

Lesson 48

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Joseph tests his brothers and forgives them.

Studying God's Word

Lesson Time

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Prayer Page in the Flip Chart. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

Today let's say prayers of supplication and ask God to help us with something.

I'll start. Dear God, you are such a loving Father. Will you please . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray, or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

I love you prayers—Adoration
I'm sorry prayers—Confession
I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
Please prayers—Supplication

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

What word means God will always keep his promises? Faithful.
Can we trust God only sometimes or all the time? All the time.
What word means God knows and sees everything we do? Omniscient.
What did Jesus come to save us from? The punishment of sin.

Bible Pass Around

Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number choose a number. (You may also choose to recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.) We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word), you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready for it in our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. Begin the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.

K-1st Lesson continues next.

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Refer to Lesson 47 Flip Chart. What did Pharaoh dream about? Cows and grain (corn).

Pharaoh dreamed about fat cows and skinny cows and good heads of grain and yucky heads of grain. But his wise men couldn't tell him what these dreams meant.

What did God help Joseph do? Explain Pharaoh's dreams.

Joseph explained what Pharaoh's dreams meant. There would be seven years of good farming when lots of grain would grow. Then a famine would come when there wouldn't be enough food for everyone.

Pharaoh made Joseph a powerful ruler—the second in command over Egypt! Joseph was in charge of collecting and storing grain during the seven good years of farming, and then he was in charge of selling it when the famine began.

Joseph's Brothers Go to Buy Grain

The famine wasn't just in Egypt; people in the countries around Egypt didn't have enough food to eat either. Since Joseph gathered and saved so much grain, Egypt was the only place where people could buy grain.

What is grain? Allow guesses.

Grain is the small, hard seeds from plants, like wheat, corn, oats, and rice, which are used in cereal and in flour for baking. It's an important food for people all around the world. We use different grains in a lot of different foods.

How many of you like oatmeal? Rice? Bread? Cereal? Popcorn? Show of hands.

Have grain samples you brought ready to show. Well, all of these things are made from grains. I brought some samples of grains to show you today. Bring out samples of grains, cereals, and flour you brought. Allow students to feel, smell, and maybe even taste some of the samples. Be aware of any allergies.

The famine we've been talking about was so bad that none of the grain or fruits and vegetables could grow. But people could buy grain from Egypt and cook it or grind it into flour to make bread.

The Bible tells us that the famine spread all the way to Canaan, where Joseph's father, Jacob, and his brothers lived. Jacob knew that his family needed food, so he sent his ten older sons to Egypt to buy grain for their family.

Genesis 42:6

Let's read in Genesis 42 and find out what happened when they got to Egypt. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. Have the student bring the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Genesis 42:6. What did Joseph's brothers do? Bowed down to Joseph.

Refer to Lesson 45 Flip Chart. Do you remember the dream Joseph had, when the sheaves bowed to him? Now here were his brothers, 20 years later, bowing to Joseph in Egypt just like in his dream.

Compare Lesson 45 Flip Chart picture of Joseph to Lesson 48 Flip Chart picture.

Compare Lesson 45 Flip Chart to Lesson 48 Flip Chart. The Bible says Joseph knew they were his brothers, but they didn't know he was Joseph. Joseph had changed a lot. By this time, Joseph looked and sounded like an Egyptian. His clothes and hair looked Egyptian, he was speaking the Egyptian language, and even had an Egyptian name!

Joseph Tests His Brothers

Refer to the Flip Chart. Instead of telling his brothers who he was, Joseph decided to test them to see if they were still as mean as they used to be.

First, Joseph turned to them and shouted, "You are spies!"

Did he really think they were spies? No, he was testing them.
Genesis 42:17

Listen to what else Joseph did to test them. Read Genesis 42:17.

As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart (PDF) to keep the children engaged.

What did Joseph do to all of the brothers? Put them in custody for three days.

That means Joseph put them all in prison! After three days, he let them out and gave them grain to take back to their families. But Joseph put Simeon back in prison and said if his brothers wanted to get Simeon out, they had to bring Benjamin, their youngest brother, when they came back later for more grain.

