

Joseph Part 4

You can do this session with your children any time you like. The story is taken from Genesis 42:1-26. If you want to read it online just go to this link: <https://www.biblegateway.com> and type the passage in the search engine.

Start

What do you think it means to be sorry?

In our story today we see what happens when Joseph meets his brothers again after many years.

Bible story

Joseph's life had been really good since Pharaoh had let him out of prison. He'd made him the second-most important person in all of Egypt. Joseph had a very good life now. But eventually, just as God had said Egypt started having the 7 years of bad harvests. So Joseph was making sure everyone was getting enough food.

Joseph's brothers were still all living together with their dad, Jacob in the land of Canaan. The bad harvests were also spreading there too. One day Jacob said to his sons, "You should all go to Egypt and get food for us all because they have enough to get through the bad harvests." So they all went apart from the youngest son, Benjamin because Jacob didn't want him to be in any danger. They all set out and eventually arrived in Egypt.

When Joseph's brothers arrived in Egypt, Joseph spotted them, but they didn't know who he was because he looked so different now. They all came to him and bowed down because he was the one who was selling the food. Joseph pretended not to be their brother and tried to unsettle them. "Where are you from?" he asked. "We're from Canaan," they replied. "We've come here to buy food." "You're spies! You want to see where our land is weak," Joseph said to them. Joseph's brothers were very scared now. They said, "No, Sir. We just want to buy food. We're honest people. We have a brother who isn't with us anymore and our youngest brother is at home with our father." Joseph said, "I'm right. You are spies! I'm going to test you. If your youngest brother comes here, then I'll believe you. One of you can go home and get him, the rest of you will have to stay here in prison until your youngest brother comes." Joseph had his brothers put in jail and left them there for 3 days.

On the third day, Joseph went to see his brothers. He said to them, "I know God sees everything and I want to do the right thing. So, I will make an arrangement with you. One of you will stay here in jail while the rest of you go home and get your brother. If you do that, I'll believe you."

Joseph was using someone as an interpreter which meant Joseph would speak in Egyptian and the interpreter would translate it for his brothers to understand, so his brothers didn't think he understood them when they spoke in their own language. Joseph's brothers began to say to each other, "We are being punished because of what we did to Joseph all those years ago." The eldest brother, Reuben said, "You should have listened to me and not hurt him." Joseph turned away from his brothers and cried, but then he turned back and told them that Simeon would stay behind in Egypt whilst the others went back to get Benjamin. He arranged food for them for the journey and they left.

Joseph's brothers had not expected to find themselves in so much trouble in Egypt and they would need to persuade their dad to let Benjamin go with them back to Egypt so that Simeon could be freed. Joseph had a lot to think about. Could he and his brothers ever be a family again?

Why do you think Joseph behaved like this to his brothers?

How do you think Joseph felt when he let 9 of his brothers go, but not Simeon?

How do you think Joseph's 9 brothers felt when they were going back home?

How do you think Simeon felt?

What to do next

Below are some suggestions:

- You could chat about your favourite part of the story.
- You could act out the story.

You could pray together. Below are some ideas for prayer:

- Thank Jesus that he understands how we feel even when we're upset.
- Is there anything upsetting you right now? You can talk to Jesus about it and ask him to help you.
- Pray for anyone you know who is feeling upset. Ask Jesus to show them who he is and help them.

Joseph sees his brothers again

T	B	O	R	A	G	R	O	B	J	B	A	A	Y
M	G	S	A	E	B	E	A	B	O	R	S	R	N
S	O	R	R	G	S	R	E	G	S	J	T	Y	O
Y	C	A	R	Y	S	C	O	I	E	N	R	E	G
R	A	H	A	P	F	A	A	T	P	M	R	S	N
I	Y	J	N	T	R	N	C	R	H	R	E	E	I
P	H	A	G	O	A	H	A	T	E	E	A	I	T
R	G	J	E	N	R	R	N	N	H	D	R	P	R
I	N	E	M	N	A	A	A	G	O	M	S	S	C
S	I	F	E	O	I	N	A	P	E	O	J	H	A
O	Y	O	N	E	G	A	N	E	R	R	E	Y	N
N	R	O	T	M	C	B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N
P	C	D	E	I	M	E	P	S	C	O	P	E	I
E	S	A	O	S	C	N	Y	P	E	G	S	R	R

- EGYPT
- JOSEPH
- BENJAMIN
- FOOD
- CANAAN
- CRYING
- SIMEON
- SPIES
- BROTHERS
- SCARED
- PRISON
- ARRANGEMENT

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