

Old Testament

Joseph & his brothers Genesis chapters 42-45

Younger Verse

Ask and it will be given to you. Matthew 7:7

Older Verse

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7

Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament. Each lesson will have both Old Testament and New Testament passages.

PLEASE remember to always include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

Welcome Time

If someone did something wrong to you and if you had a chance to get them back, would you? Lots of children do, but what does the Bible say? Let's listen to a story about Joseph—he had a chance to get revenge on his brothers—what do you think he will do?

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Remember last week we learned about Joseph. His father loved him very much and had a special coat made for him. His brothers were very jealous and sold him into slavery. God was with Joseph and helped him through hard times that he had.

One day, the king had a dream that bothered him. He sent for Joseph to help him understand his dream. He told the king that God was going to bring a famine to the land after 7 good years. (remind them what a famine is) During the good time, Joseph helped store grain to prepare for the hard times that would come. Joseph became a very important person to the king.

Meanwhile, Joseph's father, Jacob, told some of his sons to go to Egypt (where Joseph was) to buy grain for them to eat. When they walked into the room, Joseph saw them! The funny thing was that they did NOT recognize Joseph! Joseph decided to see if they had changed their ways. He asked his workers to accuse them of being spies. Joseph wanted to know how his younger brother Benjamin was. So, he asked where the youngest child was. He kept one of the brothers and asked the other brothers to bring back Benjamin. He also asked his workers to put money in the grain sack to see if they would be honest and return it.

On the way home the brothers found the money. They were scared. When they got home, they explained everything to Jacob. He was so upset. He didn't want Benjamin to go with them, but finally he agreed. So they packed up double the payment, little gifts,

Lesson Goals

Explain what forgiveness means
Understand how we should treat others—even those mean to us
Try to forgive someone this week

and Benjamin, and headed for Egypt.

When they arrived, Joseph invited them to a banquet. When Joseph saw Benjamin, he ran out of the room because he was filled with such emotion. He cried tears of joy because his baby brother was alive.

Joseph decided to test his brothers, to see if they really had changed. He told his workers to fill each sack with grain and put their money back in the sack. Then he said to put his silver cup in Benjamin's sack. He wanted to see if the brothers would be honest again.

After the brothers left to go home, Joseph sent some guards to find them. The brothers were upset. They told Joseph that they didn't take the cup, and if one of them had it, that person would die.

Sure enough they found the cup in Benjamin's sack. The brothers were terrified. They could not let Benjamin die. The oldest spoke up and told Joseph that he would take Benjamin's place. Right then, Joseph knew that his brothers had changed their ways. They were truly sorry for the things they had done in the past.

Joseph was so excited that he shared who he was. The brothers were speechless. They were afraid that Joseph would hurt them. Instead, Joseph told them that he had forgiven them and that God was with him. Joseph gathered the whole family and let them stay in Egypt. They had plenty to eat and God watched over them.

Did you see how the oldest brother was willing to take the place of the youngest brother? Can you imagine if someone took your place if you were going to die? Guess what, someone did. His name is Jesus. He died for us. He took our place on the cross. So, if we trust Him and ask Him to come into our lives, He will. What a friend! Talk to me if you want to know how you can trust Jesus.

Learning Activities

Look through the activity sheets to find things that will help your kids learn.

Memory Verse Activities

Write the verse and erase words, one at a time, to help the kids remember the verse.

Prayer Time

Let everyone put one hand in the middle of the circle (it will look like spokes on a bicycle). Encourage your kids to say a sentence prayer!

Snack Time/CleanUp

Munch on snacks and clean up! Don't forget to SMILE!

Planning for April 11th
Moses is born
Exodus 2:1-10

Preschool Lesson For Joseph and his brothers

Remember last week we learned about Joseph. His father loved him very much and had a special coat made for him. His brothers were very jealous and sold him into slavery. God was with Joseph and helped him through hard times that he had.

One day, the king had a dream that bothered him. He sent for Joseph to help him understand his dream. God told Joseph that they would have 7 good years, then 7 hard years. (Count to 7 with the kids) The king asked Joseph to be in charge. He gave him a special ring and robe too.

During the hard times, Joseph's father told his sons to go to get food for the family. They traveled very far to get food. (Pretend that you are very tired)

When they walked into the room, Joseph saw them! The funny thing was that they did NOT know who Joseph was! Joseph decided to see if they had changed their ways. Years before, they had really hurt Joseph. He wondered if they were sorry for the wrong things they had done.

Joseph asked his workers to accuse them of being spies. Joseph wanted to know how his younger brother Benjamin was. So, he asked where the youngest child was. He kept one of the brothers and asked the other brothers to bring back Benjamin. He also asked his workers to put money in the grain sack to see if they would be honest and return it.

On the way home the brothers found the money. (Bring money to show the kids) They were scared. When they got home, they explained everything to Jacob. He was so upset. He didn't want Benjamin to go with them, but finally he agreed. They packed up double the payment, little gifts, and Benjamin, and headed for Egypt.

Joseph decided to test his brothers again, to see if they really had changed. After the second test, Joseph knew that his brothers had changed their ways. They were truly sorry for the things they had done in the past.

Joseph was so excited that he shared who he was. The brothers were silent. They were afraid that Joseph would hurt them because of what they did many years ago. Instead, Joseph told them that he had forgiven them and that God was with him.

Joseph gathered the whole family and let them stay in Egypt. They had plenty to eat and God watched over them.

God wants us to forgive others and love them like He loves us.

Hands-on Activities
For
Joseph and his brothers

Use fabric to make a Flannel graph to illustrate the lesson.

A major application from this lesson is forgiveness. Talk to the kids about what it means to forgive others even when most want to take revenge. Bring bandages and talk about why we use them (to help protect a wound and help it heal). Give each person a bandage and ask them to help others this week that have hurt feelings etc.

Another idea to illustrate forgiveness is to bring a glass jar with a little opening. Put something good inside like cookies or candy. The kids should be able to reach their hand inside, but not be able to get the goodies out with their hand gripped around the candy. (A person's fist will take up more room and not fit through the opening.) The person must drop the candy in order to get their hand out of the jar. In the same way, we must "drop" or forgive people who have hurt us in order to get blessings. God wants us to forgive and forget those who have hurt us. He promises that He will take care of things. We do NOT have to get revenge.

Spell out the word FORGIVE with grains like rice.

Cover a paper cup with foil to look like the silver cup. Talk about how Joseph's brothers had changed. Talk about what it means to change when a person becomes a Christian.
