. But God was watching over them and He was going to provide for their needs.

Read **Genesis 42** (Read the whole chapter if possible, but otherwise, just read verses 1-8;18-19;25-26).



Workbook activity

Help the children to complete the "Picture this" activity - thinking of ways the Church in Egypt helps people.

Colour-in the picture of Joseph providing food for his brothers in Egypt.



Memory Verse - Psalm 16:2

"You are my Lord. Every good thing I have comes from you"

Read the verse aloud and add actions to some of the words (e.g 'my'; 'Lord'; 'good'; 'you'). Ask the children to repeat the verse with you and copy your actions. You could even try 'saying' the verse without speaking!



Workbook activities

Allow time for the children to complete the dot-to-dot activity.

Chat about famous bridges, if you have time, show photos of famous bridges from the DVD-Rom.

Help the children to come up with as many words as possible using the phrase "crossing bridges". This might be a good task to complete as a group.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



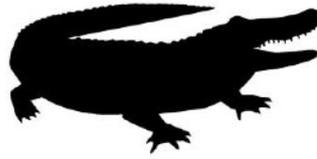
Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Additional Activity - Egypt Mural

Continue to add to your Egypt Mural. Why not include a drawing of a bridge? Or perhaps make a 3D model of a bridge using scrap/recycled materials?



Key lesson - God brings people together and restores relationships.

Egypt focus - Supporting the work of the Church in Egypt.



Group Time

Spend some time reminding the children of all the things they have learned about Egypt and the work of the Church there. Use the photos on the DVD-Rom or in the red/blue workbooks to help jog their memories.

Can the children think of one way they would like to "cross bridges"? Perhaps something they have learned from the stories of Joseph in the Bible?



DVD Film

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them how they can help the Church in Egypt to share God's love and bring people together from all parts of the community.



Story Time

In our last story from the life of Joseph, things were left as a cliff-hanger. Joseph's brothers had returned home with food for their father, Jacob and his household. But they didn't realise that the person who had given them the food was their brother Joseph. And one of the brothers, Simeon – had been kept in prison until they returned to Egypt with their youngest brother, Benjamin.

After a while, the food ran out again and Jacob told his sons to return to Egypt to buy more grain. They persuaded him to let Benjamin go with them, just as Joseph had asked. On this visit, Joseph released Simeon and treated his brothers to a huge feast. He then sent them on their way with more food. But he played a trick on them by hiding his special silver cup in Benjamin's sack of food and then pretending to be angry that Benjamin had stolen the cup. He brought them all back to his house in Egypt.

Read today's Bible passage – **Genesis 45:1-15** – which tells the story of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers.

After this story, Pharaoh invites Joseph's brothers to bring their dad and their families to come and live in Egypt, where he will give them the best land to live on and plenty of good food. Joseph enjoys a very special reunion with his dad – the reconciliation is complete.



Workbook activity

Spot the differences between the two pictures from today's Bible story - and colour-in the pictures.

Use the codebreaker to reveal two important lessons from today's story of Joseph.



Memory Verse - Proverbs 19:21

"A man may have many plans in his heart. But the Lord's purpose wins out in the end."

Draw a heart-shaped jigsaw using the words of the memory verse on a large piece of card and cut out each jigsaw piece. Start with a complete jigsaw and and repeat the verse. Then ask a child to remove a piece of the jigsaw. Repeat this until there are no pieces left.



Workbook activity - Competition

Create an attractive Joseph poster by colouring-in the picture. Make up your own colour chart using the numbers in the picture. Feel free to be as creative as you like - you can even add glitter and stickers. The brighter the better!



Fundraising

If you haven't already done so, you could talk to your children about how to raise money for the *Crossing Bridges* project in Egypt.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Week 1
Camels

Key lesson - God cares for His people and watched over them.

Egypt focus - Introducing Egypt.



Group Time

Introduce the children to the *Crossing Bridges* Children's Resource and briefly explain what they will be learning about in the coming weeks. Spend some time looking at the map of the world and point out where Egypt is. On the Egypt map, highlight the key features and show the children where Cairo is. Use the Background Information (Pages 2 & 3) to talk about Egypt.



Workbook activity

Complete the 'What do we know about Egypt' quiz activity and colour in the flag activity.



DVD - Film 1

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw or what differences they see between Egypt and Ireland.



Story Time

Today's story is about Joseph, whose brothers hated him so much, they wanted to kill him. But twice in today's story, God intervenes and protects Joseph from death – He has plans for Joseph and He keeps him alive and safe.

