



Helping Kids Forgive God's Way

When Letting Go Opens the Way to Healing

Lesson Aim

Children will learn that forgiveness means trusting God with the hurt others cause and choosing mercy instead of revenge, just as Joseph forgave his brothers.

Scripture Focus

- “You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good.” (Genesis 50:20, *ESV*)
- “As the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.” (Colossians 3:13, *ESV*)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: Has anyone ever done something that really hurt your feelings? What did you want to do about it?

Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 37; 45; 50:15–21)

Joseph was one of twelve brothers. His father, Jacob, loved him very much and gave him a beautiful coat of many colors. This made his brothers jealous. One day, they became so angry that they threw Joseph into a pit and sold him to travelers headed for Egypt. Then they lied to their father, saying Joseph was dead.

In Egypt, Joseph faced many hard years—first as a servant, then in prison—but God was always with him. Over time, God helped Joseph rise to become a leader who worked directly for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. When famine came and people were starving, Joseph was in charge of storing and sharing food to save lives.



Church Lesson | Forgiveness

One day, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to buy food. They didn't recognize him, but Joseph knew them right away. He had the power to punish them for what they'd done. Instead, Joseph chose to forgive. He said, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good—to save many lives." Then Joseph hugged his brothers, gave them food, and invited his whole family to live safely in Egypt.

Joseph's forgiveness showed that God can bring healing and good even out of the worst moments.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. How do you think Joseph felt when he saw his brothers again?
2. What could Joseph have done instead of forgiving them?
3. Why do you think Joseph chose to forgive?

- **Explain:**

- Forgiveness doesn't mean forgetting the hurt or pretending it didn't happen. It means trusting God to handle justice and choosing to let go of revenge.
- Joseph forgave because he trusted God's bigger plan.
- We can forgive too because Jesus forgave us first.

Model

- **Teacher shares:** a personal story of a time when you had to forgive someone and how letting go brought peace.
- **Student activity:** Invite kids to act out short scenes showing forgiveness, such as friends making up after an argument or siblings sharing after a fight. Discuss how forgiveness changes hearts and brings peace.

Pray

- "Father, thank you for forgiving us through Jesus. Help us forgive others, even when it's hard. Teach us to trust you like Joseph did. Amen."

Craft/Activity

- **Forgiveness Coat Craft** Give each child a paper outline of a coat (like Joseph's). Have them color it brightly. On each section of the coat, kids write or draw one way they can show forgiveness (e.g., "say sorry," "let go," "pray for them"). Display coats together as a "Coats of Forgiveness" wall.

Key Takeaway

- God forgave me, so I can forgive too.