

# shopkeeper

Leader Manual

Groups  
**EGYPT**  
Joseph's Journey  
from prison to palace





# SHOPKEEPER MANUAL



Loveland, Colorado  
[group.com/vbs](http://group.com/vbs)





## Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:



### Relational

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

### Experiential

What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

### Applicable

The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

### Lifelong

Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.



### Group's Holy Land Adventure®

#### Egypt: Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace

#### Shopkeeper Manual

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#### Credits

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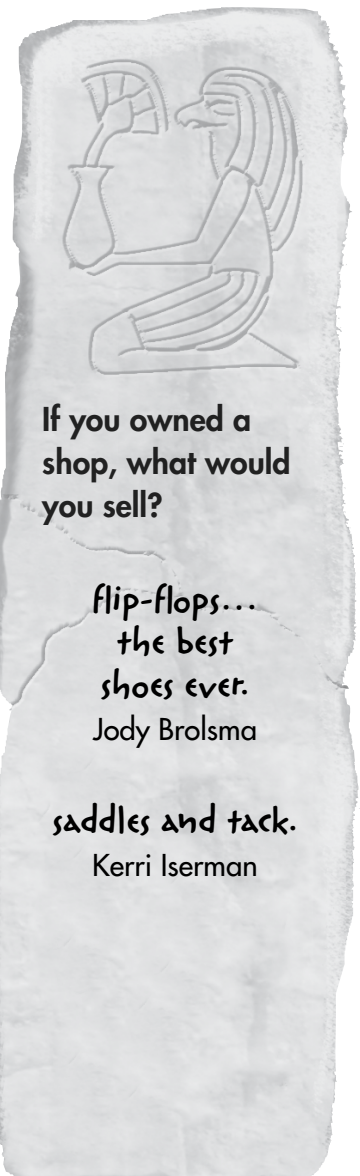
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# Group's EGYPT™

You'll reinforce Bible learning in a big way because the daily Bible Point is carefully integrated into each activity. That's why each center is so important to the overall learning experience.

## Bible Point, Story & Verse

## Family Time (small group time)



### Day 1

**Bible point:** God gives us hope.

**Bible story:** Joseph interprets dreams in prison.  
(Genesis 40:1-23)

**Bible verse:** " 'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.' " (Jeremiah 29:11)



Inflate a ball to explore how hope fills their hearts.



### Day 2

**Bible point:** God gives us special abilities.

**Bible story:** Pharaoh puts Joseph in charge.  
(Genesis 41:1-40)

**Bible verse:** "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."  
(Romans 12:6)

Watch colorful capsules transform into cute critters...just like their special gifts "bloom"!



### Day 3

**Bible point:** God gives us wisdom.

**Bible story:** Joseph leads Egypt through famine.  
(Genesis 41:41-42:5)

**Bible verse:** "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you."  
(James 1:5)



Rely on a friend's wisdom to guide them through a maze.



### Day 4

**Bible point:** God gives us forgiveness.

**Bible story:** Joseph forgives his brothers.  
(Genesis 42:6-45:15)

**Bible verse:** "But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love."  
(Nehemiah 9:17)

Compare God's forgiveness to an ink stain that vanishes!



### Day 5

**Bible point:** God gives us a family.

**Bible story:** Joseph settles his family in Egypt.  
(Genesis 45:16-47:27)

**Bible verse:** "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus."  
(Galatians 3:26)



Connect paper people to explore how they're part of God's family.

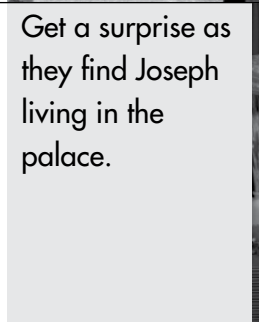


Explore the entire program at a glance. Refer to the chart to see how each center's activities supplement other activities to make the story of Joseph come to life at your church!

## Joseph's Journey



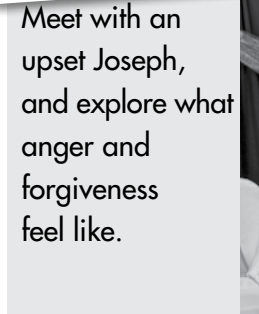
Meet Joseph in prison, and use a flickery light to explore how God gave Joseph hope.



