



Colours of Allegiance!

By Deborah Wassenberg

Introduction:

Just like people show their team allegiance by the colours they wear, God invites us to wear *His* colours — hearts made clean, lives that choose what's right, and actions that show we belong to Him. Joseph wore God's colours even when life was hard. This lesson uses a Soccer or Football theme, depending on where you live!

Prepare Your Teaching Space:

- Green background (plastic tablecloth)
- Flags, bunting or streamers
- Black, white and green balloons
- Soccer balls/goals/cones
- Clothing rack with jerseys hanging on it

Soccer Warm Ups:

Have your volunteers step into the role of **soccer coaches**. Give them whistles to use during warm-ups—kids love the playful authority, and it instantly feels like a real training session.

- Jogging
- High knees
- Shuffling
- Sweeps
- Airplanes
- Partner leg swings

Bible Lesson: Joseph's Coat of Many Colours

Bible Reference: Genesis 37-45; Isaiah 1:18

Visuals You Will Need:

1. Soccer game
2. Jesus on the Cross
3. Joseph in his coat of many colours
4. Joseph sold into slavery
5. Showing Jacob the bloodied coat
6. Joseph sold as a slave
7. Joseph in prison

8. Joseph before Pharaoh
9. Joseph reunited with his family

Additional Visuals: Football Jerseys!

Use a clothing rack to hold the following jerseys (or polo shirts or t-shirts) and objects on coat hangers:

- Dirty, stained jersey (sin)
- White jersey (robe of righteousness)
- Multicolour jersey (Joseph's coat of many colours)
- A second multi-coloured jersey, but torn and stained (Joseph's ruined coat)
- A clean white jersey
- A gold sash or medal

Words:

The Leader enters chanting 'Ole, Ole, Ole', the global football chant.

1. Hello there.
I really enjoy soccer!
During the World Cup, everyone wears colours to show their allegiance.
The word allegiance means loyalty and devotion.
A solemn commitment to a person, group, country or cause.
During matches, people wear the colours of the team they support.
You can spot a fan from across the field—jersey, scarf, face paint, flags.
Their colours tell you who they belong to.
What colours does your favourite team wear?
(Discuss)
2. As Christians, our allegiance is to Jesus.
We can enjoy sport, but our loyalty and devotion are to Him.
Anything that takes His place is an idol!
Your allegiance is to Jesus because He died on the Cross for you.
(Take the dirty stained jersey from the rack)
You sinned.
You made choices that stained your heart – anger, lying, selfishness, and unkindness.
(Dump the dirty jersey and take the clean white jersey from the rack)
Because Jesus took away your sin, His forgiveness cleans your heart white as snow.
God dresses you in garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness.
(Isaiah 61:10)
You're on Jesus' team, and He gives you colours to wear, not on the outside, but on the inside.
So, for people to see our allegiance is to Jesus, we have to show it by how we live.

3. *(Take the multicolour jersey from the rack and hold it up)*
 Jacob had twelve sons, but Joseph was special to him.
 Jacob loved Joseph deeply and showed it by giving him a beautiful coat – a coat made of many bright colours.
 When Joseph wore it, everyone could see he was treasured.
 His brothers noticed too, and jealousy began to grow in their hearts.
4. One day, Joseph went to find his brothers in the fields.
 When they saw him coming, the colours of his coat shining in the sun, their jealousy boiled over.
(Rehang the multicolour jersey)
 They grabbed him, tore off his coat, and threw him into a pit.
 Then they sold him to travellers heading toward Egypt.
 The hooligans!
5. *(Take the ruined jersey off the rack)*
 The brothers took Joseph's colourful coat, dipped it in animal blood, and carried it home to their father.
 Jacob saw the stained coat and believed Joseph was gone forever.
 The colours that once showed love were now ruined and scarlet with sorrow.
(Rehang the torn, stained jersey)
6. But Joseph was not gone.
 In Egypt, he was sold as a servant.
 Even without his coat, Joseph showed who he belonged to.
 He chose honesty.
 He chose purity.
 He chose kindness.
 He chose faithfulness.
 His allegiance to God showed in everything he did.
7. Joseph was falsely accused and thrown into prison.
 Yet even there, he kept wearing God's colours – helping others, interpreting dreams, and trusting God.
 God had not forgotten him.
8. Years passed, and Joseph was brought before Pharaoh to interpret troubling dreams.
 God gave Joseph wisdom, and he interpreted the dreams.
 Pharaoh saw something special in Joseph.
 Joseph was lifted out of prison and placed in charge of all of Egypt.
(Take the white jersey from the hanging rack and hold it up)
 Pharaoh dressed him in fine clothes and placed a gold chain around his neck – a sign of honour and authority.
(Add the gold sash or medal over the shirt)

9. When famine came, Joseph's brothers travelled to Egypt seeking food. They bowed before Joseph, not recognising him. Joseph could have punished them, but instead he chose forgiveness. He revealed who he was and embraced them with tears and joy. Joseph's true colours – forgiveness, mercy, righteousness – shone brighter than any coat he had ever worn.
10. Everything Joseph did showed his allegiance to God. In the same way, people should be able to see that you belong to God by the way you live. Your allegiance is seen in the choices you make. Even when life is hard, don't let your allegiance to Jesus disappear. Joseph stayed loyal to God. He didn't switch teams. He didn't change colours. That's allegiance!

