

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Preschool Lesson



Theme: God wants us to forgive others.

Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15

Memory Verse: “And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them.” Genesis 45:15

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children’s Sermon:

You’ll Need:

- Bible
- One lemon slice in a Dixie cup per child
- One lemon slice sprinkled with sugar in a Dixie cup per child
- Plastic spoons
- Hand wipes

Get Ready: Give each child both kinds of lemon slices in cups and a spoon.

Do This:

In today’s Bible lesson, Joseph had a choice. He could choose to punish his brothers for what they had done to him, or he could forgive them and reunite with them. Joseph chose forgiveness, and God wants us to forgive others, too.

Read aloud Genesis 45:4-7.

What has someone done to you that has made you angry sometime? (Allow time.)

Those things hurt us. We have to make choices every day about whether to forgive people. Let's see what it's like when we choose to forgive others.

Have kids take the cup with the plain lemon and take a bite of the lemon.

What does that taste like? (Allow kids to answer.)

Think about a time that you forgave someone.

Have kids take the cup with the sugar-coated lemon and take a bite of the lemon.

What does that taste like? (Allow kids to answer.)

The first lemon was bitter like the bitterness we feel when we don't forgive. The second lemon was sweet and tasty like the sweetness we feel when we forgive others. God chooses to forgive us when we ask, and Joseph forgave his brothers for the horrible things they did. God wants us to follow Joseph's example of sweet forgiveness and forgive others.

Pray: God, thank You for forgiving us. Please help us remember Joseph and find the strength to forgive people who wrong us. In Jesus' name, amen.

Interactive Scripture Experience: Genesis 45:1-15

Forgive and Forget

You'll Need:

- ["Family Tree"](#) handout - 1 per child
- Pencils

Do This:

Give a “Family Tree” handout and pencil to each child.

Say: **Have you ever been to a family reunion? A reunion is a lot of fun. You get to visit with aunts, uncles, and cousins that you haven’t seen for a long time. Family reunions usually include plenty to eat and lots of hugs and kisses. But if you haven't seen your family members in a long time, you might not recognize them right away.**

Say: **Today's Bible lesson is a bit like a family reunion. You might remember how Joseph's brothers were jealous of him. They beat him up, threw him in a pit, and sold him to some merchants who were on their way to Egypt. Joseph’s brothers were jealous of him and they betrayed him in a terrible way.**

Help preschoolers draw a picture of Joseph in a colorful coat on the first leaf of the “Family Tree” handout.

Say: **When Joseph arrived in Egypt, a lot of things happened to him. He got a job in Potiphar’s house. Potiphar's wife told terrible lies about Joseph. So Potiphar had Joseph thrown into jail.**

Help children draw Joseph in jail on the second leaf of their “Family Tree” handout.

Say: **Joseph was stuck in jail for more than two years. Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, heard that Joseph had the ability to understand dreams. Pharaoh released Joseph from jail to explain his dreams. Pharaoh believed what Joseph told him and put him in charge of the entire land of Egypt.**

Have children draw a crown for Joseph on the third leaf of their “Family Tree” handout.

Say: **Next, Pharaoh asked Joseph to interpret a specific dream. God was telling Pharaoh to set aside grain during the seven good years so that there would be plenty of food during the seven bad years. So that’s exactly what Pharaoh did. When the bad years came, there was plenty of grain in Egypt, but all the countries around them were starving.**

Have children draw a plate of food on the fourth leaf of their “Family Tree” handout.

Say: **When Joseph’s brothers showed up to get food, Joseph knew who they were...but they didn’t recognize him. Joseph could’ve used his power to punish them. After all, they had treated him horribly. Instead, Joseph forgave his brothers. That’s pretty surprising. Joseph wanted to be a family again.**

Have children draw a picture of Joseph’s happy heart on the fifth leaf of their “Family Tree” handout.

Say: **Their reunion became a happy, joyful celebration. And guess what? There were hugs and kisses and plenty of food for everyone.**

Bible Memory Verse: “And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them.” Genesis 45:15

Hello, My Name Is...

