



“Forgive your brothers.”

Joseph Forgives His Brothers - Genesis 50:17-21

The barn door opened and Pops walked in ready to work on some projects. As he entered the barn, he saw Delbert and Lello.

“Hello there! Lello, Granny B told me you weren’t feeling well. Are you feeling any better today?” Pops asked, as he walked over to the two friends.

“I’m better,” Lello answered grumpily.

Pops studied her. “Then what’s wrong, Lello?” he asked gently.

Lello frowned. “I was showing Delbert my new treasure box when he dropped it and it broke. I’ve only had it a few days!”

“Oh, no. Is that true, Delbert?” Pops asked, looking at Delbert.

Delbert hung his head. “Haw. I didn’t mean to; it was an accident,” Delbert explained.

“I’m sure it was. Do you know what we say when we break something that belongs to someone else?” Pops asked.

“I’m sorry?” Delbert suggested.

Pops nodded. He gently encouraged Delbert to do so.

“I’m sorry I broke your treasure box, Lello,” Delbert said gently.

Lello was silent.

“Lello, what happens next?” Pops asked.

Lello remained silent for a minute. "I don't know," she finally answered, a little confused.

"I know a Bible story that may help us. May I read it to you?" Pops asked.

Delbert and Lello nodded. Pops walked over to his workbench and took the Bible off the shelf. He flipped through the pages as he walked back over.

Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him that they took his special robe and tried to hurt him. Many years later his brothers were sorry and asked Joseph to forgive them," Pops told Delbert and Lello.

"Did Joseph forgive them?" Lello asked quietly.

Pops nodded. "When the brothers came to Joseph he told them to not be afraid and he forgave them."

"I bet it was hard for Joseph to forgive them," Delbert pondered aloud.

"Yes," Pops agreed, "it is hard to forgive sometimes, but God tells us to forgive our brothers."

"Pops, when God says, 'Forgive your brothers,' does He also mean to forgive your sisters and your friends?" Delbert asked hopefully.

Pops smiled and nodded. He glanced over at Lello who was deep in thought. The three sat quietly for a minute, then Lello looked at Delbert. "Delbert, I forgive you for breaking my treasure box," she said.

A huge smile broke across Delbert's face. He began to jump up and down.

"Thank you, Lello! I don't want you to be angry with me. You are my best friend!" Delbert exclaimed.

"Would you two like to use my tools to fix Lello's treasure box?" Pops offered.

Delbert and Lello both called out, "Yes!" Lello went and got her treasure box and gently carried it to Pops' workbench. Delbert helped Pops pick out which tools to use and together Pops, Delbert, and Lello worked until the treasure box was as good as new.