



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

Whisper Verse: "Forgive everyone."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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

Unit 8: The God Who Speaks			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
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."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a colorful heart
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Forgive everyone."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org.	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Will Listen" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Be Still and Know" "Blessed Are Those" "Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled" "He Is Mighty to Save" "Here Am I" "How Wide?" "I Can Do Everything" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "We Love" Additional Song Suggestions: "Jesus Loves Me" "This Is My Father's World"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 8, Lesson 39
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Genesis 50:17-21	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Genesis 50:21 Visual: Paper heart with angry face on one side and happy face on the other
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Feeding the Forgiveness	2 small paper plates, handful of cereal pieces (Cheerios, puffed wheat, dried oats), 2 labels, glue or glue sticks
		Game: Joseph's Well	None
		Game: The Forgiving Heart	Large paper or cardboard heart with a happy face drawn on one side and an angry face drawn on the opposite side
		Snack: Forgiveness Feast	Any grain snack, such as granola bars or dry cereal
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 8, Lesson 39 Color This Story: "Joseph Forgives His Brothers."
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Genesis 50:17-21	None
	Up to 10	Game: Stop and Listen	Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Will Listen"
	Up to 10	Game: Scripture Hopscotch	Ten 8-inch x 8-inch colorful fabric squares or floor tape
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about forgiveness

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Forgive everyone

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm 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 not be angry any more when someone has done wrong to you and to let it go. Today's Whisper Verse is "Forgive everyone."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Forgive everyone."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- "Forgive"** The hands appear to be cleaning themselves to show that whatever was there is no longer there.
- "everyone."** The signs for EACH and ONE are combined.
EACH: Each hand makes letter "A" handshape which is a fist with thumb relaxed and up. One "A" handshape then moves down the other "A" handshape.
ONE: Hold index finger up to identify the number 1.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Forgive everyone," Luke 11:4. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



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 offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who speaks to us. God speaks to us in many ways. When He speaks, He wants us to listen. Sing: “I Will Listen.”

One way He speaks to us is through Bible stories. In today's story, Joseph forgives his brothers for throwing him down a well. God uses this Bible story to speak to us about forgiveness. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse, “Forgive everyone.” Let's say it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: “Forgive everyone.” Include sign language.

Who remembers what forgive means? (To no longer be angry at someone who has done something wrong to us and to let it go.) **Joseph's brothers were afraid he was still angry with them for throwing him down the well, but he told his brothers not to be afraid. Joseph had forgiven them and would take care of them. With God, we never have to be afraid. He forgives and takes care of us! Let's thank Him for that as we give our offering.** Sing: “Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled” while the offering is being collected.



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 forgives us and gives us strength to forgive everyone. Sing: “I Can Do Everything.”

We can love and forgive everyone because God first did that for us. Sing: “We Love.”



Joseph forgave his brothers

THE WORD

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

With my eyes on my teacher,
My mouth quiet as can be,
I will listen to hear,
How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.
Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
Cup hand around ear.
Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned about Joseph and the special robe his father gave him. Let's find out what happened next! Let's open our Bible to the first book, Genesis. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Genesis 50:21.

WATCH THE WORD: GENESIS 50:17-21

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a paper heart with an angry face on one side of the heart, and a happy face on the other side. Hold sad face up at the beginning of the poem. Turn it to the happy face for the last two lines of the passage below. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story picture, or any related picture.

- 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.



How did Joseph speak to his brothers to show he had forgiven them? (He spoke kindly to them.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Genesis 50:21 from the teacher's Bible.

What does God want us to do when anyone does wrong to us? (Children respond.) The answer is in our Whisper Verse! Let's say our Whisper Verse together: "Forgive everyone." Include sign language or hand motions.



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 cereal pieces (Cheerios, puffed wheat, dried oats), 2 labels, 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'S WELL

Purpose: To sense the importance of forgiveness.

Supplies: None

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle with arms linked, as the walls of Joseph's well.
2. Choose one child to crouch down in the middle of the well as Joseph.
3. Children chant, "**Poor little Joseph in the well. Will he forgive his brothers now?**"
4. Joseph jumps up and says, "**I forgive everyone!**"
5. Children in circle gently gather around Joseph for a group hug.
6. Allow each child to have a turn as Joseph.

GAME: THE FORGIVING HEART

Purpose: To learn the importance of always forgiving others.

Supplies: Large paper or cardboard heart with a happy face drawn on one side and an angry face drawn on the opposite side

When we forgive, we stop feeling angry about something someone has done to us. Forgiving is hard to do, especially when you are angry. But God wants us to forgive everyone, even if they have taken something, lied, refused to share, hurt us, or tattled. In this game, we will share the types of things that make us angry, then we will imagine the happy heart we get when we forgive.

Directions:

1. Seat children in a circle.
2. Choose a child to stand in the center of the circle. Child holds the heart, showing the angry face.
3. The remaining children chant: "Child's name, child's name, **what makes your heart mad?**"
4. Child shares a situation where someone wronged him or her (took something, laughed at him, hurt him, did not share, etc.)
5. The remaining children chant: "Child's name, child's name, **what makes your heart glad?**"
6. Child turns the heart around to show the happy face and says the Whisper Verse with the motions: "**Forgive everyone.**"
7. Play until each child has a turn.

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.
 - **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("Forgive everyone.") **Let's say it together with the hand motions.**
 - **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.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Feeding the Forgiven" craft. Tell someone how Joseph forgave his brothers and gave them food.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about ways your family members can practice forgiveness.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Joseph Forgives His Brothers." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Will Listen," as children color.



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, acts it out with hand motions, and then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **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.** (Whisper Verse sign language.)
- **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:

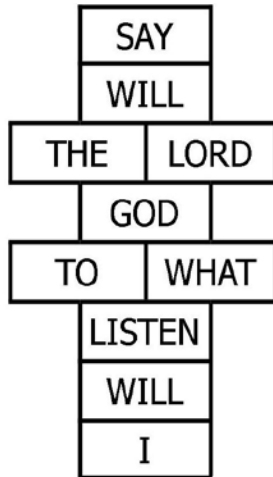
1. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as children dance and sing.
2. After a short time, pause the music. Children are to freeze in place.
3. Lead the children in whispering, "**I will listen to what God the Lord will say.**"
4. Play several times.

GOT TIME *continued...*

GAME: SCRIPTURE HOPSCOTCH

Purpose: To have fun memorizing the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Ten 8-inch x 8-inch colorful fabric squares (or floor tape) laid in shape below



One way God speaks to us is through His words in the Bible. When we listen to Bible stories, it is as if we are listening to God. Our Bible Memory Verse says, "I will listen to what God the Lord will say." Let's all say the verse together as we give one clap for each word. Now, let's play "Scripture Hopscotch."

Directions:

1. Choose one child as a volunteer "hopper." Children chant "I" with one clap. Hopper jumps onto the first square.
2. Children chant "will" with one clap. Hopper jumps onto the next square.
3. Continue chanting the Bible Memory Verse one word at a time as the Hopper hops.
4. Play until each child who wishes to be the hopper has a turn.



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! Read Genesis 37:1-36; 50:17-21 with your family. Talk about how Joseph may have felt when his brothers threw him in a well and sold him. Years later, Egypt's Pharaoh put Joseph in charge. He had the power to punish his brothers. Discuss his choice to forgive.

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! Give paper to each family member. Each person writes down or draws a picture of someone they need to forgive. Pray together and ask God to help each person forgive. When you are ready to give your hurt to God and to forgive, tear your paper into pieces and throw it away.

Unit 8 Bible Memory Verse: Psalm 85:8
"I will listen to what God the Lord will say."