



# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

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

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** The God Who Speaks

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Genesis 39:2, 21; 41:15-16, 39-40; 45:4-8; 50:15, 19-21

**What He has done:** God meant for good what the brothers meant for evil.

**Key Verse:** Genesis 50:20

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Matthew 6:12-15

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:23

Unit 8: The God Who Speaks			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
38	Joseph and His Jealous Brothers, Genesis 37:2-11, 18-24, 26-36	God spoke to Joseph in a dream and protected him from death.	To challenge children to make peace with others.
39	Joseph Forgives His Brothers, Genesis 39:2, 21; 41:15-16, 39-40; 45:4-8; 50:15, 19-21	God meant for good what the brothers meant for evil.	To see how our sovereign God will use for good what others intend for evil.
40	The Burning Bush, Exodus 3:1-5, 9-10, 13-14, 19-20; 4:10-14	God called to Moses from a burning bush.	To know God calls us and equips us to be His messengers.
41	The Passover, Exodus 11:1; 12:21-31	God passed over the Israelite's homes.	To learn the significance of the Passover and the Passover Lamb.
42	God Parts the Red Sea, Exodus 13:21-22; 14:5-7, 10, 13-16, 19-26, 31; 15:1-2	God kept His promise to deliver His people from slavery.	To know God made a way for us to know His presence. (Salvation Message)

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Acts 10:39-43. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord Jesus, for forgiving us. Thank You for taking our punishment on the cross. Use this story to help the children forgive others. Amen."

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**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Grain Delivery	Large bowl, rice, 2 spoons, 2 clear jars, masking tape, permanent marker
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Well Done" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "I Am the Way" "Search Me, O God" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Holy, Holy, Holy" "Spirit of the Living God" "This Is My Father's World" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Shout Praises! Kids Gospel Songs 4 Worship KIDS - Awesome God
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> Psalm 103:12	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 39 High Seas Adventures script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Genesis 39:2, 21; 41:15-16, 39-40; 45:4-8; 50:15, 19-21	Map—Ancient Egypt and Canaan, Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discussion</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Matthew 6:12-15	
	Final 5	<b>Golden Bowl</b>	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Good Grains	Muffins or other bread or grain
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Faithful Airballs	Several inflatable beach balls or balloons (not helium-filled)
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> Bread Plates of Forgiveness	Hard plastic disposable plates (non-sectioned), non-toxic poster paints*, brushes, cups of water, and disposable table covers (such as paper tablecloths or newspapers)
	Up to 10	<b>Discussion:</b> Joseph and the Dreams	Bible
	Up to 15	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Stepping Stones	Paper plates, markers
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Bible Memory Verse Message Ball	2 hula-hoops, 2 large foam balls, 2 large pieces of paper, marker, floor tape, Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Timeline

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.  
**Meet & Greet Question: What is the weirdest dream you have ever had?**

### **GAME: GRAIN DELIVERY**

**Purpose:** Teams will race to see which team can fill up their grain container first.

**Supplies:** Large bowl, rice, 2 spoons, 2 clear jars, masking tape, permanent marker

**Prepare:** At one end of the playing area, mark a starting line with masking tape. Pour rice into a large bowl and place it in the middle of the starting line. On each jar, mark a "fill to" line at the same level. Make sure you have more than enough rice to fill the jars to the line during the game. You may also want to count how many spoonfuls it will take to fill the jar, keeping in mind some spoons will be spilled. Mark a finish line at the other end of the play area and place both jars on the line.

**Small classroom?** Have each team sit in a line between the bowl and their jar. Players can then pass the spoon filled with rice down the line to fill their jars.

**In our Bible story, we will discover Joseph's family ran out of food. They had to go to Egypt to buy grain to make foods like bread and cereal. While they were in Egypt, Joseph had the chance to forgive them for selling him into slavery. We will find out what happened when we read the Bible story. First, let's play a game. Imagine you traveled to Egypt to buy grain. You must hurry to be the first team to fill your container with grain!**

#### **Directions:**

1. Form two teams. Each team lines up behind the start line on either side of the bowl of rice. Give a spoon to the first player on each team.
2. On your signal, the first player on each team scoops up some rice ("grain") with the spoon, moves quickly to the team jar, and pours the rice into the jar.
3. The player then races back and hands the spoon to the next player in line, who repeats step 2.
4. Play continues until one team reaches the fill line on their jar with the rice.



## The God who speaks **THE WORSHIP**

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting the offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.

