

Lesson 4: Forgiveness

Today's Bible Story

When Joseph was young, his jealous brothers sold him off as a slave to Egypt. But even as a slave, Joseph proved himself to be a wise and godly man. Pharaoh noticed this and made Joseph governor over all the land. For many years, things went smoothly.

One day, to Joseph's surprise, his brothers showed up in Egypt! They had come to buy grain, for there was a famine in the region. Nobody could grow crops for food, and people were hungry. Because Joseph was dressed like an Egyptian, his brothers didn't recognize him.

But Joseph knew exactly who they were. At first he tested them and sent them back to Israel. When they returned to Egypt, however, Joseph could not hide his identity any longer. Sending the Egyptians out of the room, Joseph looked at his brothers and wept. "I am Joseph!" he cried. "Is my father still alive?"

His brothers were so surprised to see him that they could not even answer. So Joseph spoke again, "I am the one you sold into slavery. But don't be upset with yourselves for having done that, for God is bringing something good out of it. If you hadn't sent me to Egypt, where I became a leader, I wouldn't be able to help you right now. So, really, it is God who sent me here!

"Tell our father that I'm alive," Joseph continued. "I will take care of him and our family. Bring the whole family here to Egypt, along with all our flocks and herds. There are going to be five more years of famine. You will all go hungry if you stay where you are." Then Joseph wept again and hugged his brothers.

When Pharaoh heard that Joseph's brothers had visited, he was pleased. He even gave them all wagons and land so they could move to Egypt with their families!



From Genesis 45:4-20, 25-28

Bible Rhyme

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 though you were unkind to me,
"God used it all for good," he said.
"So I can save you now instead!"



Joseph had eleven brothers. Their names appear among the random list of names below. Circle Joseph's brothers' names and then cross out the names that do not belong to any of his brothers (for a hint, see Genesis 30).

Reuben William Simeon Levi Ernest Judah
 Dan Naphtali George Brandon Dwayne Gad
 Quincy Asher Percy Issachar Bozo Zebulun
 Sylvester Benjamin Pierre Norman Arnold

How did young Joseph end up in Egypt? How were his brothers to blame?
 Why were the brothers were so mean to Joseph?

The next time the brothers saw Joseph, they didn't even recognize him. Joseph had grown up and had become a powerful ruler in Egypt. During a time of famine, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt hoping to buy grain so their family wouldn't starve. What did Joseph do?

Check the correct box:

- ☐ Joseph had his brothers put to death.
- ☐ Joseph had his brothers thrown in jail.
- ☐ Joseph forgave his brothers and helped them.

Do you think you would have been able to act in the way Joseph did? Why or why not?



Unscramble these letters on the blanks below:

S V E N G O F I R E S

When we let go of our anger and desire for revenge,
 and hold on to our trust in God and his goodness, we are showing:
