

Joseph Part 5

You can do this session with your children any time you like. The story is taken from Genesis 42:29–45:28. 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 forgive someone?

In our story for today, we see how Joseph was eventually able to forgive his brothers for the hurt they had done to him.

Bible story

Joseph's brothers arrived back home and told their dad, Jacob about what had happened. Remember, they didn't know that it was Joseph they had been speaking with. They told Jacob that they needed to go back to Egypt with Benjamin so that their other brother, Simeon could be released because Joseph had arranged for Simeon to stay in jail until they all came back with Benjamin. Jacob was very upset. He said, "No, you can't take Benjamin, he's my youngest son and I don't want him getting hurt." Joseph's brothers didn't know what else to say.

Eventually they all ran out of food again. Jacob said, "Go back to Egypt and get us more food." But one of the brothers, Judah, the one who had suggested to everyone that they should sell Joseph replied, "We can only go back if you let Benjamin go with us. That was the arrangement we made in Egypt." Jacob was very worried, but eventually he agreed to let Benjamin go with the rest of his sons. So they all got ready for their journey and left.

Eventually they came back to Egypt and saw Joseph again. Joseph had seen they had kept their agreement so he arranged for them all to have a meal at his home. So the brothers came to Joseph's house and bowed down before him again. Joseph was very moved when he saw his younger brother Benjamin, so moved that he went to his private room and cried. Then he came back out and they ate a meal together. He made sure that Benjamin had 5 times as much as anyone else. Joseph's brothers enjoyed their meal and everyone had a nice evening together.

In the morning, Joseph gave an order to one of his servants. He said, "Make sure all these men have lots of food to take home, but with the youngest brother I want you to put my silver cup in his sack as well. After they've left, I want you to chase them and bring them back here." The man did what Joseph ordered him to.

The brothers were all heading home when Joseph's servant and some other men caught up with them. Joseph's servant said, "You've stolen from my master. You have his silver cup." The brothers said, "No, that's not true. We haven't taken anything. You can search all our sacks and see for yourself." So the men searched everyone's sack and then found the silver cup in Benjamin's sack! All the brothers were so upset. They had promised to keep Benjamin safe.

They all came back to Joseph and bowed down low again to him. Joseph said, "Why have you stolen from me?" Judah said, "There is nothing we can say, Sir. We will now be your slaves." But Joseph said, "No, that would not be right. Only the one who had the cup will be my slave." Judah stood up and walked to Joseph and said, "Please Sir. I made a promise to my father that Benjamin would be safe. I don't want my father to be so upset when he sees that Benjamin isn't with us when we return. Please let me be your slave instead."

Joseph knew he now had to tell his brothers who he really was. So he ordered all his servants to leave so he could be alone with them. Joseph said, "I'm your brother Joseph!" His brothers were terrified, but Joseph said, "Come close, I'm your brother Joseph the one you sold into Egypt!" Joseph told them how God had helped him and how he was now using him to help everyone in Egypt to have enough food. He reassured his brothers that he had forgiven them and wasn't angry with them anymore. He said, "Go home and get our father and you can all come here and we can live together as a family." Joseph's brothers were amazed. Their brother was alright and he wasn't angry anymore with them. It was such a happy day. Eventually, his brothers made their way back to Jacob and told him everything. Jacob was so happy when he heard that Joseph was alive and all the amazing things he was doing. They all came back and lived with Joseph.

Joseph had had some really hard things happen to him. He'd been sold as a slave and put in prison for something he never did, but God had always been with Joseph and never once left him and bit by bit, God made the dreams he'd given Joseph come true.

How do you think Joseph's brothers felt when they realised he had forgiven them?

How do you think Jacob felt when he realised Joseph was alright and all the things God was doing through him?

What do you think this story teaches us about what God is like?

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 always keeps his promises no matter what.
- Ask Jesus to help you know how you can use what you have for him like Joseph did.
- Pray for people who are struggling to find hope. Ask Jesus to show them who he is and to give them hope.



Joseph forgave his brothers and they came to live with him in Egypt.

Joseph forgives his brothers

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R	D	R	O	S	I	K	J	E	A	S	S	I	N
J	B	G	R	P	O	E	O	C	N	E	B	I	S
A	S	I	O	E	A	P	K	C	T	R	M	N	F
C	A	V	H	K	P	O	U	N	V	A	U	C	H
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- JUDAH
- JACOB
- CUP
- JOSEPH
- FOOD
- JOURNEY
- SACK
- BENJAMIN
- SIMEON
- SLAVE
- SERVANT
- FORGIVENESS

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