



UNIT 3, SESSION 3

THE STORY OF JOSEPH

GENESIS 37-45

KEY POINTS

God has a good plan for our lives. • God will never forget us. • Forgive. Joseph forgave his brothers.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why do we forgive? We forgive because Jesus forgives!

MEMORY VERSE

The Lord is good, and His love lasts forever. Psalm 100:5

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Joseph had to endure many obstacles and hardships, some at the hands of his own family! He was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, wrongly accused, and even forgotten in prison. Yet, through it all, Joseph continued to trust in God's plan. When the time came to face those who had hurt him, Joseph chose forgiveness instead of bitterness. His story is such a powerful reminder that forgiveness is not easy, but it is possible with God's help.

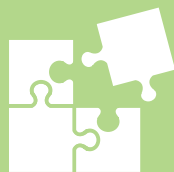
We are called to a deep and abiding forgiveness that is only possible through the strength we receive from Jesus. Left to ourselves, our hearts may cling to anger, pain, or the desire for revenge. God's Word shows us a better way. He provides a way that frees us and reflects Christ's love.

Ephesians 4:32 says, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Jesus set the example by forgiving us fully, and we are invited to extend that same grace to others. Mark 11:25 reminds us of the importance of a forgiving heart in our prayers: "And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." And 1 John 1:9 offers hope and assurance: "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." When we forgive, we open our hearts to peace, healing, and the transforming power of God's Spirit.

Consider making time for forgiveness and amends. Ask God to reveal anything in your heart that needs cleansing. Let the words of Psalm 139:23-24 be your prayer: "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."

May you find strength in Christ to forgive, freedom in His love, and joy in walking in the way everlasting. I'm praying for each of you today, that God would soften your hearts, bring healing where it's needed, and fill you with His peace.

WELCOME & OPENING



Connect with children as service starts.

WELCOME

Play music through the undercabinet radio (flash drive), or connect your phone to Bluetooth through the radio and play Christian preschool/Bible songs as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

MEMORY VERSE SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “Pop Goes the Weasel”:

The Lord,
the Lord,
the Lord is good,
and His love lasts forever.
Psalm 100:5

THE LORD’S PRAYER/TEN COMMANDMENTS

Last year, we focused on learning the Lord’s Prayer. This year, our Threes and Fours classes are going to learn the Ten Commandments!

Toddlers & Twos: Use the provided poster to review the Lord’s Prayer with the children in your class.

Threes & Fours: Using the provided poster, review the Ten Commandments with the children in your class. Read through each one, then have children repeat after you as you say them together.

CRAFT



Help children with a craft connected to the Bible lesson.

CRAFT: JOSEPH'S COAT

Pass out the provided coat templates, paper squares, and glue. Help children glue squares of paper onto their coat templates to create Joseph's coat of many colors!

As you work, talk about/review the Bible story. Be sure to write each child's name on their craft so you know which one to send home with them!



BIBLE TIME



Review the Bible lesson with your class.

BABIES & TWOS BIBLE LESSON

Joseph had eleven brothers. His father loved Joseph best and gave Joseph a colorful coat. His brothers were jealous and angry. They wanted to get rid of Joseph. They sold him as a slave to Egypt.

In Egypt, someone told a lie about Joseph. Joseph got put in jail. But God had a plan. Joseph could understand dreams. One day, the king of Egypt called Joseph to help with a bad dream. Joseph said, "It means there will be no more food."

The king put Joseph in charge. One day, Joseph's brothers went to Egypt for food. Joseph forgave them. God used a bad thing for good.

THREES & FOURS BIBLE LESSON

Joseph had eleven brothers, but his father, Jacob, loved Joseph best. He gave Joseph a beautiful, colorful coat. Joseph's brothers were jealous. They decided they would do a very bad thing. They sold Joseph as a slave. They told their father, "Joseph is dead." Jacob was very, very sad.

Joseph worked for a man named Potiphar. God blessed Joseph. But Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph. Joseph was sent to prison. Joseph met two men and explained their dreams. One of the men promised to help him. But he forgot Joseph. Joseph stayed in prison for a long time, but God had a plan.

One night, the pharaoh had a strange dream. No one could help him. Finally, the forgetful man remembered Joseph. Joseph listened to the pharaoh's dream and said, "There will be seven years with lots of food, and then seven years with no food." The pharaoh asked Joseph to help. Joseph helped the people in Egypt save food.

One day, his brothers were very hungry, so they went to Egypt to buy some food. They did not recognize Joseph. Joseph forgave his brothers. He said, "I will not harm you. You did a bad thing to sell me, but God used it for good." Then Joseph's family came to Egypt. Joseph and his father were happy to see each other. God can always use bad things to do good.

KEY POINTS

God has a good plan for our lives. • God will never forget us. • Forgive. Joseph forgave his brothers.

SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

SNACK & DISCUSSION

Have everyone wash their hands, then serve a snack. Ask the following questions and retell parts of the lesson as needed.

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible lesson?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible lesson?
3. What did Joseph do when he saw his brothers again in Egypt?
4. Why do we forgive? We forgive because Jesus forgives!

CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Sing the clean up song. Have children help put toys on tables.

Gather them on the rug in a circle and have one volunteer read today's Bible lesson from the children's Bible. Have a regular Bible ready as well.

Sing the "B.I.B.L.E." and "Everything in the Bible is Absolutely True" songs. Remind children that the Bible is God's Word and the most important book in the whole world!

The other volunteer should stand at the door and help with pick up, matching stickers, gathering children's things, etc.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return binders to the cabinet.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!