

REFERENCES: GENESIS 42:1-9; 45:1-15; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 224-240.

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Has anyone done something really, really mean to you? Did you forgive them? Was it easy to do? Joseph's brothers had done something really, really mean to him. God helped Joseph not to be angry at his brothers. God helped Joseph to forgive them.

Joseph looked at the 11 men standing uncomfortably before him. The men were strangers to the other people in the palace. Just strangers who had journeyed to Egypt to buy food during the famine. But Joseph knew

exactly who the men were. They were his brothers! The brothers he had thought he would never see again.

Joseph's mind flooded with memories. He remembered how his 10 older brothers had treated him. He remembered the horrible day they had pushed him into the big hole in the ground—and then pulled him out and sold him to be a slave in Egypt.

It was time to tell his brothers that the man they were standing in front of—the man who looked like an Egyptian prince and ruled



Memory Verse

“Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV.

The Message

We can forgive others because God forgives us.

all of Egypt, second only to the king—was really their very own brother Joseph.

“Go!” Joseph said to his servants. “Wait outside.”

Soon only his brothers were left in the room with Joseph. Tears began to stream down Joseph’s face. “I am Joseph!” he exclaimed. “I am your brother! Is my father still alive?” he cried.

The brothers’ mouths dropped open. Could this very important ruler of Egypt *really* be their *brother*? Suddenly they were afraid! What would Joseph do to them? They had been so mean to him! They had sold him to be a slave!

“Come closer to me,” Joseph said. He knew his brothers were frightened.

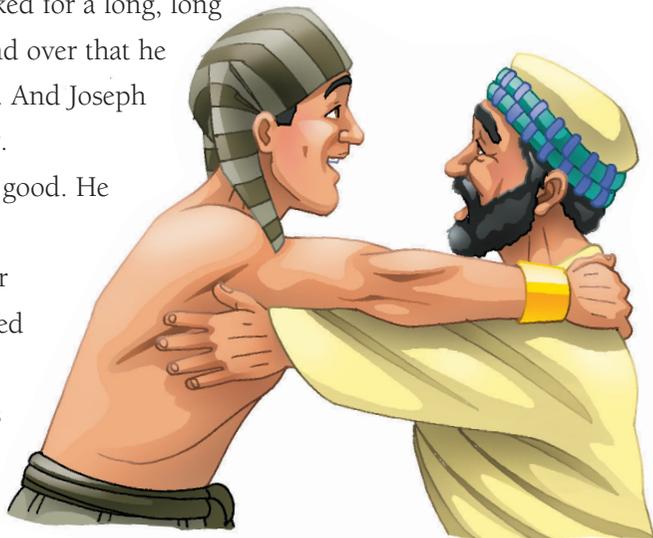
“I *am* your brother Joseph. You sold me to be a slave in Egypt. But don’t be worried,” he said kindly. “God is really the one who sent me here. He sent me here to save *your* lives during this famine.”

“Go home quickly!” he said. “Tell my father that I am ruler over all Egypt—second only to the king. Bring him here. And your children and your grandchildren. You will live near me, and I will take care of you during the years of hunger.”

Then Joseph and his brothers talked for a long, long time. Joseph told his brothers over and over that he forgave them for what they had done. And Joseph had lots of questions about his family.

Reuben sighed a big sigh. He felt good. He felt forgiven.

Reuben looked around at his other brothers. He listened as they interrupted each other to tell Joseph happy stories about their children. Reuben knew his brothers felt forgiven too. They would bring their father and their families to Egypt. And Joseph would finally see his father again.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story together and review the memory verse.

Forgive Open right hand with palm facing up. Place left fingers over right hand and move outward as if wiping palm.

as the Lord Point upward.

forgave Same motion for *forgive*.

you. Point to other person.

Colossians 3:13 . Palms together, then open.



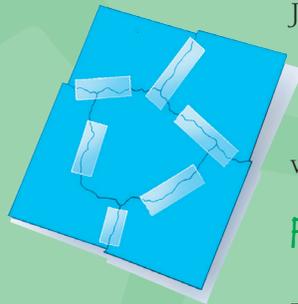
made in Sabbath School that represents the gift of forgiveness that God gives us. Have them tell how Joseph forgave his brothers. Tell your child about a time that you had to ask for forgiveness.

SUNDAY

Have your child find a big rock and pick it up. Ask: Could you carry it all day? When we don't forgive others, it's like we are carrying a big rock. Our bad feelings weigh us down. Now put the rock down. When we forgive others, it's like letting go of a heavy load.

MONDAY

Tear a piece of paper into five parts. Ask your child to tape the paper back together. Ask: Does it look exactly as it did before it was torn apart? When a person does something wrong, they often feel bad inside. Mending is like saying, "I'm sorry."



TUESDAY

Encourage your child to share the gift box

WEDNESDAY

Ask your child: Do you think Jesus smiles when you forgive others?

Encourage your child to ask Jesus to forgive them of any naughty thing they did today and thank Him for always forgiving them.

THURSDAY

Talk to your child about the bad things that Joseph's brothers did to him. While you do this, rub your hands and your child's hands on newspaper. Look at your dirty hands. Then wash each other's hands. Explain that washing your hands is like the way God forgives us and washes our sin away.

FRIDAY

Let your child be Joseph as you act out the Bible story with your family.

Sing "God Is So Good" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 88) and make the last line say: "He forgives me too."

Help your child ask Jesus to help him or her always to be willing to forgive others as Joseph did.