

## Bible background

Genesis 42:1-24a; 43:16-34; 45 - the full story of the reunion is long and complicated, and it will be simplified in this lesson.

## Aim of lesson

To teach that God wants us to forgive others.

## Preparation required

Finish your activity sheet and cut into two pictures. You will also need felt pens (that wash off).

## Suggested outline of lesson

1. Use the song 'Here Is Joseph' to review the story so far. End with Joseph in Egypt collecting corn in preparation for the famine.
2. Remind the class about Joseph's brothers who sold him years ago. What have they been thinking all this time? Were they sorry? Talk about the famine affecting their land and the journey into Egypt to buy grain.
3. Show the first picture from your activity sheet. The brothers do not recognise Joseph at first but he knows them. You may want to explain that Joseph was 20 years older, would be wearing fine robes and speaking Egyptian. The brothers did not know where he had been taken and may have thought that he was dead. On the other hand their appearance would have changed much less. He could have them all thrown into prison for what they did to him. Ask the children what they think he will do.
4. Show your second picture and teach that Joseph knew his brothers were sorry and he forgave them. He did not punish them.
5. Teach the song 'Here is Joseph', adding verse 6.
6. The children can use their figure of Joseph with his robe and chain and draw a face for each of the brothers on their finger ends. Their fingers can then bow down to Joseph. If you included the dreams in Lesson 10 you may like to remind them of how they came true.
6. The children can complete their activity sheet.
7. Talk about Joseph's concern for his father and how he provided for all his family in Egypt so that they would have enough food during the rest of the famine. Ask the children how they think Joseph and his father felt when they met again after so many years.

## Alternative activities

1. Build warehouses out of Lego, blocks, cardboard boxes or furniture and make some sacks of grain to go inside. If you have made small scale barns, use modelling clay or card for your sacks; if you have made big barns on the floor, use old pillowcases stuffed with paper. Again, depending on scale, have either play figures or the children coming to buy grain. You could make some coins for them to use (See Lesson 11) or use spare foreign currency or pennies.
2. If, when telling the story, you included the detail about the cup hidden in the sack, each child could make Joseph's golden cup from modelling clay (covered with gold foil if you wish).
3. Alternatively, give each child a cup shape, cut from paper or card, to decorate with shiny paper.
4. Make sad/happy faces on either side of a paper plate or circle of card. Attach a strip of thick card or a piece of dowel so that the children can hold the faces up and turn them round as you recap the Joseph lessons; e.g.
  - Joseph got a new coat – show happy face
  - Joseph was sold as a slave – sad face
  - Joseph was put in prison – sad face
  - Pharaoh gave Joseph an important job – happy face
  - Joseph forgave his brothers – happy face

Or you could review the story from different characters' perspectives e.g. Jacob or the brothers.

## Relevance to the children's lives

Ask the children if they would find it easy to forgive their brothers if all the things that happened to Joseph had happened to them. Stress that God teaches us to forgive. Ask what things have been done to them that they didn't like. You could use the song 'Can You Forgive' from Lesson 58 if you wish.

## Prayer

Teach the class the line of the Lord's Prayer 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.' Ask each to say whom they should forgive.

## Verse

'Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.' Matthew 6:12.

## Song

**Here is Joseph (continued from Lesson 13)**

v.6     Here is Joseph  
         Happy now  
         He forgives his brothers  
         They bow down.