Oh no! The brothers went home feeling worried. They didn't know who this mighty ruler of Egypt was, and they were very afraid.

After some time, they ate all the grain they got from Egypt. So they had to go back to get more. This time they took Benjamin with them. Joseph was glad to see Benjamin. He told his servants to bring Simeon out of prison and to take all his brothers to his house for a meal. They all enjoyed their meal, but they still didn't know this ruler was really Joseph. Soon it was time to head back home to Canaan. This time they all left for home together.

Genesis 44:2

But Joseph wasn't finished testing his brothers yet. Joseph told his servant to fill up some sacks with grain for his brothers to take home. But he also told the servant to put something else into one of the sacks. Let's find out what that was. Read Genesis 44:2.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

What was it? His silver cup.

The servant put Joseph's silver cup into someone's sack. Whose sack? The youngest.

Yes. So all the brothers had sacks of grain. But Benjamin's sack had Joseph's cup in it. Joseph told his servant to run after the brothers and say that one of them had stolen the silver cup. Then the servant searched all the sacks and found the cup in Benjamin's sack.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Uh oh! It looked like Benjamin stole the silver cup! Now he would be in trouble. Remember, Joseph knew his brothers had been very jealous and angry when they sold him as a slave many years ago, and he wanted to see if they would act the same way with Benjamin.

What do you think they would do? Would they help Benjamin or leave him when he was in trouble? Allow guesses.

The Bible says they all went back to Egypt and spoke to Joseph together. They stood up for Benjamin and stayed to help him instead of letting him take the blame. Joseph's brothers passed the test!

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Refer to the Flip Chart. Joseph could see that his brothers had really changed. So it was finally time to let them know who he was. "I am Joseph, your brother whom you sold into Egypt," he cried.

Joseph's brothers were shocked and afraid when they saw that this powerful Egyptian ruler was really their brother! Why do you think his brothers were afraid when they saw it was Joseph? Allow discussion.

They knew they had done some terrible things to Joseph. And now he was a ruler! He could do whatever he wanted to get back at them—put them in prison or even kill them. But Joseph had faith in God, and he knew God would want him to forgive his brothers for what they had done.

Genesis 50:20

Forgiving others can be hard to do. But this verse explains why Joseph was able to forgive his brothers. Listen carefully, I'm going to ask some questions about it. Read Genesis 50:20.

When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they meant what against him? Evil.

Yes. They were trying to hurt Joseph. But this verse says God meant it for something else. What was that? Good.

God turned the brothers' evil plans into something good so that Joseph would become a ruler, get ready for the famine, and save many lives by giving food to hungry people, including his own family! God had this all planned out perfectly. God is sovereign. That means he was in control the whole time.

Even when people do evil things, God can turn those things into something good! God's plans are perfect. Joseph understood this and knew that it was his job to trust God and forgive his brothers.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

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Pharaoh made Joseph a powerful ruler of Egypt! Joseph was put in charge of collecting grain while it was growing, and then selling the grain when the famine started.

Joseph's Brothers Go to Buy Grain

Since Joseph gathered and saved so much grain, people from all around came to Egypt to buy grain.

What is grain? Allow guesses.

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The famine we've been talking about was so bad that none of the grain or fruits and vegetables could grow. But people could buy grain from Egypt and cook it or grind it into flour to make bread.

The Bible tells us that even people in Canaan, where Joseph's father and brothers lived, didn't have food. Joseph's father, Jacob, knew that his family needed to get some food, so he sent his ten older sons to Egypt to buy grain for their family.

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As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart (PDF) to keep the children engaged.

Did he really think they were spies? No, he was testing them. But Joseph wasn't finished testing them. Can you guess what Joseph did next to test his brothers? Allow guesses.

Joseph put them all in prison for three days! When he let them out, he gave them grain and sent them home to their families. But he kept Simeon there and said that if they wanted to get Simeon out of prison, they had to bring their youngest brother with them next time. Oh no! The brothers went home worried and afraid.

After they ate all the grain they got from Egypt, the brothers went back for more, taking their youngest brother, Benjamin, with them. Joseph let Simeon out of prison, but the brothers still didn't know this ruler was really Joseph.