**Today, we worship the God who speaks. God's Word, the Bible, says He wants us to forgive others the way He has forgiven us. Today, we will read how Joseph forgave his brothers.**



**As we give our offerings, let's take time to ask God to show us our sins. Afterward, we can silently ask Him to forgive us for our sins.** Sing: "Search Me, O God" while the offering is collected.

Sing Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Well Done."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's forgiveness.



**Finally, let's give thanks for the forgiveness Jesus bought for us. He paid for our forgiveness with His life. This forgiveness is so complete that God remembers our sins no more.** Read Psalm 103:12.



Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 8, Lesson 39.



God uses Joseph's life for good

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word; knowing God is my goal."**

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson. **Last time, we learned God spoke to Joseph through his dreams. Joseph's brothers were very jealous, so they sold him to be a slave in Egypt. 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.**



**Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 39:2, 21; 41:15-16, 39-40, 45:4-8, 50:15, 19-21. **Let's see who can Find Genesis 50:20 First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Genesis 50:20.**

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**In Egypt, Joseph became a slave to Potiphar, one of Pharaoh's (the Egyptian king) officials. The Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in all he did, 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 and he was put in charge of the other prisoners.**

**While in jail, Joseph helped two other prisoners understand what God was saying to them in their dreams. He even helped Pharaoh understand his dreams about preparing for the coming famine (a time of no food). Pharaoh made Joseph second in command over all of Egypt, and Joseph prepared Egypt for the famine.**

**When the famine came, 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 Genesis 39:2, 21; 41:15-16, 39-40, 45:4-8, 50:15, 19-21.



God will use our lives for good

## THE WAY

**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.) **In this job, Joseph collected extra grain during the years of plenty and stored it to be given out during the years of 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?** (Children respond.)

**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.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**What does it mean to forgive?** (No longer be angry with another for hurting us and to forget 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.**



***FIND IT FIRST*** > **Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap.** Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Matthew 6:12-15. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read Matthew 6:12-15.

**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?** (Children respond.) **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?** (Children respond.) **What is something difficult are you experiencing in your life that God might use for good?** (Children respond.)

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I will lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.**

**Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.**

**Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is the Lord's Prayer Card (available at ResourceWell.org). Each time you read and pray this special prayer, remember God forgives us and wants us to forgive others.

**W<sup>3</sup>:** Take home today's W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry #39. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, let's make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Joseph forgiving his brothers. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Well Done," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SNACK: GOOD GRAINS**

**Purpose:** Children learn how grain is used to make food like today's snack.

**Snack Suggestion:** Muffins or other bread or grain

**In our Bible story, we are learning Joseph forgave his brothers and gave them the grain they needed to make food. Today's snack is made from grain.**

**Directions:**

1. Serve snacks and water.
2. Ask a child to pray and thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What do you like to put on muffins or bread?"**

### **GAME: FAITHFUL AIRBALLS**

**Purpose:** Children try to keep more and more beach balls floating in the air to understand the meaning of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Several inflatable beach balls or balloons (not helium-filled)

**Directions:**

1. Children sit together on the floor. Throw a beach ball over their heads and ask them to carefully bat the ball so it remains in the air and does not touch the ground.
2. **Since you have been faithful in keeping one ball in the air, now I will put you in charge of two balls.**
3. Give the children another ball to keep in the air.
4. Each time the class is able to keep the balls in the air, add another ball. Play as long as you like.
5. After playing the game, have the children repeat the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.  
"Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" Matthew 25:23

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: BREAD PLATES OF FORGIVENESS**

**Purpose:** Children will each decorate a plate to help them remember God forgives us and wants us to forgive each other.

**Supplies:** Hard plastic disposable plates (non-sectioned), non-toxic poster paints, brushes, cups of water, and disposable table covers (such as paper tablecloths or newspapers)

**Prepare:** Cover the workspace with the table covers. Set out the paints, brushes, and cups of water.

**Teacher Tip:** To avoid handling wet paint, instruct children to not paint the rim or back of the plate. Tape another plate upside down over the first plate to protect the picture. You may also wish to use permanent markers or fast-drying paint pens in place of the poster paints.

**In our Bible story, we learned Joseph forgave his brothers. God had a plan that brought Joseph and his brothers together so Joseph could forgive them. We learned God forgives us. What should we do when others sin against us? (Forgive them.) Joseph forgave his brothers and gave them the grain they needed to make bread and other food. Let's make Bread Plates of Forgiveness to remind us to forgive others, just like Joseph did!**

### **Directions:**

1. Paint the word "Forgive" onto the plate.
2. Use the paints to decorate the plate. Decoration ideas: pictures of bread, wheat stalks, or Joseph with his brothers.

