

## Lesson 34: Joseph Forgives His Brothers

[Genesis 42-45](#)

**Youtube Link:** <https://youtu.be/vEjJ3ixCxFY>

**Children's Bible Story Video:** <https://youtu.be/m8XIQ8WNBjs>

**Worship Theme:** God wants us to forgive.

**Memory Verse:** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
(Matthew 6:12)

### **Songs (Youtube links):**

1. I Can Do All Thing <https://youtu.be/YPKAgHMdYog>
2. I Can Do All Thing Through Christ <https://youtu.be/RAti7KCmlvM>
3. Lord I Confess to You <https://youtu.be/cNotlSrjHl0>

### **Prayer**

**Song:** Select songs from the list above.

### **Icebreaker: "God Forgives Us When..."**

“ព្រះបានអត់ទោសឲ្យ  
យើងនៅពេលដែល...”



1. Have all the students stand up.
2. They can sit down when they answer the question: "God forgives us when we..." (Some possible answers: lie, fight, disobey parents, say mean things, etc.)
3. If you need another question, you can ask the students: "I forgive others when they..."

### **Introduction:**

One of the awesome things about God is that he can bring good out of anything, even bad things. The Bible teaches us a lot about what God does and who God is. It also teaches us about who we should be. God is the forgiver of our sins. Because he forgives our sins, we should forgive other people. See that connection? When someone hits us, it is natural for us to want to hit back. Or when someone says mean things to us, we want to say mean things back to them. But the bible teaches us today that we need to forgive. We forgive because we know God and he has forgiven us. When we forgive like God, we are letting God know that we are thankful for his forgiveness and that we trust him. In fact, forgiveness is one of the ways that God brings good out of bad. Let's find out how Joseph is able to bring good out of a bad situation!

### **Bible Story:**

Joseph had 10 big brothers and one little brother. Joseph's 10 older brothers were jealous of him and hated him. When they got the chance, they sold him as a slave.

Joseph ended up as a slave in Egypt, and he was a slave for 13 years. Then the king asked him to interpret a dream for him. Joseph did a good job interpreting the dream with God's help. He told the king that there will be 7 years of abundance and 7 years of famine. The king gave Joseph the second highest position in Egypt and told Joseph to help the Egyptians save up food so that they wouldn't starve during the famine when their crops wouldn't grow.

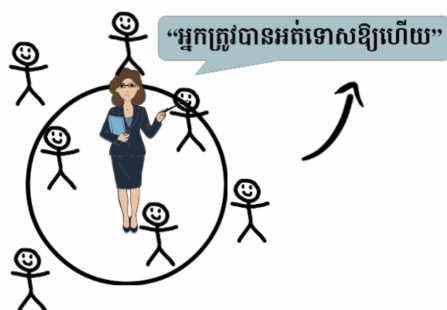
Joseph's brothers lived in Canaan which is outside Egypt, and they were starving because there was no food in Canaan. So they traveled to Egypt to buy food to take home. They had to buy the food from Joseph, but they didn't recognize him. Joseph had become a very powerful man in Egypt. Joseph recognized his brothers, though. He gave them several tests to see if they were still mean. Once Joseph could see that his brothers had changed, he said, "I'm your brother Joseph. I'm the one you sold as a slave. You meant to harm me, but God made good thing come out of this! I forgive you." Joseph invited his brothers and their father to move Egypt where food was abundant. Joseph took care of all of them.

Joseph could've put his brothers in jail for selling him as a slave or for being mean to him. But Joseph forgave his brothers because he loved and trusted God.

### Questions to discuss:

1. Why did Joseph's brothers hate him? (they were jealous)
2. What country was Joseph living in as a slave? (Egypt)
3. Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt? (to buy food)
4. Why did Joseph forgive his brothers? (because he loves and trusted God; because it is God's command)
5. How do you respond when someone hurts you?

### Game: "Circle of Forgiveness"



1. Make a big circle on the ground.
2. We all do something bad that we are sorry for. When we do, we are outside the circle of forgiveness. But God said that if we tell him what we've done, he'll forgive us. He also tells us we can forgive each other.
3. Teacher stands in the middle of the circle. When students hear the music, stay very still. When the music stops, students take two steps—and only two steps—toward the circle of forgiveness.
4. When they get close enough to the circle that the teacher can touch the student's hand and say, "You're forgiven," the student can go into the circle with the teacher.
5. Then whoever is inside the circle can start touch other students outside of the circle and say "You're forgiven" to others, too. Repeat this process until everyone is in the circle.

**Memory Verse:** And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.  
(Matthew 6:12)

**Craft:**

Make the craft that you see below and have the students write the memory verse in the middle.



**Song:** (Choose any 1 song from above)

**Prayer**

**Devotion for Teachers (Please read and pray before the class)**

As Christians, we enjoy the protection and promises of a loving God. Therefore, it's necessary and natural that we forgive those who hurt or offend us. As servants in God's kingdom, it's important that we forgive those who wrong us. Are you suffering because someone hurt you or struggling to forgive someone? Consider the trial that Joseph endured. Reread his story, and ask God to give you the same strength and wisdom he gave Joseph to forgive his brothers.