Read through today's passage: **Genesis 37** (either the whole chapter or just verses 1-14 & 18-28).

Although God isn't mentioned in this story, He is very much involved. As we'll see over the coming weeks, God was watching over Joseph and keeping him safe. God had a plan for Joseph's life – a plan that involved him going to Egypt!



Workbook Activity

Draw a cartoon based on the bible reading today about Joseph and his brothers.

Complete the maze activity



Craft activity - Joseph in the well

If time permits, use the instructions in the 'Cobras' or 'Crocodiles' session outlines (on the previous pages) to make wells and Josephs.



Memory Verse - Joshua 1:9

"Don't be afraid, because the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Write the memory verse out on different pieces of card. Hide the words around your hall/room and ask the children to hunt for the cards. Once they have all been found, help the children to arrange the verse in the right order.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Additional Craft - Egypt Mural

Materials - art and craft materials, large sheets of paper/ back of wallpaper. (Images can be found on the DVD-Rom).

Why not make a large display to help the children share what they are learning about Egypt and the story of Joseph? As you learn more things each week of *Crossing Bridges*, add more things to your Egypt Mural.

Begin by cutting out and decorating Joseph and his brothers. Why not add some Pyramids and Egypt flags?



Week 2
Camels

Key lesson - God uses His people to help and bless others.

Egypt focus - Introducing the Church in Egypt.



Group Time

Explain that today, we're going to think about how God uses His people to support, help and bless others. Talk about the different leaders in your church and what they do in their role - e.g. minister/Sunday school teacher/family worker. How do these people help and bless others?



Workbook activity

Complete the word search about Joseph in Egypt.

Think of different things that make a good leader - fill in the missing stars with your ideas.



DVD - Film 2

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what sort of things the Church does in Egypt - how is it different to your own church?



Going Global

For those parishes with a specific Partnership Link or an interest in a particular country, this would be a good time to share something about your link and to share what things your Global Partners do.



Story Time

Background: After Joseph was taken to Egypt as a slave, he worked for Potiphar, who was captain of the palace guard for the king. Potiphar liked Joseph and saw that God was watching over him. He made Joseph his attendant. God used Joseph to help and bless Potiphar.

However, Potiphar's wife fancied Joseph, but when he gave her no attention, she told lies about him and he was put in prison. But God was still watching over Joseph and looking after him. The prison warden was impressed with Joseph and put him in charge of all the prisoners.

Some time later, the king was angry with his chief cupbearer and his chief baker and put them both in prison. While they were there, God helped Joseph to interpret their dreams. And the interpretations came true - the cupbearer got his job back, but the baker was executed.

Read through today's passage: **Genesis 41:1-16; 25-40.**

The rest of Genesis 41 tells us that because of how God worked through Joseph, Egypt is blessed and flourishes.



Game - Pharaoh says

This game is just like Simon says. Pick one person to be the leader and everyone must do the same action but only when the instruction begins with: "Pharaoh says..." You are out if you do the action without Pharaoh saying so!



Workbook Activity

Explain to the children about Egyptian Hieroglyphs (picture symbols, letters etc used as writing) and help them complete Joseph's name and their own names using the chart.

Help the children to produce a news story about Joseph from today's Bible story.



Memory Verse - Philippians 4:13

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me".

Blow up balloons of different sizes and colours and write one or two words of the memory verse on each balloon. Repeat the memory verse and after each reading, pop one of the balloons. Repeat until all the balloons have been burst and the children can say the whole verse.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the red or blue workbooks.



Additional Activity - Egypt Mural

Continue to add to your Egypt Mural. Why not write your church's name in hieroglyphics? Or make a collage picture of Pharaoh with lots of gold and shiny paper scraps.



Week 3
Camels

Key lesson - God provides for His people's needs.
Egypt focus - Exploring the work of the Church in Egypt.



Group Time

Recap on the theme of *Crossing Bridges* and remind the children of the key lessons from the first two weeks.

Why not start the lesson by thinking of all the ways God provides for us? Ask the children to make suggestions and write them on a large sheet of paper. Teach the children to give thanks for all the ways in which God has provided for them.



DVD - Film 3

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them what they learned or noticed about the two programmes run by the Church in Egypt. (The Deaf School and the 'Tree of Hope' project). You may need to explain why it's important for the Church in Egypt to work hard at maintaining peace between Muslims and Christians.