Get a surprise as they find Joseph living in the palace.



Learn about Joseph's important job, and see how God has given him wisdom.



Meet with an upset Joseph, and explore what anger and forgiveness feel like.

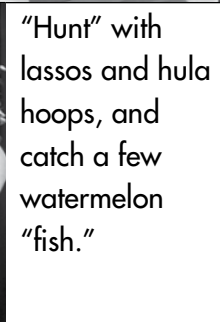


Celebrate with Joseph as he anticipates his family's journey to Egypt.



## Pyramid Playground

Wrap up a few crazy mummy games.



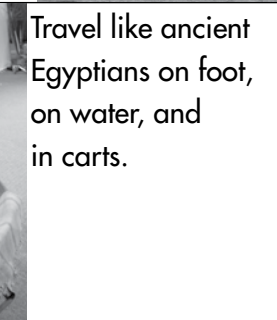
"Hunt" with lassos and hula hoops, and catch a few watermelon "fish."



Relay a wet sponge, untangle a web of arms, and follow the Pharaoh.



Tag a toe and tug of war...goofy, giggly, low-tech games!



Travel like ancient Egyptians on foot, on water, and in carts.

## Marketplace Shops

Visit a variety of shops every day:



Barbershop & Salon



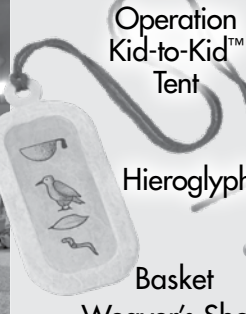
Toy Shop

Brickmaking



Embalmer's Workshop

Jewelry Shop



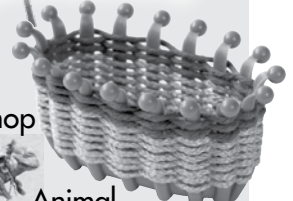
Operation Kid-to-Kid™ Tent



Hieroglyphic Artist's Shop



Basket Weaver's Shop



Animal Courtyard

Food Shop





# barbershop & salon



## What You'll Do

Each day you'll welcome a different group of kids and adults to the Barbershop & Salon to learn from you—or get a “shave”! You'll offer to help apprentices learn to shave, apply makeup, braid hair, or make beaded headbands for a fee of one silver coin. You'll also talk with people about what it was like to be a barber or cosmetologist in ancient Egypt.

As Families enter the Marketplace, stand outside your shop and invite participants to come and make a headband or wear Egyptian makeup. You can demonstrate how to give someone a “shave,” using olive oil and a dull butter knife, apply elaborate eye makeup, or let participants make beaded headbands. (See instructions on page 12). You could also set out supplies for other options listed on page 10.

Use the Historical Background (p. 8) to shape your character and teach about the way Egyptians cared for their appearance.





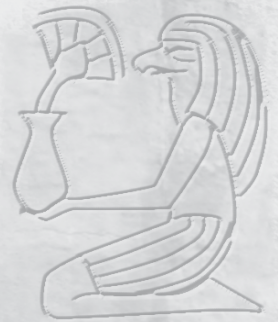
## Historical Background

- Because Egyptians cared such a great deal about their looks—both in their lifetime and even after their death—they held barbers and cosmetologists in high esteem.
- Both men and women sometimes shaved their heads, either because of unattractive natural hair or to prevent lice infestations, but in most cases people wore wigs to provide the perfect hairstyle.
- At times during Egyptian history, women wore their hair in simple, short, blunt cut styles; at other periods, long hair was the fashion. Women often used hair extensions to make hair appear fuller and more luxuriant. Men usually had short hair, sometimes curling it artificially.
- Barbers and wig specialists made wigs. Among archaeological finds in Egypt is a wig-making workshop. Egyptians buried their dead with their wigs so the deceased would look good in the afterlife.
- Girls wore their hair in a ponytail, either curled at the ends or weighted down with a hair ornament for a straight style, or in long braids. Egyptians might place fish-shaped ornaments in children's hair as small charms of protection. Young boys may have had their heads shaved completely except for a long side lock of hair curved in an "S" shape.
- A recommended cure for baldness was the application of chopped lettuce to bare spots. (Sorry, we're not sure if it really worked or not!)
- Men were generally clean-shaven, but pharaohs—including one of few female rulers, Queen Hatshepsut—frequently wore artificial beards, denoting their status as king.
- Cosmetics, worn by men, women, and children, helped protect the skin in the hot Egyptian climate in addition to appealing to vanity. The wealthy could afford to employ a cosmetician to apply their makeup—green eye paint, red lips and cheeks, and the famous black kohl eyeliner that encircled the eye and extended out from the corners of the eyes. Although kohl eye makeup may have helped repel flies and shade the eyes from the sun's glare, we now know that the kohl they used included a harmful lead ingredient.



