LESSON 11

JOSEPH REVEALS HIMSELF TO HIS BROTHERS



Aim: **To show the children that Joseph forgave his brothers completely.**

Scripture Reading: **Genesis 43:1 – 45:15**

Memory Verse: **Ephesians 4:32**
Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Have you ever heard anyone say, "I will never forgive this"? It's a very sad thing to hear. People may say it when they believe something very bad has been done to them. This is not what Joseph told his brothers. He tested them when they came to buy grain in Egypt. **Show picture 10.** They returned home with sacks of grain, but they had to leave their brother Simeon behind in prison.

MAIN POINTS OF TODAY'S TEACHING

1. When the food the brothers had brought back was finished, Jacob wanted his sons to return to Egypt to buy some more. The famine was still continuing. "We cannot go," said the brothers, "without taking Benjamin along." **You could act the different parts of Jacob and the sons arguing with each other (43:1-7).**
2. Finally, Judah – the one who had first suggested selling Joseph (Gen 37:26-27) – said he would give his life in Benjamin's place if anything were to happen to Jacob's youngest son. Judah certainly had changed! So they prepared some gifts for the Egyptian governor, and Benjamin left home with his brothers (43:11-15).
3. Joseph was very glad to see his brothers, and especially Benjamin. Benjamin was his only blood brother because their mother, Rachel, had only the two of them. **Remind the class that Jacob's other children were born of Leah, his other wife, and the two slave women Bilhah and Zilpah.** Joseph treated them well and sent them all home with sacks of grain (43:16-34; 44:3).
4. Shortly after the brothers had left Joseph sent his servant after them to accuse them of stealing Joseph's silver cup. They denied knowing anything about such a cup, but to their complete surprise it was found in Benjamin's sack. Joseph wanted to test his brothers. Would they take care of Benjamin and stand by him, or would they run away to save themselves (44:1-13)?
5. Judah begged Joseph to keep him as his slave instead of taking Benjamin from their father (44:14-34).

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6. Joseph knew then that his brothers had changed, so he told them who he was (45:1–4, 14). **Show picture 11.**

Our Response to the Story

Joseph was able to forgive his brothers (45:5–8). Where there is no forgiveness there is always separation. How did Joseph manage to forgive his brothers? Joseph had God's Spirit within him. Review the memory verse for Lesson 9. God has forgiven us because of Jesus' sacrifice, so we can forgive others. Do you know that God offers us forgiveness? Do you in your turn forgive others, or do you say, "I will never forgive you"? That is not what God told us, and that is not what God wants us to tell others.

Instil the Memory Verse



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