



## Helping Kids Forgive God's Way

When Letting Go Opens the Way to Healing

### Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Retell the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers.
2. Explain that forgiveness means trusting God instead of getting even.
3. Identify one way they can practice forgiveness in daily life.

### 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*)

### Lesson Flow (25 min)

#### 1. Connect (3 min)

- **Opening Thought:** Ask: “Has someone ever hurt your feelings? What did you want to do about it?”
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes student attentiveness and willingness to share.

#### 2. Teach (7 min)

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

Joseph was one of twelve brothers, and his father, Jacob, loved him most. He even gave Joseph a colorful coat, which made his brothers jealous. One day, they threw Joseph into a pit and sold him to traders heading to Egypt. They told their father Joseph was gone forever.

Even in Egypt, God was with Joseph. Though he faced unfair situations, he stayed faithful, and God gave him wisdom to help Pharaoh prepare for a great famine. Years later, when food ran out, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt looking for help. They didn't recognize Joseph, but he recognized them.



## School Lesson Plan | Forgiveness

Joseph had every reason to be angry. Yet instead of getting revenge, he forgave them. He said, *“You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good—to save many lives.”* Joseph chose forgiveness and kindness instead of bitterness and revenge.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What could Joseph have done instead of forgiving?
2. Why is forgiveness better than revenge?

- **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.

- **Assessment:** Teacher checks understanding through answers and engagement.

### 3. Model (7 min)

- **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.
- **Assessment:** Teacher notes how well students apply the lesson truth.

### 4. Pray (2-3 min)

- “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.”
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes participation and reverence.

### 5. Closing/Reflection (5 min)

- **Key Takeaway:** Because God forgave me, so I can forgive too.
- **Student Reflection:** Ask: “What is one why I can show forgiveness this week.”
- **Teacher closes:** Re-read Colossians 3:13 and encourage students to live out forgiveness at home and school this week.
- **Assessment:** Teacher listens for understanding and ability to recall the takeaway or verse.

### Optional Extension

- **Independent Practice:** Students design and color Joseph’s coat. In each section, they write or draw one way they can forgive—like “pray for them,” “say sorry,” or “let go.”