You’ll Need:

- Nametags (1 per child)
- Fine-tipped markers

Do This:

Say: **Let’s take a few minutes and practice our Bible memory verse. Keep in mind that Joseph could have chosen to punish or ignore his brothers. He could have chosen not to give them any grain and let them starve. But instead, he forgave them and they became a family again.**

Say: **God led Joseph to forgive his brothers and reconcile, or reunite, with them. God also chooses to forgive us for our sins so we can be reunited with Him.**

Show kids the name tags and markers.

Say: **A lot of times, people wear name tags at big family reunions because they might not recognize everyone, so it's easier to put your name where everyone can see. So, we're going to use name tags to learn our Bible memory verse.**

- Give each child a marker and name tag.
- Help children each draw a happy face on their nametag and then stick it to their shirt.
- Form a circle.
- Have children individually repeat the Bible memory verse with you, then say it on their own.
- Then all together, have everyone repeat the Bible memory verse aloud together.

Virtual Lesson Tip:

Kids can do this activity with their family.

“Family Reunion” Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- [“Family Reunion”](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show kids the video.

Afterward, ask:

- What did you learn about Joseph's surprising choice during this video?
- When has someone forgiven you?

Say: Sometimes forgiving others seems like the hard choice, but in the end, it makes *our* lives happier and sweeter. We can follow Joseph's example as we face situations every day where we must choose whether to forgive others.

Family Faces Snacks

You'll Need:

- Stick pretzels
- Mini pretzels
- Round cookies
- Red licorice laces
- Rolos candies
- White icing in a tube
- Napkins
- Sanitizing hand wipes

Do This:

Invite children to think about different people in their family who might attend a family reunion. Then encourage them to use the snack supplies to create the faces of two family members they'd like to give a hug to. For instance, they can use the cookies for the face, pretzels for hair, Rolos candies for eyes, and licorice laces for mouths. They can use the icing as "glue."

Say: In today's Bible lesson, we learned that forgiving others is good for everyone because it helps people reunite and be happy. We learned that Joseph had to make a really hard choice to forgive after the way his brothers had treated him, but he did it anyway. Joseph's decision reunited his whole family!

Family Reunion! Game

Do This:

Explain to kids that they'll be playing a game called "Family Reunion!"

Play the game like this:

- Choose one child to be "Joseph." The rest of the kids are "family."
- Have Joseph stand on one side of the room and the family stand on the opposite side.
- Explain that Joseph will yell, "Family reunion!" and the family must run across the room and make it to the other side without getting tagged by Joseph.
- Once the last family member has been tagged, that person becomes Joseph in a new round.

Say: **Joseph gave a wonderful gift to his brothers when he forgave them. God wants us to forgive others, too, and give them the special gift of forgiveness.**

Virtual Lesson Tip:

Kids can do this activity with their family.

Ruler of Egypt Craft

You'll Need:

- [Joseph Forgives His Brothers How-to Video](#)
- ["Ruler of Egypt"](#) handout (1 per child)
- Self-adhesive gems
- Craft decorations such as ribbon

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers
- Glue

Do This:

Help preschoolers follow these steps to create a “Ruler of Egypt” craft to remind them that God helps us forgive and reconcile with others.

- Cut out the tunic from the handout.
- Use markers to decorate the tunic like a servant or inmate on one side.
- Use the self-adhesive gems and decorations to decorate the tunic like a royal leader of Egypt on the other side.

Say: **Joseph had some big setbacks in his life. His brothers beat him up, threw him in a pit, and sold him. He probably looked and felt like he was worthless.** (Have kids hold up the servant/inmate side of Joseph.)

Say: **But he overcame it all and became a ruler of Egypt. He saved Egypt’s people, and he had the power to save or punish his brothers.** (Have kids hold up the ruler side of Joseph.)

Say: **Joseph chose to forgive and reconcile with his brothers. God wants us to forgive others, too.**

Royal Prayer

You’ll Need:

- Self-adhesive gems

Do This:

Give each child a self-adhesive gem and have them stick it to the back of one hand while they hold their “Ruler of Egypt” craft.