# Setting Up Shop

Set up your shop according to the diagram below.



## supplies

- Decorative Egyptian Headbands\* (1 per participant)
- marker for writing names on craft
- metallic pony beads
- bright gold metallic cord
- yarn (about 6 inches per person)
- adhesive gems\* (optional)
- eye makeup (optional)
- olive oil
- dull butter knife
- towels for wiping olive oil off faces
- Barbershop & Salon sign (Clip Art & Resources CD)

\*available from Group or your Group VBS supplier





## field test findings

The salon was a hopping place at our field test! Lots of little girls wanted a chance to wear the Egyptian eye makeup and make elaborate beaded headbands. It really made *everyone* look Egyptian.



## shopkeeper tip

Each day, every participant will receive three simple silver coins that they can spend in the Marketplace. Through field testing, we discovered that the coins helped kids “budget” their time, spending more time on each project instead of trying to race through all of them. Plus, it made kids feel important as they purchased crafts and snacks! Be sure to charge each person one coin to participate in your shop.



## A Full Shop

During their time “in Egypt,” people will have the opportunity to try out all the activities in every shop. When your shop is full, explain that you have enough apprentices (or customers) for now but will need new ones tomorrow. If children and adults want to repeat your shop, point out that they’re welcome to come back to do their hair or makeup, but you’ve purchased only enough supplies for each apprentice to make one beaded headband. That way you’ll have plenty of supplies for everyone!

## Assume an Identity

Sometimes it can be hard for people to play a role—especially the role of a person who doesn’t believe in God. We’ve found that when staff members have an Egyptian name, it helps give them a “pretend identity” they can use for role play. So think of using an Egyptian name like Achotep, Thoth, Kadesh, or Snefru.

## Slow Down

Set a slow, relaxed pace for your shop. Remind Families that they have plenty of time to work on their projects, so there’s no need to rush. You’re likely to find that children and adults enjoy having the time to sit and talk while they work on a project together.

## Options

We discovered that it was helpful to have a few different kinds of projects for Family members to work on in the Marketplace. That way, people could choose what interested them most or find a project that was easy for them to do. Consider adding the following options to your barbershop and salon.



- Bring in a makeup artist who can apply Egyptian-style eye makeup.
- Let children practice braiding, using lengths of yarn. Set out yarn containing golden threads, and let children make braided hair ribbons.
- Set out unscented hand lotion, a variety of ground spices or scented oil, craft sticks or spoons for mixing, and small paper bowls. Let participants concoct their own uniquely scented lotions.



# The Barber

Each staff member at Egypt will have a different perspective of the Joseph story. Use your questions and comments to play the role of a barber who shaved Joseph's head before Joseph met Pharaoh.

During the week, you'll have the chance to talk with Family members. It's important for you to use these questions and phrases to help Families process what they're discovering about God.



## Day 1: God gives us hope. (Genesis 40:1-23)

- It's my job to help Egyptians look their best—and that means a shaved head, perfume, and a lot of makeup! It's important to look good. After all, this is the body you'll have in the afterlife, so you'd better take care of it now, right?



## Day 2: God gives us special abilities. (Genesis 41:1-40)

- I met the strangest person yesterday. Late in the day I was called to the prison to shave a prisoner's head. It seems he'd been called in to see the Pharaoh, and you can't just go into the palace all scraggly and dirty! I wonder what Pharaoh wanted to see that man about. Have *you* heard anything about a prisoner in the palace?



