

Lesson C1.4 - Forgive One Another



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Gen. 45:4-20, 25-28

► Bible Characters: Joseph, Joseph's brothers

After being sold as a slave by his own brothers, Joseph ended up becoming governor over Egypt. When famine hit Israel, Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt for help, only to be met by Joseph! This story is about forgiveness, and how God can use even events that seem evil for ultimate good.

Brief Bible Background

► Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament

► Scripture Section: Slavery

After moving to Egypt in the time of Joseph, the Israelites later came under bondage to the Pharaoh, where they worked as forced labor to build his cities. (This period covers the time between Genesis and Exodus.)

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good.

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "This Old Man." No accompaniment is needed. Clap along in rhythm as you sing.

*Welcome, friends! Welcome, friends!
Glad to see you all again!*

*Now it's time to learn and pray together, too:
Thank you, Lord, for all you do!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

What does it mean to "forgive" someone? [*Call on volunteers.*] Does **forgive one another** mean saying something bad was OK? [*No.*] Say this with me: **Forgive one another**. It means letting go of old wrongs and not holding a grudge. God wants us to **forgive one another**. It can be really hard to do, but God's help, we can **forgive one another** when the time is right.

- Raise your hand if you've ever needed to forgive someone. Have *you* have ever needed forgiveness?

In our story today, a man named Joseph was sold into slavery by his own brothers. Joseph trusted God, and God helped him get out. Eventually, Joseph forgave his brothers. If *he* could do it, we can learn to **forgive one another**, too.

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.

**Picture 1**

Tell the children: As a young boy, Joseph used to brag and get on his brothers' nerves. Over time, the brothers grew more and more angry. They really disliked Joseph.

Read the caption: Joseph's brothers were jealous of him when he was young because Joseph was their dad's favorite. They sent him to Egypt as a slave.

- Which person in the picture is Joseph? [The one whose hands are tied.]
- Raise your hand if you want to tell me why you think idea to send Joseph away was a good idea or a bad one. [It was bad. They weren't thinking of how sad their father would be or what would happen to Joseph. They would later regret it.]

**Picture 2**

Tell the children: As a slave, Joseph's life was very hard. He was even thrown in prison for something he didn't do! Joseph must have felt forgotten by everyone.

Read the caption: Even though he was far from home, Joseph stayed faithful to God. After many years, Joseph became an important man in Egypt.

- Look at the picture. Which person is Joseph and which one is Pharaoh? [Joseph is wearing white, Pharaoh is wearing purple.]
- While Joseph must have felt forgotten and upset for a long time, someone did remember him and helped him. Who was that? [God.]

**Picture 3**

Tell the children: Pharaoh chose Joseph to be governor over all Egypt. In that position, Joseph wisely stored a lot of grain so people would have enough to eat.

Read the caption: A time came when no one could grow food. Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy some. They didn't know Joseph was in charge.

- Look at the picture. What are the brothers doing? [They are bowing and asking Joseph for help.]
- Raise your hand if you want to tell me how you think Joseph felt when he first saw his brothers. [Call on volunteers. Joseph likely had many emotions.]

**Picture 4**

Tell the children: After seeing his brothers, Joseph went into another room and cried. Then he realized that God had a good plan all along — a plan to save his own people.

Read the caption: Joseph could have been mean, but he wasn't. He helped his brothers. Joseph forgave his brothers for what they had done to him.

- Look at the picture. What is Joseph doing now? [He's hugging his brothers.]
- Raise your hand if you want to tell me how you think the brothers felt when they finally recognized Joseph. [Ashamed of what they had done to him; frightened of what he might now do to them; amazed that he forgave and helped them.]

Remember today's message: **Forgive one another!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*In Egypt, Joseph did quite well;
he didn't fuss, complain, or yell.
and while he'd started as a slave,
Pharaoh found him wise and brave.*

*So when his brothers came to town
young Joseph didn't put them down.
Although he may have wished to shout,
he tried instead to help them out!*

*"I am your brother, don't you see?
And while you were unkind to me,
"God used it all for good," he said.
"So I can save you now instead!"*

h. Young Children's Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class.

Travel to Safety Game

Materials Needed: *Feathers, masking tape, large area to play a game, timer (optional)*

Instructions: In this game, kids will try to get an item into a safe area, despite many challenges along the way. This can remind kids of Joseph's brothers and their journey to Egypt, where they found shelter and safety during the famine.

Using masking tape, create a starting line at one end of the room and a finishing line at the other end. The area behind the finish line is Egypt.

Give each player a feather, and invite everyone to stand behind the starting line. The object of the game will be to blow the feather across the room until they (and the feather) cross the finish line to Egypt.

A few rules: Kids cannot use their hands or touch their feather once it is up in the air. They can only blow it to keep it afloat. If a player touches a feather, that person must go back to the starting line and begin traveling again. To play this competitively, whoever gets across the finish line first wins the game. To play in a non-competitive way, the goal can be for all kids to get across the finish line with their feathers before a certain amount of time passes or a timer sounds.



h. Song (optional)

The tune of this classic children's hymn can be heard on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children's music sites.

Let kids play rhythm instruments or clap in rhythm to accompany with this song.

This Is My Commandment

This is my commandment, that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

This is my commandment, that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full!

This is my commandment, that you love one another, that your joy may be full.

Verse 2: **This is my commandment, that you serve one another....**

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: When he was young, Joseph was his father's favorite son. His brothers were angry and jealous. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God,

Thank you for the world you made

For rain and plants and sun and shade

For those we love who love us too

We are so blessed because of YOU!

Amen.