



At-A-Glance: Ages 10-12
God of Wonders Part 2: Genesis - Joshua
Unit 8, Lesson 39

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Lesson Aim: To see how our sovereign God will use for good what others intend for evil.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is the weirdest dream you have ever had?

GAME: Grain Delivery

THE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

THE WORD GOD USES JOSEPH'S LIFE FOR GOOD

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God spoke to Joseph in a dream and protected him from death.

Point to Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.). **Today, we will discover what happened when Joseph's jealous brothers sold him into slavery.** If a map is available, point out ancient Egypt. **Joseph's life shows us God is sovereign, which means He is in control of everything.** Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Genesis 39:2, 21; 41:15-16, 39-40, 45:4-8. 50:15, 19-21. Find It First. Highlight Key Verse: Genesis 50:20. Pray.

Joseph became a slave to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's officials. The Lord was with him and gave him success, so Potiphar put him in charge of everything he owned. When Potiphar's wife had Joseph unfairly thrown in jail, the Lord was with him. He was put in charge of the other prisoners. In jail, Joseph helped two men understand what God was saying in their dreams. He even helped Pharaoh understand his dreams about the coming famine. Pharaoh made Joseph second in command and he prepared Egypt for the famine.

Joseph's brothers came to Egypt from Canaan to ask for food. Joseph forgave them. The following verses represent these many years in Joseph's life. As we read, notice how God used for good what others intended for evil during every step of Joseph's life as shepherd, slave, prisoner, second in command, and brother. Read.

THE WAY GOD WILL USE OUR LIVES FOR GOOD

How did God use the brothers' evil act to advance his plan for good? (Joseph was sold and moved to Egypt where he would save the people from famine.) **Potiphar's wife meant to harm Joseph by sending him to prison. How did God use her evil act to advance his plan for good?** (While he was a prisoner, Joseph met Pharaoh.) **What job did Pharaoh give Joseph?** (Second in command over Egypt.) **Joseph collected extra grain during the years of plenty and stored it to be given out during the famine. How did God use the terrible famine to reunite Joseph and his family?** (The brothers came to Egypt to ask for food. Joseph saw them and forgave them.) **In your life, have you ever seen God bring good from something others meant for evil?**

Joseph did not blame his brothers for selling him as a slave. What did Joseph say was the real reason God sent him to Egypt? (God put him in the right place to save people from starving from the famine, including his own family.) **God had a special plan for Joseph to meet his brothers again so he could forgive them and help them.**

CHRIST CONNECTION:

What does it mean to forgive? (No longer be angry with another for hurting us and to let go of the hurt.) **Nearly 1850 years after Joseph forgave his brothers, Jesus spoke about forgiving sins. Some Bibles use the word "debts" or "trespasses" for the word "sins." Let's find out what Jesus said about forgiveness.** Reveal Matthew 6:12-15. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

Do you know what important prayer these words come from? (The Lord's Prayer.) **This is the prayer Jesus gave us as an example of what to say when we pray. When we ask for God's forgiveness, what should we be doing at the same time?** (Forgiving others.) **Why is it important to forgive others?** (God will not forgive us until we have forgiven others.) **Do you need to forgive someone? Ask God to help you forgive that person.**

After their father died, what did the brothers fear would happen? (Joseph would pay them back for the evil they had done to him.) **Joseph's actions already showed he had forgiven his brothers, but he needed to actually say he forgave them. When we forgive someone, we should make sure the person hears us say we forgive him or her.**

What do you think Joseph needed most to be able to forgive his brothers? What is something difficult are you experiencing in your life that God might use for good?

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: The Lord's Prayer Card
- W³ BETWEEN THE LINES Journal Entry #39
- OFFERING OF ART: Joseph forgiving his brothers
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

GAME: Faithful Airballs

DISCUSSION: Joseph and the Dreams

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Stepping Stones, Bible Memory

Verse Message Ball

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW