

Joseph Prepares Egypt for Famine

His Brothers Come to Buy Food

Genesis 41:50-47:26



Old Testament 3
Part 1: Joseph

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Genesis 41:50-47:26

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Repay no one evil for evil" (Romans 12:17a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men" (Romans 12:17).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["The Sons of Jacob"](#)
- ["Joseph's Brothers Bow Down"](#)
- ["Joseph Forgives"](#)
- ["Joseph Forgives His Brothers"](#)
- ["Jacob's Family Moves to Egypt"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [Joseph & Moses Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 3 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- "Genesis Chapter Summary" from ["Kids Prep"](#) CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- A Beka Flash-A-Card Series: Joseph (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- Pictures showing Egyptian and Hebrew dress at the time
- [Map of Egypt and the Land of Canaan](#) (provided in map section of curriculum Web site)



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God does not want me to “get back at” someone who has hurt me in some way. God wants me to be ready and willing to forgive.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Last week, we learned about how Joseph got out of prison. How did he get out? What did Pharaoh’s dream mean? Now, Pharaoh gave Joseph an important job and he had lots of power. He was to be in charge of all the food supplies of Egypt. Remember how Joseph’s brothers were mean to him and sold him? Today, we are going to learn about how Joseph forgave them for what they did to him. What does it mean to forgive someone? God wants us to forgive others.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week’s lesson.

Discuss times when others were very mean to students. (Try to stay away from the “drama” of the event, but focus on how it made them feel when they were treated badly.) Think back over everything that happened to Joseph. How hard do you think it would be for him to forgive his brothers? Today, we’re going to learn what he did in response and if he forgave them.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review briefly Pharaoh’s dream and Joseph’s interpretation. Joseph had told the king there would be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Pharaoh rewarded Joseph by making him second-in-command, putting him in charge of all the food supplies of Egypt to prepare for the famine.
2. Joseph was 30 years old when Pharaoh put him in charge of all the food supplies of Egypt. He also gave Joseph a wife, Asenath. Joseph and Asenath had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.



NOTE: Even in his prosperity, Joseph did not forget God and how He helped him. When he named his first son, he said, “For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house.” When he named Ephraim, he said, “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction” (Genesis 41:51-52).

3. Joseph spent the seven good years storing up all the grain he could throughout Egypt. (Genesis 41:49 says that the grain Joseph gathered was like the sand of the sea, and he stopped counting because it was without number.) When the famine did come, it spread to many other countries, too, so multitudes of people were starving. Many people from many different places came to Egypt to buy food when they heard that Egypt had stored grain. Joseph’s brothers were among those who came to Egypt to buy food.
4. Ten of his brothers made the long trip from Canaan to Egypt. They had to talk to Joseph, but they did not recognize him. They had not seen him in over 20 years. By this time, Joseph was 39 (Genesis 45:6). He wore the clothes of an Egyptian official, spoke the Egyptian language, and had an Egyptian name (Zaphenath-paneah). In addition, Egyptians, both men and women,

wore make-up. When his brothers bowed down before him, asking to buy food, Joseph remembered his dreams from many years before (bundles of grain bowed down to his bundle; the Sun, Moon, and stars bowed down to him.)

5. Joseph asked them about any family they had left behind in Canaan, so that he could find out if his father Jacob was still alive and if his brother Benjamin was all right.
6. Joseph accused his brothers of being spies and put all of them in prison for three days. Then he took Simeon and put him in jail while the nine returned to Canaan with the grain—and their money. Joseph told them that Simeon would be released from jail if they would return and bring their youngest brother.
7. When the nine brothers returned to Canaan to their aged father, Jacob, they told him they must take Benjamin back to Egypt in order to get Simeon out of jail. But Jacob said he wouldn't let them take Benjamin. He was still very sad (mourning) over Joseph after all that time and didn't want anything to happen to another son, especially the last remaining son of Rachel.
8. Finally, however, the brothers had to go back to Egypt to buy more food. They took twice the amount of money they had at first, and they took Benjamin after all. After a very long journey, they came to Joseph again. Joseph invited them to be his guests at a meal and released Simeon from prison (probably a year later; Genesis 43:23). They were surprised that he sat them in order of their ages, from oldest to youngest. He gave them all more than enough to eat, but he gave Benjamin five times as much as the others.
9. When the brothers started to return to Canaan, Joseph had one of his servants hide his own silver cup in one of the bags of grain. After the brothers had gone out of the city, Joseph sent his steward to accuse them of stealing his cup. He probably did this to test their character—to see if they would feel sorry for anything they did, to see if they had tender hearts willing to accept responsibility for hurting Joseph and their father so many years before. The steward found Joseph's cup in Benjamin's bag, and the brothers were horrified. They all returned to Egypt with Benjamin. (Note how different the brothers felt about Benjamin, even though he was now Jacob's favorite.)
10. When they were brought back to Joseph, he listened to Judah's defense ("God has found out the iniquity of your servants!"—Genesis 44:16) and to Judah begging Joseph to keep him instead of Benjamin. Joseph then realized his brothers truly had changed, and he broke down and cried, telling them in their own language that he was their long-lost brother Joseph.
11. His brothers were speechless at first; they were so surprised to find Joseph in such a position of power, exactly as his dreams had predicted. Then they were afraid, thinking Joseph might take revenge on them. Joseph reassured them that he was not interested in getting even with them, because he said God had used his situation for the good of many people. Then Joseph kissed his brothers and cried with joy over them.
12. When Pharaoh heard that Joseph's brothers had come from Canaan, he invited all of them and their father to live in Egypt, in an area called Goshen. The Bible says Pharaoh gave the Israelites Goshen because the Egyptians did not like to live near shepherds. (Living in Goshen kept the Israelites isolated from the Egyptians and helped preserve their heritage and identity as God's people.) Joseph sent them back to Jacob with many wagons full of food and gifts.
13. When his 11 sons returned to Canaan and told Jacob all that had happened in Egypt, the first thing he did was to offer sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to God! God spoke to Jacob and told him that he should take his family to Egypt. (There were 66 men, not counting wives, who traveled to Egypt from Canaan—70 men counting Jacob, Joseph and his two sons. See Genesis 46:26-27)



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: Acts 7:14 says 75 people, which has caused some to say that the Bible contradicts itself. See the article “[Jacob’s Journey to Egypt](#)” by Eric Lyons on the Apologetics Press Web site for a defense of the Bible on that matter.

14. Joseph was in a position to punish his brothers but chose to forgive them instead. God expects us to forgive as well (Matthew 6:12-15). Jesus said that we should be willing to forgive as many times as we are asked for forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-35). Forgiveness means to “send away, cover, remove, or wipe away” something done wrong to us. It is not something we can do half-way or half-heartedly. In the same way that God forgives us over and over when we repent and try to make things right with Him, He expects us to have a forgiving spirit towards those that try to make things right with us as well (Luke 17:3-4).

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Joseph Prepares Egypt for Famine Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Joseph and brothers puppets: Find Bible character puppets to make with paper sacks. Have children make a puppet and act out how Joseph forgave his brothers. The teacher could be Joseph and the children could be the brothers.
- Make heart necklaces: Have a heart cutout for each child with “I have a forgiving heart” written/typed on it. Punch a hole in the heart and thread through with yarn long enough to go around the student’s neck.
- Have the children sit in a circle on the floor and roll a ball to a child. Ask a review question. When he or she answers, have them roll it to someone else, and then ask that child a question. Continue until everyone gets a turn.
- Have a feast like Joseph did for his brothers. (See Wednesday night plans)
- Have the children read *Joseph and Moses*, Carolyn Larsen, Standard Bible Storybook Series

1st-2nd Graders:

- Have the children sit in a circle on the floor and roll a ball to a child. Ask a review question. When he or she answers, have them roll it to someone else and then ask that child a question. Continue until everyone gets a turn.
- Have a feast like Joseph did for his brothers. (See Wednesday night plans)
- Write key events from the story on strips of paper. [See activity sheets](#) for provided key points. Mix up the strips and have the students put them in the correct order. (Make one set per child or divide the class into teams and have one set per team.) Examples of events: “The king put his royal ring on Joseph’s finger and gave him fine clothes to wear.” “Joseph opened the storehouses and sold the grain to the Egyptians.” “For seven years there were big harvests of grain.” “The king made Joseph governor of all Egypt.” “The king told his officials that the Spirit of God was with Joseph.” “People from all over the world came to Egypt for food.”
- “[Joseph Forgives Fill in the Blank](#)” with corresponding word search (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Joseph Forgives Word Search](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

- Have the children read *Joseph Forgives His Brothers* Arch Book, by Robert Baden

3rd-4th Graders:

- Have the students look up “forgive” in Bible concordances and/or Bible dictionaries and discuss the verses.
- Have a feast like Joseph did for his brothers. (See Wednesday night plans)
- Write key events from the story on strips of paper. [See activity sheets](#) for provided key points. Mix up the strips and have the students put them in the correct order. (Make one set per child or divide the class into teams and have one set per team.) Examples of events: “The king put his royal ring on Joseph’s finger and gave him fine clothes to wear.” “Joseph opened the storehouses and sold the grain to the Egyptians.” “For seven years there were big harvests of grain.” “The king made Joseph governor of all Egypt.” “The king told his officials that the Spirit of God was with Joseph.” “People from all over the world came to Egypt for food.”
- “[Joseph Forgives Fill in the Blank](#)” with corresponding word search (provided in activity sheets)
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- Advanced Bible Reader: If they did not do so last week, have the kids read Genesis 41 and then, Genesis 42-47. [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Genesis 41-45 quiz from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each of the children take the quiz if they have yet to do so. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.

SONGS:

“THE SONS OF JACOB”

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See “[Kids Prep](#)” CD)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,
Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali;
Dan, Gad, Asher,
Joseph, and Benjamin.
These are the sons of Jacob.

“JOSEPH’S BROTHERS BOW DOWN”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Tune: “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”)

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

“JOSEPH FORGIVES”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Tune: “I’ll Never Forsake My Lord”)

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

“JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Tune: “Three Blind Mice”)

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

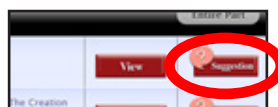
“JACOB’S FAMILY MOVES TO EGYPT” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Tune: “Where the Soul Never Dies”)

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

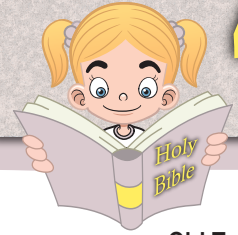
***** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.**



Joseph Prepares Egypt for Famine His Brothers Come to Buy Food

Genesis 41:50-47:26

LESSON 4



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Part 1: Joseph

WEDNESDAY EVENING

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God does not want me to “get back at” someone who has hurt me in some way. God wants me to be ready and willing to forgive.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 3 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site).

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 3 Review Questions](#) for example questions).
2. Discuss with students times when their feelings have been hurt, or someone has done something to them. Discuss ways, both appropriate and inappropriate, to handle those situations. Discuss how worldly people would handle those situations, and then search the Scriptures to see how God tells us to handle them.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson
- Using toy foods, have a “feast” like Joseph may have had for his brothers. Include foods common to Egypt at the time. Examples: wheat bread, fish, onions, leeks, lettuce, cabbage, figs, dates, honey, grapes, and grape juice.

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