When it was time for them to go back home to Canaan, Joseph told his servant to fill up their sacks with grain. But he also told the servant to put his silver cup into Benjamin's sack.

Refer to the Flip Chart. After the brothers left for home, Joseph told his servant to run after them and say that one of them had stolen the silver cup. When the servant caught up to them, he searched all the brothers' sacks until he found the cup.

Whose sack had the cup in it? Benjamin's sack.

Uh oh! It looked like Benjamin stole the silver cup! Now he would be in big trouble. Remember, Joseph knew his brothers had not cared about him many years ago, and he wanted to test them to see if they would act the same way with Benjamin.

What do you think they would do? Would they help Benjamin or leave him when he was in trouble? Allow guesses.

The Bible says they all went back to Egypt and helped Benjamin. Joseph's brothers passed the test!

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Refer to the Flip Chart. Joseph could see that his brothers had really changed. So it was finally time to let them know who he was. "I am Joseph, your brother whom you sold into Egypt," he cried.

Joseph's brothers were shocked and afraid when they saw that this powerful Egyptian ruler was really their brother! They knew they had done some terrible things to Joseph. And now he could do whatever he wanted to get back at them—he could put them in prison or even kill them. But Joseph had faith in God, and he knew God would want him to forgive his brothers for what they had done.

Even though Joseph knew that his brothers were trying to hurt him when they sold him as a slave, he also knew that God used their evil plans for something good. God planned for Joseph to become a ruler of Egypt so he could get ready for the famine and save many lives by giving food to hungry people, including his own family!

God planned everything out perfectly; he was in control the whole time. Even when people do evil things, God can turn those things into something good! Joseph understood this and knew that it was his job to trust God and forgive his brothers.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to review the lesson with a lesson review game.

Story Time

Do you remember what happened in our last story ? Allow discussion.

Justin was feeling like he couldn't do anything very well. But Jessie knew he had a real talent for drawing. So she talked him into drawing a picture of her cat, Freckles, for the library drawing contest. And Justin won! He learned that there are some things he can do very

easily, like drawing, and some things that he has to work harder at, like playing soccer. Justin understood that he couldn't do anything without God's help.

What do you think our story will be about today? Let's find out. Read the story as you show the picture.

Oh! What a mess! How many of you have ever been hit with water balloons? Show of hands.

Getting wet that way can be fun, if you're ready for it. But Justin wasn't ready the first time, was he? He had his good clothes and shoes on. When Matt said he was sorry, Justin remembered how Joseph forgave his brothers and God turned things out for good.

Justin forgave Matt, and now it sounds like Matt might even go to church with Justin for his class party! We'll see. Maybe Matt will like church and keep going. It looks like God turned this out for good, too, didn't he?

Joseph was a powerful ruler. He could have really done some terrible things to get back at his brothers for what they did to him. But Joseph knew God's plans were bigger and better than anything people could do. And so he chose to forgive and trust God to make things right. We can do that, too. We can forgive others and trust that God always has a good plan.

Memory Verse

We should all be hiding God's Word in our hearts! Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game.

Explain the verse to your students as you encourage them to memorize it.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to sing the songs.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

God Is Sovereign

Joseph loved God and understood that even though people may do evil things, God can still make good things happen because he is sovereign. Review the song and sing it a few times.

Twelve Sons of Jacob

Do you remember the names of Joseph's brothers? Let's see if we can sing all the names of the 12 sons of Jacob. Review the song and sing it a few times.

Proverbs 3:5–6

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Okay. It's time for the memory verse song. Review the words and sing the song together once or twice.

Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets (PDF) and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

Praise God for being sovereign—in control of all things.
Ask God to help us trust his plans for us and forgive others.

