

Lesson 9: Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Study Genesis Chapter 45: Joseph reveals himself to his brothers
- 2) Learn that we need to forgive and do to others what we would want done to us.

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Do unto Others Template – printed on white cardstock or construction paper – one per child
- Hole Punches - to share
- Joseph and His Brothers Activity Sheet – one per child

Optional:

- Ribbon- one piece for each child 2 feet long to weave through plaque
- Stickers that relate to forgiving others – some for each child
- Bandages – 1-2 per child
- Storybook of this chapter in Genesis with pictures to show kids (if available) and/or
- Flannel Display Board and characters to show the story of this chapter. (if available)

Snack:

- Pretzel Sticks 8 - 10 per child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming. Take attendance. Once children are seated say:

What did we study last week about Joseph? Joseph tested his brothers by putting a silver cup in Benjamin's sack to see how the brothers would respond. They all joined together supporting Benjamin hoping that Joseph would release him for being caught with the stolen cup. Joseph's brothers had learned to do the right thing and not be jealous of their younger brothers anymore.

Say to students: **If someone did something wrong to you and if you had a chance to get revenge, would you?** Let students answer.

Lots of children do, but what does the Bible say? Let's listen to how Joseph reacted to his brothers after they were tested by him —he had a chance to get revenge on his brothers— what do you think he will do? Think about it as we read the story.

2) Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

15 minutes

Optional: if you have a book with pictures showing this story or visuals you can show the pictures as you read from the Bible.

Have students turn to **Genesis 45:1-15** and read it aloud as they listen.

Discussion Questions:

Did Joseph seek to get even with his brothers for throwing him into a pit and selling him as a slave? No! He did not seek revenge on his brothers but forgave them!

Did Joseph cry because he was sad or because he was happy? Happy!

What did he ask the brothers in verse 3? Was Jacob their father still alive?

What was the reason Joseph gave for why he was there in verse 5? Because God had sent him ahead of them to save them from the famine! He did not blame them or God even after all the terrible things that happened to Joseph he stayed faithful to God and knew it was because of God's love for Joseph and his family that they all ended together and safe in Egypt!

Ask the students to listen as you finish reading **Genesis 45:16-28**

Discussion Questions:

What was Pharaoh's response? He honored and gave gifts and land to Joseph's family to stay in Egypt.

What did Joseph say to them as they were leaving Egypt in verse 24? Don't quarrel or argue!

Why do you think Joseph said that? Let students answer.

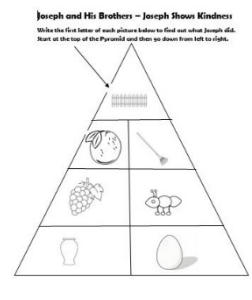
When Jacob their father found out Joseph was alive what did he say he wanted to do? Go see Joseph.

Allow for other questions before moving on.

3) Joseph and His Brothers Activity Sheet

5-10 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each child along with pencils. Read the instructions aloud and help the children if needed. When finished check as a group to make sure the word is completed correctly before moving on. For students too young to write, help them figure out the word the picture represents and then say what "sound" does the word make. Example: the picture of the fence – the child would say fence and the sound is an "f" sound. Then right the letter "f" for them in the right place.



Answer: Forgave

Have students turn in their Bibles to Matthew 6. Have them read with you **Matthew 6:14-15**.

Jesus is giving an example of how to pray. He says we need to forgive others and ask for forgiveness when we pray.

14 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Ask: **Do we need to forgive others according to Jesus?** Yes!

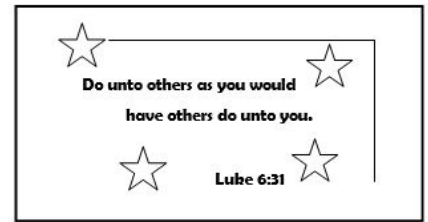
What if we don't forgive others? God won't forgive us of all our sins!

4) Do unto Others Craft Plaque

10-20 minutes

Before class print one plaque per child from the template provided – there are two on a page – print them on Cardstock or Construction paper.

At class, tell the students – **Unlike his brothers when they were young and mean to Joseph, Joseph was kind to them and forgave them. We are going to make a plaque to remind us of what Jesus says in Luke 6:31: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Just like Joseph – he treated his brothers how he would have wanted to be treated – even though they didn’t deserve it after hurting and selling him and telling his father he was dead. But, he forgave them! Now we can use this verse to remind us to do the same to others in our lives.**



Let’s turn to Luke 6:31 and read it together.

Using a hole punch if you would like – punch holes around the edge of the plaque for decoration before coloring it. – Hand out hole punches.

When finished, we can hang it on our walls at home, on the fridge or put in our Bibles to memorize this verse – That we need to “Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.” Just like Joseph!

***Optional – you can hand out ribbon to weave through the holes if they would like or you can hand out stickers that relate to forgiveness and kindness.**

Ask students to go around the room thinking and stating one thing they remember from today’s Bible account of Joseph. Have students help clean up before moving on.

5) Optional - Bandage up the wounds and forgive 5-10 minutes

Hand out one or two bandages to each child and discuss the following:

A major application from this lesson is forgiveness. Talk to the kids about what it means to forgive others even when most want to take revenge. Bring bandages and talk about why we use them (to help protect a wound and help it heal). Give each person a bandage and ask them to help others this week that have hurt feelings etc. They can also use them to remember that even though someone might have hurt them – with God in our life He is the bandage that allows us to cover the hurt and the wound and let it heal. This way with God’s help we can heal and forgive others when they hurt us! We can remember to be like Joseph.

6) Optional – Snack: Pretzel Sticks 5 minutes

Hand out pieces of pretzels enough for each child to have 6-8. Also give each child a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“When the famine happened, many people were without grain. We are eating pretzels today to remind us of the famine and why Joseph’s family had to come to Egypt – they were out of grain! But thanks to God he provided a way for them to get the food they needed through Joseph!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss questions while snacking!

7) Optional – Songs**5 minutes**

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples:

- 1) **Songs of Joseph** (See Printed Song Sheet). Keep copies and sing each week.
- 2) **Sons of Jacob** (to the tune of "Ten Little Ladybugs")

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,
Issachar, Zebulun, Dan and Naphtali,
Gad and Asher, Joseph, Benjamin - These are the sons of Jacob.

8) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Pray that God will help us to forgive others when they hurt us and to tell them it is because of God that we are able to forgive them. Pray that we will treat others in the same way we would like to be treated as well. Ask God to forgive us of our sins as we forgive others and that God will not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil. Thank you God, for your Son Jesus, and for all that You provide us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!