

Joseph– Lesson 2

Read: “Joseph’s Colorful Robe” in The Beginner’s Bible, or a comparable version, (if you did not do the previous lesson, or if you have kids who weren’t present last class.)

Discuss: Joseph’s father, Jacob, made him a special coat. Why did he make it for him?
(*Because he was his favorite son.*)

Create: A tie-dyed t-shirt, to remind us of Joseph’s colorful coat.

Materials: (1) **White t-shirt**, (one per child) (OR other piece of white fabric, socks, etc., whatever you have available to you.) 2) **Dye-ing materials:** Select what colors you want to have on your tie-dyed shirts. The desired colors will determine which types of berries or plants are required to create the dye. For example, strawberries and cherries make pink, blackberries and crab apple bark make red, onion skins and carrot roots make orange, coffee grounds and walnuts make brown, red cabbage and blueberries make blues and purple, artichoke and spinach make green and crocus and saffron make yellow. You can also buy a typical tie-dyeing kit from the store. (3) Depending on the color you have chosen, you will need either **salt or vinegar** for a fixative. (4) **Rubber bands**, enough for about 5 per child’s t-shirt.

Directions: *You will want to start this process at home, 24 hours before beginning the kids’ portion of the project. Adapted from the site: http://www.ehow.com/how_12073007_make-simple-homemade-dye-tiedyeing.html*

(Note: If you are using Rit dye or a traditional tie-dyeing kit, follow those directions instead.)

At Home:

1. Collect the materials you will use for creating the dye. If you have strawberries or a crab apple tree in your backyard, this will be a good choice for you. Since I have some old wild blueberries in my freezer, I will be using those.

2. Measure 2 cups of the berries, fruits, nuts or bark you want to use to create the dye, and chop chop them into small pieces. Place them into a medium-sized pot.

3. Cover the berries, fruits, nuts or bark with 4 cups of water, then bring to a boil. Lower the temperature and allow the dye to simmer for 1 to 2 hours. The color from the plant or berry will escape into the water as it simmers.

4. Pour the dyed water through a strainer, with a container beneath, to remove any solid material from the dye.

5. After the dye cools, pour into a leak-proof container. If you can, keep in the refrigerator until it’s time to use, (so it doesn’t ferment.)

6. Soak the shirts in a fixative for 24 hours before placing into the dye. The fixative is a chemical substance that helps the dye set into the fabric. If you do not complete this step, your shirt will be stained rather than dyed and will lose color after washing. For fruit and berry dyes, use 1/2 cup salt and 8 cups water boiled for an hour. For plant material such as bark or roots, use 2 cups of vinegar and 8 cups of water boiled for one hour. After they have soaked for 24 hours, take them out and place in a waterproof bag or tote for bringing to church.

Class directions on the next page



During Class:

- 1. Distribute shirts (or other dyeing project) to the kids. Pass out the rubber bands, and let them twist the shirts wherever they want, and wrap the rubber bands around them. I would also recommend writing their names somewhere on their project with a Sharpie marker.**
- 2. Place the shirt into the dye to begin the dyeing the fabric. Natural homemade dyes take longer to transfer the color from the dye than commercial fabric dyes. Keep the shirt in the dye for a few hours. Leave in during the service, until the kids are ready to go home. The longer the shirt stays in the dye, the darker the color!**
- 3. When it is time for the kids to leave, send their shirts home in a plastic grocery bag, along with the attached parent note for washing instructions. There is no need to rinse them before going home.**

Dear _____,
(parent/ guardian)

Today in Sunday School I made a tie-dyed T-shirt to remind me of Joseph's colorful coat, and how much his dad loved him. My heavenly father loves me very much and makes me feel special too.

Here is how to care for my newly dyed creation:

Things You'll Need:

- Laundry detergent
- Three-to-five gallon container
- Clean towel



Instructions:

1. Place a small amount of gentle detergent in a three-to-five gallon container of cold water. Avoid detergents that contain bleach or bleach alternatives. Presoak the [t-shirt](#) for five to 10 minutes in the soapy water to let the enzymes in the detergent penetrate the garment and loosen the soil.
2. Hand wash the t-shirt for a few minutes to loosen any remaining soil by gently squeezing and agitating before rinsing it in cold water. Do not use warm or hot water; these can cause the colors to run or fade. Continue rinsing until the water runs clear.
3. Wrap the t-shirt lengthwise inside a clean towel and roll both together tightly to remove excess water.
4. Hang the t-shirt to dry or lay it flat in a ventilated area until dry. Avoid using clothespins to hang the shirt when drying. Clothespins may crimp or mar the design of the tie-dye. Instead, try folding the t-shirt directly over a clothesline or a hanger and adjust it occasionally while drying to prevent a crease from forming through the middle of the t-shirt.

Tips & Warnings:

- To preserve the integrity of the colors and design, do not use a dryer after washing your homemade tie-dye t-shirt.
- Always wash tie-dye t-shirts separately to avoid the colors running onto other clothes.

http://www.ehow.com/how_8794480_wash-homemade-tiedye-tshirt.html

Love,

Student's Name