Story Time

Pharaoh's dreams about the famine came true. Egypt had seven years of bumper harvest – and Joseph made sure that plenty of food was stored. When the seven years of famine came, there was enough food for everyone who lived in Egypt – and extra food that they could sell to people from other countries.

Joseph's family – his father Jacob, his mother and all of his brothers – were still living in Canaan and they didn't have enough food. But God was watching over them and He was going to provide for their needs.

Read **Genesis 42** (Read the whole chapter if possible, but otherwise, just read verses 1-8;18-19;25-26).



Workbook activity

Allow time for the children to try the word mining activity using the phrase "crossing bridges" and to complete the spot the difference puzzle with Joseph and his brothers.



Memory Verse - Psalm 16:2

You are my Lord. Every good thing I have comes from you"

Read the verse aloud and add actions to some of the words (e.g 'my', 'Lord', 'good', 'you'). Ask the children to repeat the verse with you and copy your actions. You could even try 'saying' the verse without speaking!



Workbook activities

Help the children complete the quiz based on the 6th October bridge in Cairo - Film 3 has the answers!

Discuss different types of bridges and show examples from the DVD-Rom. Allow time for the children to design their own bridges.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Additional Activity - Egypt Mural

Continue to add to your Egypt Mural. Why not include a drawing of a bridge? Or perhaps make a 3D model of a bridge using scrap/recycled materials?



Week 4
Camels

Key lesson - God brings people together and restores relationships.

Egypt focus - Supporting the work of the Church in Egypt.



Group Time

Spend some time reminding the children of all the things they have learned about Egypt and the work of the Church there. Use the photos on the DVD-Rom or in the red/blue workbooks to help jog their memories.

Can the children think of one way they would like to "cross bridges"? Perhaps something they have learned from the stories of Joseph in the Bible?



DVD Film

After the film, ask the children if they have any questions about what they saw. Ask them how they can help the Church in Egypt to share God's love and bring people together from all parts of the community.



Story Time

In our last story from the life of Joseph, things were left as a cliff-hanger. Joseph's brothers had returned home with food for their father, Jacob and his household. But they didn't realise that the person who had given them the food was their brother Joseph. And one of the brothers, Simeon – had been kept in prison until they returned to Egypt with their youngest brother, Benjamin.

After a while, the food ran out again and Jacob told his sons to return to Egypt to buy more grain. They persuaded him to let Benjamin go with them, just as Joseph had asked. On this visit, Joseph released Simeon and treated his brothers to a huge feast. He then sent them on their way with more food. But he played a trick on them by hiding his special silver cup in Benjamin's sack of food and then pretending to be angry that Benjamin had stolen the cup. He brought them all back to his house in Egypt.

Read today's Bible passage – **Genesis 45:1-15** – which tells the story of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers.

After this story, Pharaoh invites Joseph's brothers to bring their dad and their families to come and live in Egypt, where he will give them the best land to live on and plenty of good food. Joseph enjoys a very special reunion with his dad – the reconciliation is complete.



Workbook activity

Complete the activity "Get Connected" – learning more about Joseph and his brothers.

Find your way through the peace maze – go slowly and carefully!



Memory Verse - Proverbs 19:21

"A man may have many plans in his heart. But the Lord's purpose wins out in the end."

Draw a heart-shaped jigsaw using the words of the memory verse on a large piece of card and cut out each jigsaw piece. Start with a complete jigsaw and repeat the verse. Then ask a child to remove a piece of the jigsaw. Repeat this until there are no pieces left.



Workbook activity and competition

Use the codebreaker to work out the two important lessons from Joseph's story.

For the competition, create a colourful *Crossing Bridges* poster. Use the poster to share something you have learned from the Bible stories or something about Egypt. Feel free to be as creative as you like. You may want to add glitter and stickers – the brighter the poster, the better!



Fundraising

If you haven't already done so, you could talk to your children about how to raise money for the *Crossing Bridges* project in Egypt.



Round-up

Ask the children what things they have learned from today's lesson. You may want to give them some plain paper to draw a picture.

You may like to wrap up the lesson with the following questions:

- What did you learn from the Bible story today?
- What did you learn from the DVD film today?
- What can we share with our friends and family?



Prayer

Finish the lesson with the suggested prayer in the workbooks.



Key lesson - God cares for His people and watches over them.

Egypt focus - Introducing Egypt.

Prep for the session

For the 'Robe Relay', you'll need to print two copies of 'Joseph's Coat' from the DVD-Rom - or you can draw your own - and you'll need colouring pens, crayons or pencils. The sheets for 'People Bingo' are also available on the DVD-Rom. You'll also need blank sheets of A4 paper and pens for the timelines. A sample timeline is on the DVD-Rom.



