

Joseph tricks his brothers



Bible verses:

Genesis 41:17-40,44; 45:1-5
Joseph sets a trap



Aim:

To know the story of Joseph's reunion with his brothers



Today's fruit:

Kindness



In our story today Joseph is reunited with the brothers who sold him into slavery.

Joseph is in a very different situation from last week. He is no longer a slave; he is a powerful leader in Pharaoh's court. Will he take the opportunity to seek his revenge on his brothers, or will he meet them with a heart full of forgiveness?

Joseph had every reason to be angry or seek revenge, but instead chooses to show kindness.

Each child will need:

- Pens/pencils and paper
- *Patch's Pals* handout
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- Today's fruit sign: *Kindness*
- A timer
- Copies of *Kids Alive!* (optional)



Start it

Say:

International Youth Day is on 12 August, a day when people across the world think about all the

issues that impact young people. In our session today we're focusing on kindness as our fruit of the Spirit. Working in teams, see how many acts of kindness you can list in two minutes. These acts of kindness need to be focused on other children and young people.

Once they have finished, share the ideas together. What one act of kindness could they try out this week?

Sing it

Say:

In our last session we started to discover the story of Joseph and his God-given ability to interpret dreams. Our song for today is another from the musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. Listen carefully to the words to discover Pharaoh's weird and wonderful dreams. The words are tricky but you can join in with the 'bop sh'waddy' line each time.

Song

'**Song of the King**' *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice (4:22)

Tell it

Say:

Joseph listened carefully to Pharaoh's dreams and told him what they meant. When the song has finished, see if you can explain to a partner what was going to happen in Egypt.

Video

Pharaoh's Dreams Explained - Donny Osmond *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice (1:24)

Give the children the opportunity to share what they think the dreams meant and then clarify any misunderstanding. The dream description is in Genesis 41:17-24.

Say:

As the only person able to interpret Pharaoh's dream, Joseph soon became a firm favourite in the palace. When the suggestion was made to put someone in charge of protecting the people from the famine, Joseph was the perfect choice.

Read:

'This seemed like a very good idea to the king. All his officers agreed. And the king asked them, "Can we find a better man than Joseph to take this job? God's Spirit is truly in

him!”

‘So the king said to Joseph, “God has shown you all this. There is no one as wise and understanding as you are. I will put you in charge of my palace. All the people will obey your orders. Only I will be greater than you.”’

(Genesis 41:37-40 ICB)

Ask:

- What are some of the challenges Joseph had to face on his way to Egypt?
- In what way was life different for Joseph now?

Say:

Joseph went from being a humble slave to a powerful ruler. If only his brothers could see him now! The next part of the story is found in Genesis chapters 42-45. There’s a lot to pack into the story, so we’re going to watch a clip to help us understand what happened.

Video

Joseph Forgives (Genesis 42-45) by Saddleback Kids (3:44)

Watch: 0:00-2:22 ‘But Joseph provided for his brothers’ journey and gave them grain and silver.’

Ask:

How many years of abundance and famine did Egypt have? How many years is that in total?

If you have a seven-year-old in your group, then ask them to imagine a time of famine that lasted their entire lives. What do the children think it was like to live through something like that?

Ask:

- Why were the Egyptians safe throughout the famine?
- What did Israel (Jacob) ask his sons to do?
- Why did Benjamin stay behind?

Say:

Jacob (Israel) hadn’t really learned his lesson about having a favourite son. He insisted that Benjamin should stay home with him so that Benjamin would come to no harm.

Ask:

What did Joseph do when he saw his brothers?

Say:

After his brothers had spent three days in jail, Joseph let all but one of the brothers return home.

Ask:

Who did Joseph ask the brothers to bring back to him?

Read:

‘On the third day Joseph said to them, “I am a God-fearing man. Do this thing, and I will let you live: if you are honest men, let one of your brothers stay here in prison. The rest of you go and carry grain back to feed your hungry families. Then bring your youngest brother back here to me. If you do this, I will know you are telling the truth. Then you will not die.”

‘The brothers agreed to this. They said to each other, “We are being punished for what we did to our brother. We saw his trouble. He begged us to save him, but we refused to listen. That is why we are in this trouble now.”

‘Then Reuben said to them, “I told you not to harm the boy. But you refused to listen to me. So now we are being punished for what we did to him.”

‘When Joseph talked to his brothers, he used an interpreter. So they did not know that Joseph understood what they were saying. Then Joseph left them and cried.’

(Genesis 42:18-24 ICB)

Ask:

- Why do you think Joseph kept his identity a secret?
- Why do you think Joseph cried when he heard his brothers talking about what had happened all those years ago?