Song Sheet

Proverbs 3:5–6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. Proverbs 3:5–6 God Is Sovereign God is sovereign, this is true; He takes care of me and you! Watching over everything, He is King above all kings. Yes, God is sovereign. (clap, clap, clap, clap, clap) Yes, God is sovereign. (clap, clap, clap, clap, clap) Yes, God is sovereign. (clap, clap, clap, clap, clap) He reigns above all things! God is sovereign, this is true; He takes care of me and you! Watching over everything, He is King above all kings. Yes, God is sovereign. (clap, clap, clap, clap, clap) Yes, God is sovereign. (clap, clap, clap, clap, clap) He reigns above all things! God is sovereign, this is true; He takes care of me and you! Watching over everything, He is King above all kings. Twelve Sons of Jacob These are the sons of Jacob. These are the sons of Jacob. One, two, three . . . four, five, six, Seven, eight . . . nine, ten, Eleven, twelve sons of Jacob! Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin— These are the sons of Jacob! These are the sons of Jacob. These are the sons of Jacob. One, two, three . . . four, five, six, Seven, eight . . . nine, ten, Eleven, twelve sons of Jacob! Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and

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they had to bring their youngest brother with them next time. Oh no! The brothers went home worried and afraid.

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Oh no! The brothers went home feeling worried. They didn't know who this mighty ruler of Egypt was, and they were very afraid.

After some time, they ate all the grain they got from Egypt. So they had to go back to get more. This time they took Benjamin with them. Joseph was glad to see Benjamin. He told his servants to bring Simeon out of prison and to take all his brothers to his house for a meal. They all enjoyed their meal, but they still didn't know this ruler was really Joseph. Soon it was time to head back home to Canaan. This time they all left for home together.

Genesis 44:2

But Joseph wasn't finished testing his brothers yet. Joseph told his servant to fill up some sacks with grain for his brothers to take home. But he also told the servant to put something else into one of the sacks. Let's find out what that was. Read Genesis 44:2.

Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word!

What was it? His silver cup.

The servant put Joseph's silver cup into someone's sack. Whose sack? The youngest.

Yes. So all the brothers had sacks of grain. But Benjamin's sack had Joseph's cup in it. Joseph told his servant to run after the brothers and say that one of them had stolen the silver cup. Then the servant searched all the sacks and found the cup in Benjamin's sack.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Uh oh! It looked like Benjamin stole the silver cup! Now he would be in trouble. Remember, Joseph knew his brothers had been very jealous and angry when they sold him as a slave many years ago, and he wanted to see if they would act the same way with Benjamin.

What do you think they would do? Would they help Benjamin or leave him when he was in trouble? Allow guesses.

The Bible says they all went back to Egypt and spoke to Joseph together. They stood up for Benjamin and stayed to help him instead of letting him take the blame. Joseph's brothers passed the test!

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Refer to the Flip Chart. Joseph could see that his brothers had really changed. So it was finally time to let them know who he was. "I am Joseph, your brother whom you sold into Egypt," he cried.

Joseph's brothers were shocked and afraid when they saw that this powerful Egyptian ruler was really their brother! Why do you think his brothers were afraid when they saw it was Joseph? Allow discussion.

They knew they had done some terrible things to Joseph. And now he was a ruler! He could do whatever he wanted to get back at them—put them in

prison or even kill them. But Joseph had faith in God, and he knew God would want him to forgive his brothers for what they had done.

Genesis 50:20

Forgiving others can be hard to do. But this verse explains why Joseph was able to forgive his brothers. Listen carefully, I'm going to ask some questions about it. Read Genesis 50:20.

When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they meant what against him? Evil.

Yes. They were trying to hurt Joseph. But this verse says God meant it for something else. What was that? Good.

God turned the brothers' evil plans into something good so that Joseph would become a ruler, get ready for the famine, and save many lives by giving food to hungry people, including his own family! God had this all planned out perfectly. God is sovereign. That means he was in control the whole time.

Even when people do evil things, God can turn those things into something good! God's plans are perfect. Joseph understood this and knew that it was his job to trust God and forgive his brothers.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to review the lesson with a lesson review game.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

Review Questions
Two beanbags
Three laundry baskets or boxes
Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the Finish wins.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Three chairs set out for bases
- Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review

question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Six to ten empty water bottles
- Softball or other small playground ball
- Masking tape
- Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a "lane" from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape

Ten sheets of paper
Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

Review Questions
A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and “wild” written on index cards
One beanbag
Masking tape
Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team’s basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team’s turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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