Getting started [5-10 mins]

Robe Relay

Place two copies of 'Joseph's coat' at the front of the room with a selection of colours. Divide the young people up into two teams and get them to compete in a colouring-in relay. The first young person picks a colour and *fully* colours in one stripe on the coat (no white gaps) – and then tags the next person in their team.

You can either run it as a straight relay – or give points for speed *and* points for artistry.

Explain that today's Bible story will introduce Joseph and share some of the things that happened to him after he was given his special robe.



Opening it up [10 mins]

People Bingo

The young people must try to get all the boxes signed on their sheet. If the person they ask meets the description, that box can be signed by that person. Players can only ask about one box to one person at a time before moving on to try someone else. They can't ask two questions in a row to the same person. Depending on numbers, you can introduce 'no repeats of signatures' or set a maximum of two/three signatures from anyone.

After the game, take a few minutes to discuss the fact that our lives are full of different experiences – positive and negative, fun and scary. While we may have lots in common with each other, we're all unique - we each have different things going on in our lives and in our heads. Explain that today, we'll think about how God watches over us and takes an interest in every aspect of our lives.



Bible Bit [10+ mins]

Today's story is about Joseph, whose brothers hated him so much, they wanted to kill him. But twice in today's story, God intervenes and protects Joseph from death – He has plans for Joseph and He keeps him alive and safe.

Read through today's passage: **Genesis 37** (either the whole chapter or just verses 1-14 & 18-28).

- Why did Joseph's dad give him a fancy coat?
- Why did Joseph's brothers and half-brothers hate him? (at least three reasons)

- What did Joseph's two dreams seem to mean?
- When Joseph's brothers see him coming to visit them, what is their plan?
- How does God intervene to stop Joseph being killed by his brothers?
- When Joseph is in the pit, how does God rescue him?
- What do we learn about Joseph in this story?

Although God isn't mentioned in this story, He is very much involved. As we'll see over the coming weeks, God was watching over Joseph and keeping him safe. God had a plan for Joseph's life – a plan that involved him going to Egypt!



Pulling it together [10-15 mins]

Joseph time line

Give the young people paper and pens and ask them to draw a simple timeline for Joseph, highlighting the main events outlined in today's story, starting with verse 2. Above the line, they should write brief captions or descriptions (or even draw a simple doodle). Below the line, they could add comments about how Joseph might have felt at each part of the story.

Make the point that God loved Joseph and was watching over Joseph the whole time.

Ask the young people to turn over the sheet and do a similar timeline for themselves, covering the last week, month or year – with main events labelled above the line and how they felt below the line.

Assure them that God loves each of them just as much as he loved Joseph and that He is watching over them all the time.



DVD [10+ mins]

Show the first film on the **Crossing Bridges DVD** which introduces us to Egypt. Afterwards, chat about what you saw and the ways in which Egypt is different from Ireland. (See page 4 for suggested questions).



Memory Verse [5+ mins]

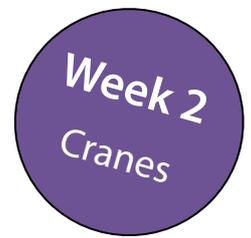
Use one of the memory verse activities from the red or blue sessions to teach the following verse

The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life. [Psalm 121:7]



Prayer Time

Finish the session by praying for the young people - that they would know that God cares for them and watches over them. Pray too for the country of Egypt.



Key lesson - God uses His people to help and bless others.

Egypt focus - Introducing the Church in Egypt.

Prep for the session

For the 'Jam Sandwich Challenge', you'll need a jar of jam, some sliced bread, a knife and a plate. Hide them in the room, out of sight, before the young people arrive. For the news report, you'll need some paper/card and pens - as well as a smart phone or video camera.



Getting started [5-10 mins]

Back-to-back

Begin with two young people sitting on the floor, back to back with arms linked. They have to stand up without their hands or arms touching the floor. If they're successful, add another person and try again. Have a few goes and see how many people can you do this with.

Explain that today, we're going to think about how God uses His people to support, help and bless others.



Opening it up [10+ mins]

Jam Sandwich Challenge

Ask for a volunteer to take on the challenge - which involves making a jam sandwich. Blindfold the volunteer.

Round One - Simply tell the blindfolded person that it their job is to find the jam, bread, knife and plate and make a jam sandwich in 90 seconds. The rest of the group can't offer any help.