Pray: **Dear God, You showed us a great example of Your forgiveness in Joseph’s life.**

Please remind us through the gems on our hands to follow Joseph’s example this week and to forgive others. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

Time to Praise God

You’ll Need:

- Song: “God Is So Good”

[Words and music \(pdf\)](#)

[MP3 Piano Accompaniment](#)

This song is in the public domain and may be freely downloaded and reproduced for religious or educational use by churches, schools, home schoolers, and other non-profit organizations.

Do This:

Say: **God forgives us because He loves us and He wants us to join Him in heaven someday. God is good, all the time. Let’s sing “God Is So Good” to thank God for his love and forgiveness.**

Lead children in singing “God Is So Good.”

If You Have Extra Time...

Use these activity sheets to fill in any time and keep kids learning.

[Joseph Reveals Himself Coloring Page](#)

Complete Supply List:

- [Name tags](#)
- [Fine-tipped markers](#)
- [Stick pretzels](#)
- [Mini pretzels](#)
- [Round cookies](#)
- [Red licorice laces](#)
- [Rolos candies](#)
- [White icing in a tube](#)
- [Self-adhesive gems](#)
- [Ribbon](#)
- [Construction paper](#)
- [Markers](#)
- [Glue](#)

[Back to the top](#)

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

At-Home Lesson

Theme: God wants us to forgive others.

Scripture: Genesis 45:1-15

Get Ready: Click [here](#) to get your complete supply list for this lesson.

The Children's Sermon:

You'll Need:

- Bible
- One lemon slice in a Dixie cup per child
- One lemon slice sprinkled with sugar in a Dixie cup per child
- Plastic spoons
- Hand wipes

Get Ready: Give each child both kinds of lemon slices in cups and a spoon.

Do This:

In today's Bible lesson, Joseph had a choice. He could choose to punish his brothers for what they had done to him, or he could forgive them and reunite with them. Joseph chose forgiveness, and God wants us to forgive others, too.

Read aloud Genesis 45:4-7.

What has someone done to you that has made you angry sometime? (Allow time.)

Those things hurt us. We have to make choices every day about whether to forgive people. Let's see what it's like when we choose to forgive others.

Have kids take the cup with the plain lemon and take a bite of the lemon.

What does that taste like? (Allow kids to answer.)

Think about a time that you forgave someone.

Have kids take the cup with the sugar-coated lemon and take a bite of the lemon.

What does that taste like? (Allow kids to answer.)

The first lemon was bitter like the bitterness we feel when we don't forgive. The second lemon was sweet and tasty like the sweetness we feel when we forgive others. God chooses to forgive us when we ask, and Joseph forgave his brothers for the horrible things they did. God wants us to follow Joseph's example of sweet forgiveness and forgive others.

Pray: **God, thank You for forgiving us. Please help us remember Joseph and find the strength to forgive people who wrong us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

“Family Reunion” Video Lesson

You'll Need:

- [“Family Reunion”](#) video lesson
- Something to play the video

Do This:

Show kids the video.

Afterward, ask:

- **What did you learn about Joseph's surprising choice during this video?**
- **When has someone forgiven you?**

Say: **Sometimes forgiving others seems like the hard choice, but in the end, it makes *our* lives happier and sweeter. We can follow Joseph's example as we face situations every day where we must choose whether to forgive others.**

Family Faces Snacks

You'll Need:

- Stick pretzels
- Mini pretzels
- Round cookies
- Red licorice laces
- Rolos candies
- White icing in a tube
- Napkins
- Sanitizing hand wipes

Do This:

Invite children to think about different people in their family who might attend a family reunion. Then encourage them to use the snack supplies to create the faces of two family members they'd like to give a hug to. For instance, they can use the cookies for the face, pretzels for hair, Rolos candies for eyes, and licorice laces for mouths. They can use the icing as "glue."

Say: **In today's Bible lesson, we learned that forgiving others is good for everyone because it helps people reunite and be happy. We learned that Joseph had to make a really hard choice to forgive after the way his brothers had treated him, but he did it anyway. Joseph's decision reunited his whole family!**

Complete Supply List:

- [Stick pretzels](#)
- [Mini pretzels](#)
- [Round cookies](#)
- [Red licorice laces](#)

- [Rolos candies](#)
- [White icing in a tube](#)

[Back to the top](#)