



# Joseph Forgives His Brothers

**Lesson Aim: To know God wants us to forgive each other.**

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The God Who Speaks

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Genesis 50:17-21

**What He Has Done:** God led Joseph to forgive his brothers.

## THE WAY - BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"I will listen to what God the Lord will say." Psalm 85:8

<b>Unit 8: The God Who Speaks</b>			
	<b>Bible Story</b>	<b>What He Has Done</b>	<b>Lesson Aim</b>
38	Joseph and His Special Robe, Genesis 37:1-3	God gave Joseph a father who loved him very much.	To know we can show our love to God and to others.
39	Joseph Forgives His Brothers, Genesis 50:17-21	God led Joseph to forgive his brothers.	To know God wants us to forgive each other.
40	The Burning Bush, Exodus 3:1-12	God speaks to Moses from a burning bush.	To know God speaks to us.
41	Pharaoh Would Not Listen, Exodus 8:20-32	God sent the plague of flies when Pharaoh would not listen to God's warnings.	To see how important it is to listen to God's warnings.
42	God Parts the Red Sea, Exodus 14:9-10, 13-16, 21-22	God parted the Red Sea to save His people.	To see how God speaks through His creation and His miracles.

## 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."

## TEACHER'S TIP

**THE WELCOME:** If families arrive late, it can be difficult to start any group teaching. Use this time to do THE WELCOME activities and to introduce today's Bible story. Have children open the treasure chest while they are coloring or playing with play-dough. Tell them how the stamp or sticker relates to today's story, who the main characters of the story are, and one or two sentences about what happens. Ask children to help you share this information with new children who arrive.



**THE WORSHIP  
THE WORD &  
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 20	<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a colorful heart
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> Joseph Forgives His Brothers	Coloring pages of Joseph and his brothers, crayons
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> Sad Face, Happy Face	Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		<b>Block Center:</b> Working Hard	Blocks
		<b>Dramatic Play Center:</b> Food for Egypt	Dishes, cups, napkins, play food
		<b>Preparing for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <b>Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "I Will Listen" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Do You Love Me?" "Here Am I" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" "We Love" <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "Jesus Loves Me"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 8, Lesson 39
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Genesis 50:17-21	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 50:21 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, paper sign on large craft stick with happy face on one side and sad face on the other side
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Feeding the Forgiveness	2 small paper plates, handful of dried cereal pieces, 2 labels, non-toxic glue or glue sticks
		<b>Game:</b> Joseph Forgave	Scepter (long stick or wrap a stick and small ball on the end in foil), plate, play food
		<b>Game:</b> We Forgive	Large laminated heart
		<b>Snack:</b> Forgiveness Feast	Any grain snack, such as granola bars or dry cereal
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8 Lesson 39
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Genesis 50:17-21	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Stop and Listen	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Will Listen"
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Memory Verse Echo	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about forgiveness

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



## The God who speaks **THE WELCOME**

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello \_\_\_\_\_.** **I am glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a colorful heart. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a colorful heart remind you to forgive everyone. To forgive means to stop being angry when someone has done wrong to you and to let it go.**

**Teacher's Note:** These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

### **COLORING CENTER: JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring pages of Joseph and his brothers, crayons

#### **DO**

Children color their pictures while talking about the story.

#### **TALK ABOUT**

**Today, we will hear about Joseph and his brothers. Joseph's brothers were mean to Joseph, but eventually they realized what they did was wrong and they told Joseph they were sorry. God helped Joseph to not be angry and to forgive them. To forgive means to stop being angry when someone has done wrong to you and to let it go. Has anyone ever been mean to you? (Children respond.) Have you forgiven them? (Children respond.) Sometimes forgiving is difficult. You can ask God to help you forgive.**

### **PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: SAD FACE, HAPPY FACE**

#### **SUPPLIES**

Play-dough, cookie cutters, play-dough tools

#### **DO**

Children create a sad face and a smiley face with the play-dough while discussing today's lesson.

