

JOSEPH'S BROTHERS



THINK ABOUT IT:

Who do you need to forgive?

Introduction

Tell the children that today they will be reviewing the Bible characters learned about so far (the beginnings of God's family) and hear the rest of Joseph's story.

Message

1. Play a sentence-completion game to review the Bible characters learned about so far. Set up the board like this:

_____ placed his _____ in _____. (Abraham; trust; God)

_____ was an _____ to _____. (Isaac; answer; prayer)

_____ asked for _____ from his brother. (Jacob; forgiveness)

_____ fully relied on _____. (Joseph, God)

2. Do one sentence at a time. Draw seven stars at the bottom of the board. Erase one star for every letter guessed but not part of the answer. Make sure to write the letters guessed to keep track! Summarize the story in a sentence or two before moving on to the next sentence.
3. Take out Joseph's memory box and pull out the items discussed last week: piece of brightly colored cloth, star, stone, coin, chains, wheat. Ask the children to share what they remember from each piece.
4. Take out the sack and say, "This sack reminds me of when my brothers traveled to Egypt for food. The famine had also hit the land of Canaan, where I was from, and they had no food to eat. When they came to me, they bowed down and I was reminded of my dreams! Although I knew who they were, they did not recognize me. I was worried when I didn't see my younger brother with them and thought perhaps they had hurt him as well after they had sold me into slavery. They told me he was at home, and their father (my father) didn't let him travel because he



SCRIPTURE

Genesis 42-45

Colossians 3:13-14



MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- Board for writing
- Joseph's treasure box (add a sack and a cup)
- Scrap paper for each child
- Pencil for each child



PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark the Bible verse



EXTRA TIME

Since this is a review lesson, ask the children what their favorite story was so far, if they have shared any of the stories with their family and friends, if they have any other questions, etc.

didn't want to lose another son. I wanted to see with my own eyes that Benjamin was alright, so I had one of my brothers thrown into jail until the others returned with Benjamin."

5. Take out the cup and say, "This cup reminds me of when my brothers returned with Benjamin. I was happy to see him, but wanted to test my brothers' loyalty to him. I placed my silver cup in Benjamin's sack of grain, and he was arrested. I said I would keep him as my slave. My brothers all said that losing Benjamin would cause deep sorrow to my father and they offered to take Benjamin's place to keep their father from grieving. At last I could see that my brothers had changed and I told them who I was. They asked for forgiveness for the wrongs they had done to me and I forgave them. I said that God worked in all things. If I hadn't been sold into Egypt, I wouldn't have been able to help so many people through the famine. What a reunion we had! I sent my brothers to get my father and had them all move to Egypt, so their families could have all the food they needed and I could live again with my father and brothers. Even after my father died, we all stayed in Egypt and our families continued to grow."

Dig Deeper in Small Groups

1. Read Colossians 3:13-14.
2. Ask, "Why should we forgive others?" (*God forgives us*)
3. Ask, "What else should we do for each other?" (*love*)
4. Ask, "Do you think you can forgive someone even if they haven't asked for it?" (*yes*)
5. Ask, "Is there someone in your life right now that you need to forgive?"
6. Have the children write down the name of someone they need to forgive. Have them fold the paper so the name is only known to them.
7. Lead the children in the following prayer: "God, we know that you tell us to forgive others and to love them. Sometimes it's really hard to do that, and we're asking for your help right now. Please help us to forgive the person we hold in our hands and to love this person instead. Thank you. Amen."
8. Offer to the children that they can take their papers with them as a reminder of the love they want to show that person, or offer to collect the papers and destroy them (rip them up) to show that they no longer have bad thoughts or feelings toward that person.