## **DISCUSSION: JOSEPH AND THE DREAMS**

**Purpose:** To help children further explore how God used Joseph through dreams.

**Supplies:** Bible

**Let's read and discuss the following scripture passages to further explore how God used Joseph through the use of dreams.**

### **Directions:**

1. Read Genesis 40:4b-5, 8-13, 16-23. **Who did Joseph say gave them the dreams and their meanings? (God.) Joseph helped others understand what God was saying to them. What did God say to the cupbearer? (Pharaoh would give him his job back.) What did God say to the baker? (Pharaoh would have him hanged.)**
2. Read Genesis 41:14-32. **God gave dreams to Pharaoh and He helped Joseph understand those dreams so he could tell Pharaoh what they meant. What was the meaning of Pharaoh's dreams? (There would be seven years of good crops and plenty of food followed by seven years of famine.) God spoke this special warning to Pharaoh through Joseph. Because of it, Joseph was able to help Pharaoh prepare for the famine. Many lives were saved because the Egyptians had enough food during the famine.**

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” Matthew 25:23

### **GAME: STEPPING STONES**

**Purpose:** Children will walk across “stepping stones” to learn the Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Paper plates, markers

**Prepare:** Write the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse on paper plates, one word per plate. Place the plates word side up and in order on the floor.

**Directions:**

1. Children step on the plates in order, saying each word as they step.
2. Play the game again, but this time turn over a few of the plates so children must remember the missing words when they step on those plates.
3. Repeat step 2 until all the plates are upside down and children are able to say the Bible Memory Verse from memory.

### **GAME: BIBLE MEMORY VERSE MESSAGE BALL**

**Purpose:** To review the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** 2 hula hoops, 2 large foam balls, masking tape, marker, paper, scissors

**Prepare:** Write two copies of the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse in large letters. Cut out each word to create two sets. Mix up the pieces of each set separately. Use masking tape to mark two start lines. Have assistants hold the hula hoops at an appropriate distance from the start line.

**Today, we will remember how God spoke to a teenager named Joseph in a very special way. God speaks to us, too. One way God speaks to us is through the Bible, His message to us. Our new Bible Memory Verse is from God’s Word. Together, let’s read God’s message. Read.**

**Directions:**

1. Form two teams. Make sure each team has a good reader or a helper to assist.
2. Instruct each team to line up behind a start line. Give a ball to the first player on each team.
3. Place a set of Bible Memory Verse words next to each start line.
4. On your signal, the first player on each team tries to throw the ball through their team’s hoop. If the ball goes through the hoop, the player retrieves the ball and gives it to the second player. Then, he or she picks up one piece of the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Players continue to take turns trying to earn Bible Memory Verse pieces by tossing the ball through the hoop.
6. When a team has collected all the Bible Memory Verse pieces, they must put the words in order and say the Bible Memory Verse together.
7. Continue until all teams have said the Bible Memory Verse.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

God of Wonders Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Genesis through Joshua. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Isaac and Rebekah Who did Abraham send to find a wife for Isaac?** (His chief servant.) **What happened when the servant arrived at the well?** (He prayed for God's sign to be a woman who gave water to him and his camels.) **What was the name of the wife the servant found for Isaac?** (Rebekah.)

**Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) What did Jacob do to Esau?** (He tricked him out of his birthright. He took his blessing by tricking their father Isaac into giving it to him.) **What did Jacob dream about when he ran away from Esau?** (Angels on a ladder going to heaven.) **What did Jacob do the whole night before he reunited with Esau?** (He wrestled with a mysterious man until God gave him a blessing.)

**Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) What did Jacob give his son Joseph?** (A colorful robe.) **What did Joseph's jealous brothers do to him?** (They threw him in an empty well and sold him into slavery.) **What good things happened for Egypt and for Joseph's family as a result of Joseph being sold and taken to Egypt?** (His family and all of Egypt had enough to eat during the famine.)

### How to create a Bible Timeline from Genesis through Joshua:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the two Unit 10 cards for God of Wonders Advent: Lessons 48-52.
4. To review the Bible Timeline, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Genesis through Joshua: Creation > Adam and Eve > Cain and Abel > Noah (Circa 2350 B.C.) > Tower of Babel > Abram (Circa 2100 B.C.) > Hagar and Ishmael (Circa 2065 B.C.) > Abraham and Isaac (Circa 2050 B.C.) > Isaac and Rebekah > Jacob and Esau (Circa 1900 B.C.) > Joseph (Circa 1850 B.C.) > Moses (Circa 1500 B.C.) > Joshua (Circa 1450 B.C.)

**Unit 10:** John the Baptist (Circa 7-2 B.C.) > Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)