#### **TALK ABOUT**

**Let's make sad faces and happy faces today. What kinds of things make you sad? (Children respond.) What kinds of things make you happy? (Children respond.)** If children mention a situation where a person made them sad, you can introduce the idea of forgiveness using the Coloring Center TALK ABOUT above.

# THE WELCOME *continued ...*

## **BLOCK CENTER: WORKING HARD**

### **SUPPLIES**

Blocks

### **DO**

Children play with the blocks while being introduced to some of the things Joseph did in today's story.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**You are working hard at building with the blocks. In our story today, Joseph worked hard wherever he went and did a good job. He was able to help the people of Egypt have food to eat because of his hard work. What could you do to help someone you know?** (Children respond.)

## **DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: FOOD FOR EGYPT**

### **SUPPLIES**

Dishes, cups, napkins, play food

### **TEACHER'S NOTE**

Remove all the food from the play area before children arrive.

### **DO**

Children play while talking about Egypt's famine.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**Let's pretend to make dinner. What do you think we should make?** (Children respond.) **I don't see any of those items here. In fact, I don't see any food at all! We can pretend there is food, but what if this was a real home and there was no food here and no food in the stores? We would be hungry, wouldn't we?** (Yes.)

**In our story today, God warns the people of Egypt that a famine is coming. A famine is a time when there is no food. He warns them so they can save up enough food to help them through the famine. God cared for the people. He cares for us, too!**

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## **PREPARING FOR WORSHIP**

Once the service has begun, clean up and begin the planned activities.

**Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put our toys away.** Praise children as they help.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!**

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com))

**"I  
will listen  
to what  
God the Lord**

Point to self.  
(listen) Hand makes "C" shape and cups the ear.  
(to) Hold up pointer finger of one hand. Touch with pointer finger of other hand.  
(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

**will say."  
Psalm 85:8**

(say) The index finger makes a small circular motion in front of the mouth.  
Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



The God who speaks  
**THE WORSHIP**

**Supplies:** Praise music, optional: musical instruments

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



**God speaks to us through the world He has made, through Bible stories, and through the people we know. We can speak to Him through prayer. Let's do that right now.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, we are so glad we can talk to You. Help us to remember to come to You in prayer. Amen.**



**God loves us more than we could ever know and He will love us forever. Let's sing about that amazing love!** Sing: "How Wide?" with the motions below.

<b>How wide and long</b>	Stretch circle outward.
<b>and high</b>	Hold each other's hands high to sky.
<b>and deep</b>	Hold each other's hands low to ground.
<b>is the love of Christ.</b>	Let go of hands and hug arms over chest.
<b>His love endures forever.</b>	Hold hands again and walk in a circle.

**In today's story, Joseph forgives his brothers for being mean to him. To forgive means to stop being angry when someone has done wrong to you and to let it go. Forgiving often isn't easy, but we know God will help us if we ask.** Sing: "I Can Do Everything."



**Let's see if Delbert and Lello know about Joseph and his brothers.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 8, Lesson 39.



**God wants us to listen to what He says. That reminds me of our Bible Memory Verse.** Say the Bible Memory Verse. **Let's say it together.** Practice with the motions a few times.

<b>"I</b>	Point to self.
<b>will listen</b>	(listen) Hand makes "C" shape and cups the ear.
<b>to what</b>	(to) Hold up pointer finger of one hand. Touch with pointer finger of other hand.
<b>God the Lord</b>	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>will say."</b>	(say) The index finger makes a small circular motion in front of the mouth.
<b>Psalms 85:8</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



Sing: "I Will Listen."



Joseph forgave his brothers

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 50:21, picture of the Bible story, paper sign on large craft stick with happy face on one side and sad face on the other side

**Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.**

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	Hug self, point to others, and then self.

**Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears.** Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

**Last week, we learned about Joseph and the special robe his father gave him. His father gave him the robe to show how much he loved him. How do you feel when you know someone loves you?** (Children respond.) Show happy face side of the sign. **Today, we will hear that Joseph's brothers were sad because their father didn't give them a robe.** Show sad face of the sign. **As we listen, let's decide whether the people in the story are happy** (Show the happy face.) **or sad** (Show the sad face.). You may choose to have one of the children hold the happy face/sad face sign as you read the storybook. Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Genesis 50:21.



