

## A Puppet Play: Joseph and His Brothers

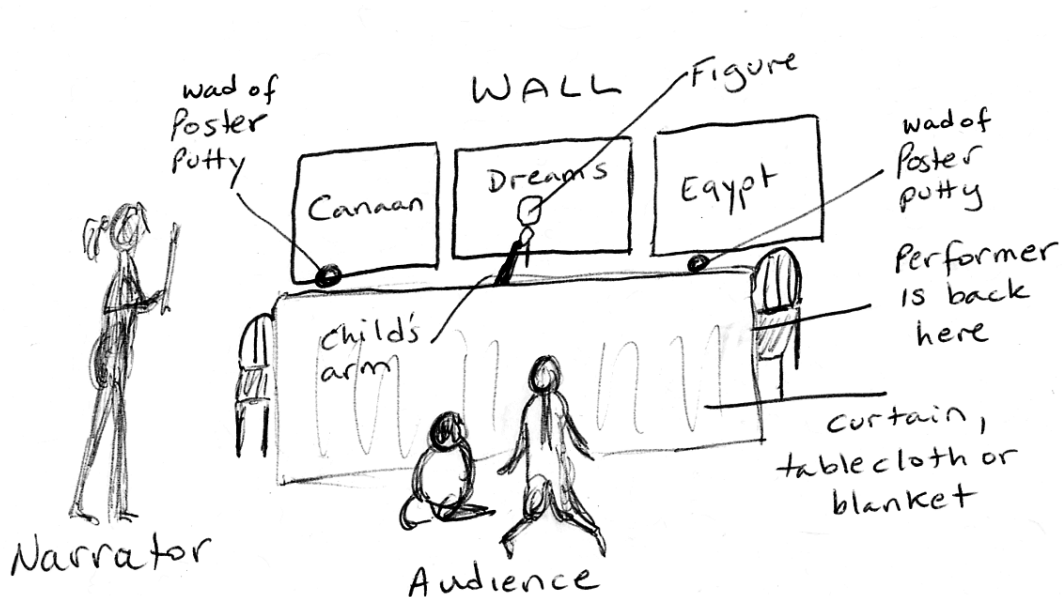
I have written this simple puppet play with the small homeschooling family in mind. There is only one part, other than the narrator. If you have another older child, you could easily write in another part for her. She could, for instance, speak lines for the Brothers, Pharaoh and/or the Cup Bearer. If you do add another part, just be careful to think through the logistics of moving the puppets in a small space! You might want to practice a few times in the open, without the cloth covering the table, to ensure the puppeteers don't get in each others' way.

The puppets for this play can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. I have made the assumption that you will simply be using card figures attached to doweling – but if you are ambitious, skillful and have plenty of time, there is no reason to not make glove, table or marionette puppets.

Those of you who prefer something simpler can just take the templates I have provided for the figures. You and your child can cut them out, then tape to fairly thick card. Use a craft knife to cut out figures – don't forget to protect the surface underneath! The brown side of a painting board works well.

Color in the figures using pencils or crayons and indicate desired features on the figures. You might make them quite colorful – Pharaoh, especially, could be very beautiful. Or you could keep them as plain silhouettes with no coloring. If you take the latter route, you might want to make the figures from dark colored card.

Get thin doweling from a craft or hardware store. Tape firmly to back of figures.



Make the backgrounds. You could either paint plain backgrounds for Egypt (yellow) and Canaan (brown – remember, there's a famine!) or hang pieces of cloth of those colors.