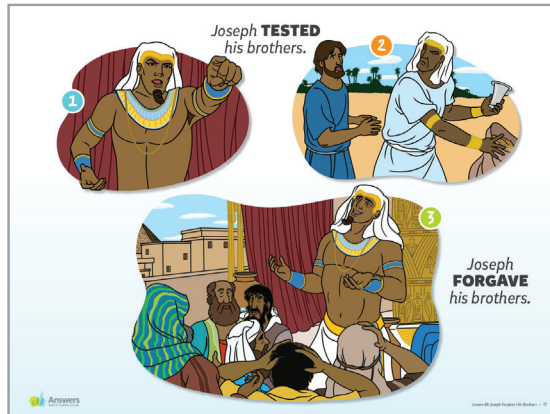


Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Joseph tests his brothers and forgives them.



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to the Genesis Timeline. We've been learning about Jacob's sons. Joseph was his favorite, which made the other brothers jealous. They sold Joseph to some traders who took him to Egypt. Last week we saw how God took Joseph from the prison to the palace of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

- 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.

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 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.

- 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.

- 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.

Joseph **TESTED**
his brothers.



Joseph **FORGAVE**
his brothers.