Ministry to the Children:

In the World Cup, people choose a team. You can tell who they support by the colours they wear. Their colours show their allegiance — who they belong to. Every person in the world has an allegiance too. You either live for yourselves... or you live for Jesus. And here's the truth: Jesus invites you to change your allegiance — to leave our old team and join His. He came to rescue us. He lived perfectly. He loved completely. He obeyed God fully. But Jesus did not leave you stuck there. Jesus says, 'Come follow Me. Come be a part of my team. Come wear my colours.' When you ask Jesus for forgiveness from your sins and become a follower of Him, you become part of His team. It is a choice you must make. You can't earn salvation. You don't win it like a trophy. You receive it because Jesus offers it to you freely.

Jesus Call:

Give me a 'J'	<i>Children respond 'J'</i>
Give me an 'E'	<i>Children respond 'E'</i>
Give me an 'S'	<i>Children respond 'S'</i>
Give me a 'U'	<i>Children respond 'U'</i>
Give me another 'S'	<i>Children respond 'S'</i>

What does it spell?	Jesus!
Who do we love?	Jesus!

Memory Verse: Isaiah 1:18

“Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.”

Empty the Bucket

Children race to empty a bucket of mixed items, each item containing a word (or phrase) from the Memory Verse. Their job is to assemble the verse in the correct order. This Memory Verse game works brilliantly indoors or outdoors, with mixed ages, and with leaders who love a bit of fun without needing complex props.

1. Prepare the Buckets

You'll need:

1–4 buckets (depending on group size)

Optional: coloured buckets for team identity

2. Prepare the Verse Pieces

Write each word of the memory verse on separate cards

Laminate if you want them reusable

Fold each card once so kids must open it

3. Fill the Buckets

Mix all the verse pieces thoroughly

Place buckets at the front of the room or at team stations

4. Team Setup

Divide kids into teams of 3–6

Give each team a '**Verse Mat**' (A3 paper or a spot on the floor) where they will assemble the verse

HOW TO PLAY

Round 1 — Empty the Bucket

On “Go!” one player from each team runs to the bucket.

They grab **one word**, return to their team, and place it on the Verse Mat.

The next player goes.

Continue until the bucket is empty.

Round 2 — Build the Verse

Teams now:

Open folded paper

Sort words

Arrange them in the correct order

Read the verse aloud together

Round 3 — Speed Challenge (optional)

Mix the words again

Teams race to reorder the verse

Add a timer for excitement

Morning Tea:

Set up your food area with a green plastic tablecloth and set out:

- 'Soccer' cups (black or green) filled with popcorn or chips
- Red and yellow serviettes (red cards and yellow cards)
- Water bottles
- No-Bake Energy (Protein) Balls **Check for allergies!**
(Making these would make a great activity, too!)

Game: Soccer!

You will need:

- Two teams
- One ball
- Two goals
- Coloured armbands to identify teammates (vests, bibs or wristbands)

Play on a field or any open space. The game starts with a kick-off from the centre. No hands unless you're the goalkeeper! Kick the ball into your goal. If someone breaks a rule, the other team gets a free kick. If the ball goes over the sideline, throw-in. If the ball goes over the goal line, it's a corner kick or a goal kick, depending on who last touched it.

Craft Zone:

Not all children will want to play soccer, so set up a soccer-themed craft zone as an alternative activity.

1: Team Scarf Bookmark

Use cardstock strips, markers, wool tassel, and glue. Children colour the strip in their team colours. Add the fringe or tassels at each end. Write the Memory Verse on one side.

2: Jesus Fan Sign 'Team Jesus'

Use the picture of a soccer ball on page 8. Photocopy onto white cardboard, cut out, and attach it to a painting stirring stick or large paddle pop stick. Children can colour or/decorate it.

3: Finger Football Puppets

You will need:

- Cardboard scraps or cardstock
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors
- Glue stick or tape
- Optional: googly eyes, stickers, team-colour paper

What to do:

- **Cut a rectangle** of cardboard about the size of a playing card.
- **Draw a soccer player** on the front—jersey, shorts, boots, and a big smile.
- **Cut two holes** near the bottom for the legs. Make them big enough for fingers to fit through.
- **Decorate the jersey** with team colours, a number, or the child's name.
- **Add details** like googly eyes if you have them.
- **Slide two fingers through the holes**—these become the puppet's legs.
- **Let the puppet 'run'** across the table or 'kick' a tiny paper soccer ball.

Stadium Clean-up:

A universally respected tradition—started by Japanese supporters—involves fans waving goodbye to their sections of the stadium by staying behind after the final whistle to pick up trash and clean the stands...it's worth a try!