Round Two - Tell the group they can instruct the blindfolded person - guide towards the ingredients etc. They can't touch the person or the ingredients. Together, they *might* meet the goal of 90 seconds. (Unlikely)

Round Three - Tell the group they can do *anything* in their power to help (don't tell them, but this includes making the sandwich themselves). They should succeed!

Have a short discussion about the challenge, asking questions like:

- Which round was the hardest? Why?
- Which round was the easiest? Why?
- Could the blindfolded person ever complete the goal without help?
- What things might people (in our families, schools, churches etc) find difficult to do without help? How might we - or others - be able to help them?



Bible Bit [10+ mins]

Background: After Joseph was taken to Egypt as a slave, he initially worked for Potiphar, who was captain of the palace guard for Pharaoh (the king). Potiphar liked Joseph and saw that God was watching over him. He made Joseph his attendant and trusted him to run his household. God used Joseph to help and bless Potiphar.

However, Potiphar's wife tried to entice Joseph to sleep with her. When he refused, she set him up and had him put in prison. But God was still watching over Joseph and looking after him. The prison warden was impressed with Joseph and put him in charge of all the prisoners.

Some time later, the king was angry with his chief cupbearer and his chief baker and put them both in prison. While they were there, they each had very clear, graphic dreams. God helped Joseph to interpret the dreams. And the interpretations came true - the cupbearer got his job back, but the baker was executed.

Read through today's passage: **Genesis 41:1-16; 25-40**

- Why is Joseph able to interpret Pharaoh's dreams, even though all the magicians couldn't? (v16)
- What do Pharaoh's dreams mean? Why are Joseph's interpretations so helpful?
- Why is Pharaoh so impressed by Joseph?
- What is the outcome for Joseph?

The rest of Genesis 41 tells us more about the outcome for Egypt - the country is blessed and flourishes as a result of Joseph and how God used him.



DVD [10+ mins]

Show the second film on the **Crossing Bridges DVD**, which introduces us to the Church in Egypt.



Pulling it together [15+ mins]

Breaking news

Ask the young people to produce a tv news report for the adults in church to explain how the Church in Egypt is reaching out to help others. They can do this as a big group - or you can divide them into a couple of teams and ask them each to work on them ('Apprentice' style).

Step 1 - 'Storyboard' the report on sheets of paper - outline the main things to say in the report. You may want to re-watch the DVD to help with this process.

Step 2 - Write the script - maybe share the report between a few young people.

Step 3 - Consider what images, props, 'intro music' or special effects to use during the report. (These things can all be done live during recording, in a fun, informal way).

Step 4 - Film the report on a smart-phone or camera.

Step 5 (optional) - if there's a chance to show the news report in church, go for it!



Prayer Time

Finish the session by praying for the Church in Egypt as it helps other people. Pray for the young people, that they would find ways to help other people in their lives.



Key lesson - God provides for His people's needs.
Egypt focus - Exploring the work of the Church in Egypt.

Prep for the session

For the 'River Crossing', you'll need rope, string or tape to outline the 'river banks' and sheets of A4 paper to use as 'stepping stones'. You'll also need paper and pens for storyboarding 'Joseph snapshots'. For the snapshot activity, you may want to have pens, paper and even cards for captions. For the prayer time, you will need post-it notes and pens.



Getting started [5-10 mins]

River Crossing

In this game the young people must work together to safely cross a 'river'. Depending on the size of your group, you can either get everyone to do the challenge as one team or you can get two teams to race each other.

Draw two 'banks' to outline a river along the middle of your room/hall – the wider the better. Provide each team with three 'stepping stones' and explain the rules:

Everyone must cross to the other side of the river without touching the floor. They can only step on the stepping stones. If anyone touches the floor, that person must return to the start. The stepping stones can be lifted and passed between team members.

A few minutes after they've started the challenge, ask the young people if there's anything you can give them to make the task easier. If they ask, provide them with more stepping stones (as many as you choose). Make it clear that you're providing things to help meet their needs.



Opening it up [10 mins]

Bring me what I need (aka 'Chinese laundry')

Divide the young people into small teams of at least four people (two, three or four teams, depending on numbers). The game leader stands in the middle of the room (on a chair, if it's a big space).

The leader shouts "I need..." and chooses an item, such as a watch, a shoe, a lens, three pictures of the queen, five shoes tied together... basically, anything that is 'bringable' - however simple or obscure. The runner who is first to bring (not throw) the requested item to the leader gets a point for their team.



