

*When finished with activities, return all necessary items to bag and place in the hallway for pick-up.*

Program B-2

## Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 41:47-57/42:1-38/46:1-34

Joseph Series: Lesson #5

**Bible Verse:** Forgive as the Lord forgives you. Colossians 3:13  
**Past Verses:** God has filled you with abilities. Exodus 35:35  
God cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7  
Always be kind to each other. 1 Thessalonians 5:15  
He will love and bless you. Deut. 7:13

**Bible Story for children:**

**Focus:** Forgive unkind words and actions.  
**Prop Ideas:** Strands of wheat  
Other grains like; beans, popcorn, rice etc.

### **SAMPLE STORY:**

The pharaoh's dreams came true just like Joseph had said. Egypt had seven years of plenty of food to eat. During those years Joseph worked hard to make sure all the extra grain was stored away and after seven years, nothing grew at all. There was very little food to be found anywhere. The people became hungry and pharaoh told them to go to Joseph and he sold the extra grain stored to the people.

There was no food growing where Jacob and his family lived either and he sent his sons to Egypt to buy some food. When they got to Egypt and went to buy the grain, they did not recognize that it was their brother Joseph dressed as an Egyptian king selling the grain, but Joseph recognized them. The brothers bowed down to Joseph just like he had dreamed would happen. He filled their bags with grain and sent them away.

The brothers returned home, but they had to return some time later for more food because the famine was still terrible. This time Joseph could not keep his secret any longer and told them who he was. The brothers were very frightened because they remembered how mean they were to him. They wondered what he would do to them, but Joseph forgave his brothers and hugged and kissed each one of them. He told his brothers that God had shown Pharaoh that the famine was going to last for 5 more years. Joseph told his brothers to go home, and to bring his father and all of their families and farm animals back to Egypt to live where there would be plenty of food for them.

Even though Joseph and his family had problems God still cared about them and what happened to them. He forgave them for the wrong things they did and used them to do good things. Just like Joseph's family, our families aren't perfect either. Sometimes we fight and argue and have bad feelings towards each other. But God is forgiving and can use those bad things to teach us how to love each other.

## Teacher Extras

### 1. Seeds and grains display and flour making demonstration

Put out a display of seeds, dried beans, popcorn, rice, and oatmeal.

Demonstrate making flour by crushing some oatmeal with a rolling pin. Let the children take turns make oat flour. Talk about or show some of the different things that can be made from flour. (pasta, breads, etc.)

### 2. Find a large picture representing friendship (magazine photo, or old photograph you no longer care about)

Show the picture to children and talk about friendship. Then tear the picture carefully in half. Explain that when we use unkind words and actions, we hurt others and our friendship with them. In order to fix it, we have to say we are sorry and forgive them just like God forgives us. Carefully tape the picture back together again. Explain that forgiveness helps us put things back together the way they belong.

## FYI

First Session Classes will be:

Coloring Joseph in Charge of Egypt Page

Making Grain Pictures

Playing with Bubbles

## JOSEPH HELPS HIS FAMILY COLORING PAGE

Materials: Coloring Page

Bible Verse stickers

Crayons/markers

(In room)

Do:

Give each child a page to color.

Help write their names on their pages.

Add a Bible verse sticker when finished.

Talk About:

Because Joseph had faithfully served God, even as a slave or in prison, God blessed him and he was able to save his family.

Joseph could have been bitter and hated his brothers for what they had done, but he forgave and helped them.

## Forgiveness Hearts

Materials: Construction paper

Yarn

Tape

Scissors

Hole punch

Memory verse stickers

Markers or colors

**Do:** Cut out two large construction paper hearts for each child. Punch holes along the outside edge of the two hearts. Give the children a piece of yarn and guide them as they sew in and out the holes with yarn. Leaving a length of yarn at the top to tie off and use for a handle. It helps if you put a piece of tape on the end of the yarn to act as a needle. Allow the children to decorate the outside of the heart the way they choose and then add their memory verse sticker.

**Talk About:**

Joseph could have hated his brothers for being so mean, but instead he forgave them. Joseph had a forgiving heart. God wants us to have forgiving hearts too. God is pleased with us when we are forgiving.

## I'm Sorry Rhyme

Materials: None

**Do:** Teach the children the following poem. Read the following sentences and have them repeat the poem back to you.

When I've done something wrong  
to cover up just won't do  
Just say the words, "I'm sorry"  
And I'll make it up to you

1. When you start a fight with your brother or sister what can you remember? (Have them repeat the poem)
2. When you broke something you weren't supposed to be playing with what can you remember?
3. When you tell your mom or dad something that is not true.
4. When you lose your best friend's favorite toy.
5. When you've been caught taking something that doesn't belong to you.

## Into the Silo (action game)

Materials: Chairs

**Do:** Have the children make a silo from a small circle of chairs. (Leave a space for an entrance) Tell the children to pretend they are seeds of grain. They must scatter around the room and find a place to stand and wait until you call out, "Into the silo!" You are going to pretend to be Joseph gathering grain for Egypt. You will turn your back and close your eyes. When you call out, "Into the silo," the children must run into the silo of chairs before you turn around and open your eyes (5 or 10 seconds) Any child who doesn't make it into the silo can be the next Joseph.

**Talk About:** Explain that a silo is a place where a farmer stores his grain, just like Joseph did in today's story.