## Day 3: God gives us wisdom. (Genesis 41:41-42:5)

- I'm sure you've heard by now, but the guy whose hair I cut is now second-in-command of all Egypt! Pretty neat, huh? I thought the gods had given Joseph amazing wisdom—until I learned that he worships only *one* God. Have you ever heard of such a thing?



## Day 4: God gives us forgiveness. (Genesis 42:6-45:15)

- So many poor people have traveled here, asking for food. Have you seen them? And they're all such a mess! Long, messy hair, beards, and not a speck of makeup on them! Can you imagine? How can we help these poor people?



## Day 5: God gives us a family. (Genesis 45:16-47:27)

- You're all looking so Egyptian these days! Pretty soon maybe you'll start to worship the gods properly, instead of that "one true God" you're always talking about. What's so great about your God anyway?



### Why this is important

While it may seem strange—or shocking—to talk about following false gods, this role-playing allows participants to verbalize their faith. Think of it as giving kids and adults a chance to practice standing up for what they believe, in a safe environment. Egyptian Family Leaders should jump right in as the "voice of truth," sharing what they believe as followers of the one true God.

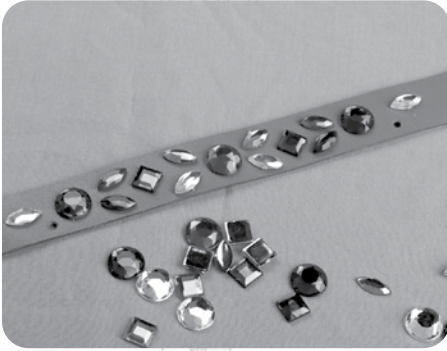


# Decorative Egyptian Headband

1. Write your name on the back of your headband.



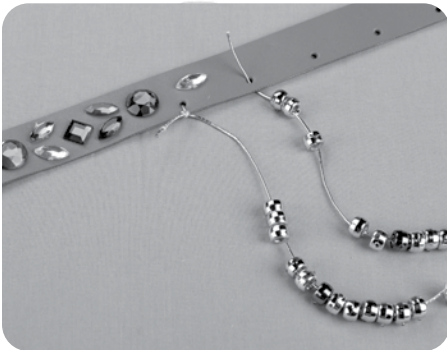
2. Decorate the headband by coloring it with markers, gluing jewels on it, or adding scraps of gold ribbon.



3. Girls can make their headband an Egyptian headdress by stringing pony beads on lengths of gold cord.



4. Tie the gold cord on the headband, using the pre-cut holes around the edge of the headband.



5. Slip a piece of yarn through the holes at the ends of the headband, and have someone tie the headband around your head.





# congratulations!

You're about to create a whole new world for children.



## This leader manual will show you how!

**You're a Shopkeeper in the Egypt VBS...so what do you do—and how do you do it?**

As a Shopkeeper, you'll play the role of an ancient Egyptian merchant. Each day you'll welcome children into your booth for fun crafts and activities based on Egypt's history.

Everything you need to succeed as a Shopkeeper is right in this manual! Full plans for your Egypt-themed shop...cool crafts and activities...practical, field-tested tips...helpful charts and diagrams...role-playing scripts...and more!



### Questions? Here's how to get answers:

- **First, check carefully through this book.** There's a LOT of helpful information tucked into these pages. The answer is probably already in your hands!
- **Connect with your VBS Director and leadership team.** Remember, you're not alone! You're part of a dynamic ministry team—so don't be afraid to take advantage of the people resources that surround you.
- **Expand your network with Group's social media "family."** These discussion groups connect you with other Egypt leaders nationwide. Share ideas, ask questions, brainstorm...the sky's the limit! Head to [facebook.com/groups/holylandadventure](https://facebook.com/groups/holylandadventure)

**And don't forget to pray! God put you in this VBS leadership role for a reason—and he wants you to succeed.**

Ready to bring Bible history to life for kids? Open up this leader manual and get started!

### Group's Holy Land ADVENTURE



#### Did you know?

You can get unique decorations and cool crafts for your Egypt VBS! Visit [group.com/vbs](https://group.com/vbs) or your Group VBS supplier today for great deals on exclusive items.



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