Watch: 2:23-end.

Say:

The brothers returned with Benjamin just as Joseph had asked them to.

Ask:

What did Joseph do next? Why do you think he was playing all these tricks on his brothers?

Read:

‘So Joseph said to them, “Come close to me.” So the brothers came close to him. And he said to them, “I am your brother Joseph. You sold me as a slave to go to Egypt. Now don’t be worried. Don’t be angry with yourselves because you sold me here. God sent me here ahead of you to save people’s lives. No food has grown on the land for two years now. And there will be five more years without planting or harvest. So God sent me here ahead of you. This was to make sure you have some descendants left on earth. And it was to keep you alive in an amazing way. So it was not you who sent me here, but God. God has made me the highest officer of the king of Egypt. I am in charge of his palace. I am the master of all the land of Egypt.”’

(Genesis 45:4-8 ICB)

Ask:

Have you worked out what amazing gift Joseph gave to his brothers?

Say:

Joseph may have given his brothers food to eat, but the most amazing gift he gave them was forgiveness. He sent his brothers back to collect his father and promised that he would care for their families. It would have been so easy for Joseph to send them away, but instead he showed kindness and forgave them.

Display the *Kindness* sign.

Ask:

What role does forgiveness play in growing the fruit of kindness in our hearts?

Say:

Forgiving others can be a challenging thing to do, but we can look to Joseph as an example of what forgiveness really looks like.

Action it

The children are going to create a *Patch's Pals* comic strip based around the theme of forgiveness. You may wish to share copies of *Kids Alive!* to help. Spend time discussing ideas with the children and then give them time to complete their comic strip. They can use whichever characters they like from *Patch's Pals* to tell their forgiveness story. When the children have completed their comic strip, they can share it with the rest of the group.

Pray it

Ask:

Do you find it difficult or easy to forgive? Does it depend on the situation? If so, how?

Say:

In our Pray It time today we're going to think about who we might need to forgive. Often when we think of forgiveness, it can feel like we are letting the other person get away with hurting us. That's not how forgiveness works. When we forgive someone, we hand the situation and the person over to God and trust him to work the situation for good. We might not always get an apology or even find out if the person regrets what they did, but we can trust God either way.

Give the children time to think about someone they may need to forgive. Explain that forgiveness does not excuse bad behaviour, and that if anything is happening that they are worried about then they can talk to an adult that they trust.

The aim of this forgiveness prayer time is to hand the situation over to God. This activity needs to be handled with care as the children could be forgiving something as simple as a disagreement in the playground or may have more significant issues they are facing. You know your group best and so can adapt this prayer time in a way that best suits their needs.

Say:

Let's share our memory verse together, which reminds us how God is with us in the most challenging circumstances.

Memory verse

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'

(Romans 8:28 *NIV*)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.



Joseph tricks his brothers

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



Bible verses:

Genesis 41:17-40,44; 45:1-5
Joseph sets a trap



Aim:

To know the story of Joseph's reunion with his brothers



Today's fruit:
Kindness



Create

Create your own version of this month's memory verse to stick up at home. You could surround the verse with pictures of situations that you would like God to work for good.

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'

(Romans 8:28 NIV)



Share

Watch the clip with someone at home and discuss what it means to forgive others. Share a time you chose to forgive someone and talk about the difference it made to the situation.

Word of the Day (Forgive) by Saddleback Kids



Memory verse

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'

(Romans 8:28 NIV)



Song for the week

'Song of the King' Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice

Joseph tricks his brothers

**Bible verses:**

Genesis 45:1-5

Joseph reveals who he is

**Aim:**

To know that Joseph showed kindness to his brothers

**Today's fruit:**

Kindness



Memory verse

'And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.'

(Romans 8:28 *NIV*)

Start it

Today we are going to hear about how Joseph forgave his brothers and was kind to them, despite what they had done to him.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Genesis 45:1-5.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What do we mean by forgiving someone?
- Joseph's brothers once sold him to be a slave. What is a slave?
- Famine is when there is not enough food. What would you do if your friend did not have enough food to eat?
- Joseph shared food with his brothers. What things have you shared with others?

- Is there something so delicious you would not share it?
- Joseph liked playing tricks on his brothers. Have you ever played a trick?



Sing It

'The wise man built his house upon the rock' by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Joseph played a trick on one of his brothers with a silver cup. Hide a silver cup in the room and see who can find it.
- Sharing activities using either sweets or biscuits.
- Rehearse saying 'I'm sorry' and 'I forgive you' - this is what Joseph and his brothers had to do. Perhaps children might want to say it to somebody in the room?