### **WATCH THE WORD: GENESIS 50:17-21**

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Joseph's brothers were jealous of his robe;**
- **Into a well they threw him down.**
- **They sold him to some strangers,**
- **Who took Joseph to a faraway town.**
  
- **They took him to Egypt where he worked hard.**
- **Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the land.**
- **He forgave every brother when they came for food.**
- **He spoke kindly and took care of them.**

**Were Joseph's brothers kind to him? (No.) But, did Joseph forgive them? (Yes.) What does God want us to do when anyone does wrong to us? (Forgive.)**



Forgive everyone

## THE WAY

**Teacher Tip:** Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

### **CRAFT: FEEDING THE FORGIVEN**

**Purpose:** To show God wants us to forgive each other.

**Supplies:** 2 small paper plates, handful of dried cereal pieces, 2 labels, non-toxic glue or glue sticks

**Prepare:** On one label, print: **Joseph's brothers were hungry.** On another label, print: **Joseph forgave and fed his brothers.**

**Optional:** Use pictures of favorite foods instead of the cereal pieces.

#### **Directions:**

1. Attach two small paper plates back to back.
2. **There's no food on your plates. Were Joseph's brothers hungry?** (Yes.) Place the "**Joseph's brothers were hungry.**" label in the center of the top plate.
3. Turn the plate over.
4. **Who gave them food?** (Joseph.) Place the "**Joseph forgave and fed his brothers.**" label in the center of the second plate.
5. **Let's put some food on this plate to remind you that God wants us to forgive each other.** Glue cereal onto the second plate.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **What wrong thing did Joseph's brothers do?** (They threw him in a well and sold him to strangers.)
- **What right things did Joseph do when he saw his brothers asking for food?** (He forgave them. He gave them grain to make food.)

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: JOSEPH FORGAVE**

**Purpose:** Children will act out part of the story.

**Supplies:** Scepter (long stick or wrap a stick and small ball on the end in foil), plate, play food

### **Directions:**

1. Choose a child to be Joseph. Have Joseph sit in a chair at one end of the play area. Give Joseph the scepter and set the food near him.
2. Choose a few children to be Egyptians. Have them stand away from Joseph.
3. The other children will be Joseph's brothers. Have them stand at the other end of the play area.
4. Act out the story below.
5. Play as many times as you like, allowing children to change roles each time.

<b>Joseph was in charge of all of Egypt.</b>	Joseph holds up the scepter.
<b>He helped the people save plenty of food. When the famine came, no one went hungry in Egypt.</b>	Egyptians walk to Joseph, he gives them the food, Egyptians sit.
<b>Joseph's family lived far away and they were hungry.</b>	The brothers rub their stomachs.
<b>The brothers traveled to Egypt for food.</b>	The brothers walk to Joseph.
<b>Joseph was so happy to see his brothers! He forgave them for all they did.</b>	Joseph jumps up and says, " <b>I forgive you!</b> "

## **GAME: WE FORGIVE**

**Purpose:** Children will remember to forgive.

**Supplies:** Large laminated heart

**Joseph forgave his brothers. God wants us to forgive others, too. Remember, to forgive means to stop being angry when someone has done wrong to you and to let it go. This heart reminds us that God wants us to love each other and to forgive. In this game, when you receive the heart, I want you to say, "I forgive!"**

### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Teacher or a helper stands in the middle of the circle with the heart.
3. Children hold hands and walk in a circle while chanting,  
**Forgive, forgive, God wants us to forgive.**  
**Even when someone makes us mad or sad, God wants us to forgive.**
4. Teacher (or helper) hands the heart to the child in front of him or her (or choose another child if that child has already held the heart).
5. The child who receives the heart says, "**I forgive!**"
6. Repeat steps 3-5 until each child has a turn holding the heart.



# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: FORGIVENESS FEAST**

**Purpose:** To remember to forgive everyone.

**Snack Suggestion:** Any grain snack, such as granola bars or dry cereal

### **Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.  
**God our Father, God our Father, once again, once again.**  
**Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.**
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
  - **How do you think Joseph's brothers felt when he forgave them?** (Children respond.)
  - **Have you ever been forgiven for doing something wrong? Did you say you were sorry? How did you feel when you were forgiven?** (Children respond.)
  - **How do you think Joseph felt after he forgave his brothers?** (Children respond.)
  - **Have you ever forgiven someone? How did you feel when you forgave that person?** (Children respond.)



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

<b>"I</b>	Point to self.
<b>will listen</b>	(listen) Hand makes "C" shape and cups the ear.
<b>to what</b>	(to) Hold up pointer finger of one hand. Touch with pointer finger of other hand.
<b>God the Lord</b>	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>will say."</b>	(say) The index finger makes a small circular motion in front of the mouth.
<b>Psalm 85:8</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

### **PRAY**

**Let's pray together.** Say a closing prayer with the children.

### **PLAY**

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

### **DISMISSAL**

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## **GOT TIME?**

### **SAY & DO: GENESIS 50:17-21**

**Purpose:** This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

**Supplies:** None

**Directions:** With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and leads the children in doing the hand motions.

- **Joseph's brothers were jealous of his robe;** (Make angry face.)
- **Into a well they threw him down.** (Squat down as in well.)
- **They sold him to some strangers,** (Wave goodbye.)
- **Who took Joseph to a faraway town.** (Point far away.)
  
- **They took him to Egypt where he worked hard.** (Wipe sweat from brow.)
- **Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of the land.** (Place imaginary crown on head.)
- **He forgave every brother when they came for food.** (Nod head yes.)
- **He spoke kindly and took care of them.** (Pat heart.)



### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"I will listen to what God the Lord will say." Psalm 85:8

### **GAME: STOP AND LISTEN**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Will Listen"

**Our Bible Memory Verse says, "I will listen to what God the Lord will say." To listen, we need to stop and be still. Let's practice being still right now. When the music stops, I want you to freeze in place. Together, we will whisper our Bible Memory Verse.**

**Directions:**

1. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as children dance and sing.
2. After a short time, pause the music. Children are to freeze in place.
3. Lead the children in whispering, **"I will listen to what God the Lord will say."**
4. Play several times.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: MEMORY VERSE ECHO**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize and review the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** None

**We can listen as we share our Bible Memory Verse with each other.**

### **Directions:**

1. Hold hands and have the children stand in a circle. The children can drop their hands once the circle is made.
2. Divide your class into two groups: the loud echo and the whisper echo. If possible, have a teacher or helper lead each group.
3. Have everyone crouch down until it is their turn to echo the verse.
4. Say the verse. Have the loud group stand and echo your words and then the whisper group.
5. Repeat a few times.
6. If you have time, reassign which group does which kind of echo and play again.
7. Optional: Add some variety to the echo. Do it faster each time or slower or have the children jump up and down, clap, or spin in a circle when it is their turn to echo.



## **STORY TIME**

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about forgiveness.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 8, Lesson 39: Joseph Forgives His Brothers

**PONDER!** Joseph's brothers were angry that their father gave Joseph the special robe (Genesis 37:1-36; 50:17-21). Did Joseph forgive his brothers? (Yes.)

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, Lord, for forgiving us. Help us to forgive everyone, including people who hurt us on purpose. Amen."

**PLAY!** To forgive means to stop being angry when someone has done wrong to you and to let it go. We can ask God to help us forgive. Cut a heart shape from paper. On the heart, write the word, "Forgive," or draw a picture to remind you to forgive others. Place it where you will see it every day.

### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE**

<b>"I</b>	Point to self.
<b>will listen</b>	(listen) Hand makes "C" shape and cups the ear.
<b>to what</b>	(to) Hold up pointer finger of one hand. Touch with pointer finger of other hand.
<b>God the Lord</b>	(God) The open right hand, fingers together and palm facing left, moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
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<b>Psalms 85:8</b>	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.