Bible Bit [10+ mins]

Pharaoh's dreams about the famine came true. Egypt had seven years of bumper harvest – and Joseph made sure that plenty of grain was stored. When the seven years of famine came, there was enough food for everyone who lived in Egypt – and extra food that they could sell to people from other countries.

Joseph's family – his father Jacob, his mother and all of his brothers – were still living in Canaan and they didn't have enough food. But God was watching over them and He was going to provide for their needs.

Read **Genesis 42** (Read the whole chapter if possible, but otherwise, just read verses 1-8;18-19;25-26.



Pulling it together [15+ mins]

Joseph snapshots

Get the young people to work together to produce a photo series that tells the story from Genesis 42. They could start by doing a quick story-board outline of the key points - you can help them identify the main parts of the story. They could even write a simple headline or caption for each photo on some card. Then you can take the photos of them as they act out the story. Make sure everyone is involved (and feel free to send your photo story to CMSI – we'd love to see it!).

After this exercise, have a quick chat about the Bible story and about how the brothers might have been feeling at different parts of the story. How did God provide for His people? Why is the story not complete?

God provides for his people in this story, but it's left as a bit of a cliff-hanger. Jacob and his family have the food they needed. But Simeon is back in prison in Egypt and Joseph hasn't told them who he really is. There's much more to come in the following chapters. We'll find out more next time.



DVD [10+ mins]

Show the third film on the **Crossing Bridges DVD** which introduces two programmes run by the Church in Egypt. Afterwards, chat about what you saw. (See page 4)

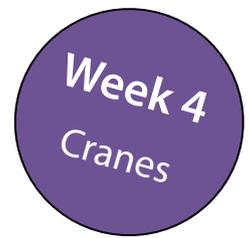


Prayer Time

Post-it prayer wall

Think about some of the people in Egypt - or closer to home - who might need help from God and from the Church. Ask the young people to use post-it notes to write down some of the people (eg refugees, deaf children, people who are sick) - or some of the needs (food, friendship, medical help).

After a few minutes, invite the young people to offer their prayers to God by sticking their post-it notes on a wall (you might want to play some music as they do this). Finish the session by asking God to bless these people and help to meet their needs.



Key lesson - God brings people together and restores relationships.
Egypt focus - Supporting the work of the Church in Egypt.

Prep for the session

The two opening activities will need a bit of clear space in your room/hall, so you may want to set-up the room accordingly. The only materials you'll need for this session are paper, pens etc for the final poster activity.



Getting started [5-10 mins]

Human knots

Ask everyone to stand together in a close circle and put out both their hands. When you tell them to, they randomly grab hold of other hands to make a human knot. They have to try and untangle themselves and get back into a circle without letting go of the other person's hands (stepping over and under people's arms etc). They may well end up with two separate circles. If it breaks down, start afresh and try again.

Today we're going to think about 'reconciliation' – the long, hard process of restoring broken relationships and helping bring people back together again.



Opening it up [10+ mins]

A-maze-ing reunion

Choose two people - and ask them to step outside the room. Blindfold one of the pair and ask the other to be their guide. Back in the room, everyone else has 2-3 minutes to make a simple maze, using all the people in the room and (if your group is small) some chairs. There needs to be a clear 'start' and 'finish' to the maze.

Invite the two young people back in and point them to the start. The 'guide' then leaves the blindfolded person and stands at the end of the maze. Using their voice only, the guide instructs their partner through the maze to the end. Time how long it takes. Choose two new people and repeat the challenge (with a new maze).

Ask the blindfolded folk to describe their experiences in the maze and to describe what it was like to be reunited.



Bible Bit [10+ mins]

In our last story from the life of Joseph, things were left as a cliff-hanger. Joseph's brothers had returned home with grain for their father, Jacob and his household. But they didn't realise that the person who had given them the food was their brother Joseph. And one of the brothers, Simeon – had been kept in prison until they returned to Egypt with their youngest brother, Benjamin.

After a while, the food ran out again and Jacob told his sons to return to Egypt to buy more grain. They

persuaded him to let Benjamin go with them, just as Joseph had asked. On this visit, Joseph released Simeon and treated his brothers to a huge feast. He then sent them on their way with more food. But he played a trick on them by hiding his special silver cup in Benjamin's sack of food and then pretending to be angry that Benjamin had stolen the cup. He brought them all back to his house in Egypt.

Read today's Bible passage – **Genesis 45:1-15** – which tells the story of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers.

