

# Joseph and His Brothers

A Story of Forgiveness

**Ages about 7-11** | Video 11:59 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

**Central truth** Joseph chose mercy over revenge. Repentance means turning away from wrongdoing, and God can bring good without making evil right.

**Learning goals** Recall key events; explain the central truth; choose one safe way to respond in daily life.

**Gather** Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

**Watch online** [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

## Before watching | 2 minutes

Find Canaan and Egypt on a map, if available. Recall the previous part of Joseph's story, then ask: Why did Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt?

## Watch and notice

Notice the choices people make and how those choices affect others. Listen for signs that God has not forgotten Joseph.

## Talk together | 6-8 minutes

### 1. Why did Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt?

Famine left their family hungry, and they came to buy grain. They did not recognize Joseph.

### 2. How did Judah show he had changed?

He offered to remain in Benjamin's place rather than abandon his younger brother.

### 3. What did Joseph do when he revealed who he was?

He wept, called his brothers closer, forgave them, and arranged food and a home for the family.

### 4. Did forgiveness mean the brothers' actions were right?

No. Their betrayal was wrong. Mercy can begin healing, while truth, safety, and changed behavior still matter.

**Then respond and pray** Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

# Lead the response

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**Short family lesson** Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

## Choose a handout

**Draw & Tell** Use the two large picture spaces. Read the prompts aloud and accept pointing, drawing, or a spoken answer.

**Read & Write** Invite one story detail, one explanation, and one practical choice. Short or dictated answers are welcome.

## Adapt by readiness

Younger or emerging readers: read aloud, pause often, and accept drawings or dictated answers.

Older children: use the Scripture passage to distinguish what happened from what should have happened.

## One faithful choice | Optional 4 minutes

Use a simple classroom example such as damaging someone's drawing. Practice three responses: tell the truth, say sorry, and offer a repair. Discuss how the harmed person may need time and an adult's help; no one must hug or pretend the harm did not matter.

**Look for understanding** The child connects a concrete story detail to a kind, truthful, or responsible choice without excusing harm.

**Closing prayer** Merciful God, help us tell the truth, repair the harm we cause, and choose mercy with wisdom. Amen.

**At home** Tell someone at home one thing you remember. Practice the small action you chose with an adult's help.

**Handout answer notes** Recall: accept accurate details from the story. Explain: Joseph chose mercy over revenge. Repentance means turning away from wrongdoing, and God can bring good without making evil right. Apply: accept a specific safe action appropriate to the child.

## Teach with care

Preview the story and the parent/teacher notes below. Explain unfamiliar words before watching; pause for questions. Includes past betrayal, enslavement, hunger, detention, threats of further enslavement, and family grief. Joseph's staged cup test is part of the narrative, not a method for children to imitate. Forgiveness does not require unsafe contact, immediate trust, physical affection, or silence about harm. Seek a trusted adult's help.

**Words to explain** Mercy: responding with compassionate care rather than revenge. Repentance: turning from wrongdoing toward what is right. Reconciliation: rebuilding a damaged relationship through truth and care.

## Sources for the leader

Scripture: [Genesis 42-45 - USCCB](#)

# Remember and respond

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Remember Joseph's story. Then imagine one good choice you can make.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult helper** Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

**1 Draw Joseph welcoming his brothers after revealing who he is.**



**2 Draw a safe way to repair a small harm or show mercy.**



**Tell** What is happening in your pictures? How does your choice help someone?

**Pray** Merciful God, help us tell the truth, repair the harm we cause, and choose mercy with wisdom. Amen.

**At home** Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

# Think, tell, and write

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Use details from the story. Write or tell your answers.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Remember

What did Judah offer to do for Benjamin?

*Judah offered ...*

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## 2 Explain

How was Joseph's response different from revenge?

*Joseph chose ...*

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## 3 Choose

What can you do after hurting someone?

*I can begin by ...*

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**Pray** Merciful God, help us tell the truth, repair the harm we cause, and choose mercy with wisdom. Amen.

**Go deeper** Read Genesis 42-45 with an adult. Ask which detail helps you understand the story better.