- Why do you think Joseph's brothers were so scared when he told them who he was?
- What does Joseph do to ensure they're not scared?
- How does Joseph explain why he doesn't blame them for what happened to him?
- How do you think Joseph's brothers felt when they'd listened to his explanations?
- v15 tells us that after Joseph kissed his brothers and cried with them, they talked with him. What do you think they talked about?

After this story, Pharaoh invites Joseph's brothers to bring their dad and their families to come and live in Egypt, where he will give them the best land to live on and plenty of good food. Joseph enjoys a very special reunion with his dad – the reconciliation is complete.

DVD [5+ mins]

Show the fourth film on the **Crossing Bridges DVD** and have a brief discussion about how you might help support the Church in Egypt. Maybe the young people could come up with some fundraising ideas. (See page 4).



Pulling it together [20+ mins]

Posters (Competition)

Ask the young people to design a poster to tell part of the Joseph story or to share something they've learned about Egypt. Give them free reign to be creative, but have a few ideas up your sleeve. (eg. Show Joseph's reunion with his brothers; create a highlights poster of scenes from Joseph's life; show how the Church in Egypt is helping to care for people).

Use the activity to chat with the young people about what they've learned from the Bible stories and the DVD.



Prayer Time

Finish the session by praying for the young people, for Egypt and for the Church in Egypt. You may



All-age
service
material

Many of the parishes that use the CMSI Children's Resource hold a special All-Age Worship Service as part of their programme. This gives the whole congregation a chance to find out what the boys and girls have been, or will be, learning about and it provides an opportunity for everyone to get involved.

The following suggestions might be helpful as you put together your service. Even if you aren't able to dedicate a whole morning service to the Children's Resource, perhaps you could incorporate one or two of the ideas in the morning services on each of the four weeks. (Note: The text is available as a Word Doc on the DVD-Rom).

Introductions

It's worth including a few brief sentences of background and introduction to this year's resource - which looks at stories from the life of Joseph and the Church in Egypt to show how God watches over His people, uses them to help others, provides for their needs and invites them to bring people together.

You may want to make use of some parts of the Introduction and Background Information on pages 1-3. Or perhaps you could work with some of the older children to write a few introduction sentences that they can then read out.

DVD Clips

If you're able to show videos in your church, why not use one or more of the films from the *Crossing Bridges* DVD, to introduce folk to the Diocese of Egypt. There's also a more general film about CMSI's annual theme. The films are short, and can easily be included at any point of the service.

Bidding

Here is some suggested language for The Bidding:

In our worship today we will hear stories about our brothers and sisters in the Egypt - a place where the Church acts as a 'bridging point', helping people to cross over and find peace, hope and new life. As we sing God's praises, hear from His word and pray for His world, we remember that we are part of a global family, united together by our Father's love.

Prayers and Acclamations

One or more of the following could be included:

Confession

(A prayer from the Iona Community that embraces the mutuality between the liturgist and the congregation.)

*Before God, with the people of God, I confess to my brokenness:
To the ways I wound my life, the lives of others
and the life of the world.*

**May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.**

Amen.

**Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our
brokenness:**

**To the ways we wound our lives, the lives of others
and the life of the world.**

*May God forgive you, Christ renew you, and the spirit enable you to
grow in love.*

Amen.

Bible Acclamation

(Psalm 146:5-10)

*Blessed are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God.*

**He is the Maker of heaven and earth,
the sea, and everything in them – he remains faithful for ever.**

*He upholds the cause of the oppressed
and gives food to the hungry.*

**The Lord sets prisoners free,
the Lord gives sight to the blind,**

*the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down,
the Lord loves the righteous.*

**The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.**

*The Lord reigns for ever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.*

Praise the Lord!

Prayer of St Francis

(A prayer that reminds that loving God cannot be separated from loving others):

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

*O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.*

For it is in giving that we receive.

It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,

and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

*Loving God, Father of us all, we come to you in prayer, asking that
your will may be done in all things.*

*We pray for your Church throughout your world, remembering
especially our brothers and sisters in Egypt. As you watched over
and protected your servant Joseph, may you protect your people in
Egypt and in other places where Christians experience hardship and
persecution. May they know your presence and your peace.*

Lord, hear us. Lord graciously hear us.

Transforming God, we thank you for the work and witness of the Diocese of Egypt, as they cross bridges to meet people at their point of need. We pray especially for the work of the deaf school in Cairo and for the various reconciliation programmes of the Church, including the 'Tree of Hope' project. As you used Joseph to serve and help others, may you use your people, in Egypt and elsewhere, to bring bring hope, help and healing to a world in need.

*Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.***

Sovereign God, we pray for all who lead your Church throughout the world, remembering especially Bishop Mouneer and others who lead your Church in Egypt. As you led and guided Joseph in Egypt, so grant grace and wisdom to those who lead your people today.

*Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.***

Merciful God, through your son Jesus you have crossed over to meet us, embrace us and transform us. May we be inspired by the global Church, prompted by your Word and empowered by your Spirit, to cross bridges in our own lives and communities. May we reach out in faith to share your transforming power and love with those who are lost, lonely, broken, afraid or in need of help.

*Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.***

Amen.

Blessing

May the God who watched over Joseph - providing for him, protecting him and using him to help and bless others - draw you close to Him and keep you in His loving care.

*And the blessing of God Almighty,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be with you now and always. **Amen***

Bible Readings

Any of the stories that feature in the material for the children and young people could be used in the service. For example, **Genesis 45:1-15** tells the story of Joseph's reconciliation with his brothers but also includes Joseph's overview of how God has watched over him and provided for him (two of the lessons in the children's material). Alternatively, either of the following passages may be useful:

Isaiah 58:1-10 (*True fasting is shown in care for the oppressed*)
(*Jesus heals a paralysed man*).

Matthew 9:35-10:8 (*Jesus sends out his disciples to 'cross over' and offer new life to people, just as he has been doing*).

Possible Song/Hymn Ideas

Suggested Hymns and Songs from the Church Hymnal which might be appropriate:

- 50 *Think of a world without any flowers*
- 90 *Hail Redeemer, King divine!*
- 104 *O for a thousand tongues to sing*
- 129 *How lovely on the mountains are the feet*
- 330 *God is here! As we his people*
- 448 *The trumpets sound, the angels sing (The Feast)*
- 478 *Go forth and tell!*
- 494 *Beauty for brokenness*
- 499 *When I needed a neighbour, were you there?*

500 *Would you walk by on the other side?*

509 *Your Kingdom come, O God*

515 *A new commandment*

Suggested Hymns and Songs from 'Thanks & Praise' which might be appropriate:

- 6 *All I once held dear, built my life upon*
- 24 *Clap your hands all you nations*
- 30 *Don't build your house on the sandy land*
- 34 *Far and near hear the call*
- 45 *Great is the darkness (Come, Lord Jesus)*
- 59 *I will offer up my life in Spirit and truth*
- 86 *Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness*
- 95 *Mayenziwe 'ntando yakho (Your will be done on earth, O Lord).*
- 99 *My heart is filled with thankfulness*
- 144 *The Church is wherever God's people are praising*
- 150 *There is a higher throne*
- 153 *Thuma mina (Send me Lord)*
- 175 *You're the Lion of Judah*

Getting the children involved

As well as inviting children to write or read prayers and read Bible stories, the following suggestions will ensure that the service has lots of involvement from the children.

- ★ Have children up front to sing a song that ties in with some of the themes in the *Crossing Bridges* resource.
- ★ Have different Sunday school groups recite one of the memory verses that they learned together.
- ★ Do an interview with a couple of older children about what they've learned or what activity they have enjoyed.
- ★ Some 'show and tell' - with the children walking round the church to show pictures and posters they have produced during *Crossing Bridges*. You could even divide the children up - so they each 'show and tell' to a pew/row or two.

CMSI Speaker

You may want to request a Guest Speaker from CMSI to come and speak at your All-Age Service or to speak to the adults on one of the Sundays when the children are doing their project in Sunday school.

In addition to staff members, CMSI has a team of volunteers who speak on behalf of the Society at Sunday services and midweek gatherings. Visit the CMSI website or contact the offices for more information or to request a speaker. (The earlier you can make the request, the better).

Other Ideas

- ★ Interview someone from the parish who is involved in mission at home or overseas.
- ★ Explain a bit about the fundraising element of the Children's Resource and encourage people to give through a retiring offering.
- ★ Organise a simple pot-luck lunch for after the service, where everyone brings something to share. You could use this as a fundraising event, or simply to enjoy fellowship together.

We'd love to see more parishes developing a partnership link with the Diocese of Egypt - or indeed with any of CMSI's other global partners. These links are a really effective way to connect with the global Church and to play an active part in global mission. They also provide a means of breathing new life into the mission activities within your own parish.

For further information, contact CMSI's offices or visit our website - www.cmsireland.org

Map of Egypt

