



Mustard Seed Children's Summary for November 18, 2007
Released on November 14, 2007

"Joseph Forgave His Brothers"

MEMORY VERSE:

"God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance" (Genesis 45:7).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Genesis 45:1-12

1 Then Joseph could not refrain himself before all them that stood by him; and he cried, Cause every man to go out from me. And there stood no man with him, while Joseph made himself known unto his brethren.

2 And he wept aloud: and the Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh heard.

3 And Joseph said unto his brethren, I am Joseph; doth my father yet live? And his brethren could not answer him; for they were troubled at his presence.

4 And Joseph said unto his brethren, Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt.

5 Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves, that ye sold me hither: for God did send me before you to preserve life.

6 For these two years hath the famine been in the land: and yet there are five years, in the which there shall neither be earing nor harvest.

7 And God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

8 So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.

9 Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:

10 And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:

11 And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.

12 And, behold, your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin, that it is my mouth that speaketh unto you.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Believers need to trust God and not fear when bad things happen. God preserved His chosen people. There is nothing that can thwart God's plans.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

1. God is in control of all things.
2. We must forgive those who have done bad things to us.
3. God takes care of His people.

PLANNING LESSON AIDS:

For the "Helping to Remember" section, for each child, you will need: a picture of the earth to color, crayons or colored pencils, and a copy of the word search puzzle.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

In last week's lesson, Joseph was able to interpret the dreams of Pharaoh and predict that the land would enjoy seven years in which there would be an abundance of food, but that this would be followed by seven years of famine throughout the land. Joseph also advised Pharaoh to appoint an overseer to gather all the excess food during the seven years of plenty and to store it up to ensure the survival of the people during the seven years of famine. Joseph became the national overseer to direct the project and was placed in charge of Pharaoh's palace, all his officials and the people; only Pharaoh ranked higher than Joseph.

When the years of famine began, not only was Egypt affected, but also the land of Canaan, where Jacob lived with the rest of Joseph's family. The famine forced Jacob to send his sons to Egypt to buy food for the family. This would require that they deal directly with Joseph. When Joseph recognized them, he put them through a series of tests. This week's lesson describes the brothers' third appearance before Joseph.

TEACHER'S NOTES / TELLING THE LESSON:**1. Describes the first two visits of Joseph's brothers in Egypt.**

On the first visit, Jacob had sent ten of his sons (without Benjamin) to Egypt to buy food. During this visit, Joseph recognized his brothers and accused them of being spies. They were imprisoned for three days and then released to return home. Simeon was held as hostage and they were told that to buy more grain and rescue Simeon, they would have to bring their youngest brother as proof of their integrity (Genesis 42:1-20). On the second visit, Joseph devised a ruse to make Benjamin look like a thief; so after they started back to Canaan, he had them dragged back into custody. Instead of saving themselves, the brothers pleaded for Benjamin's freedom (Genesis 44:4-32). These visits showed Joseph that his brothers had changed and matured since the time that they had mistreated him.

2. How did Joseph convince his brothers about his identity?

Joseph stated his name and asked about his father's welfare. But the brothers did not have time to process the news because they were dumbfounded by what they were being told. Joseph invited them to come closer to him, and when they did, he stated that he was their brother, Joseph, whom they had sold into Egypt many years earlier. Only Joseph would know this information, so it had to be him.

3. How did Joseph's faith help him to be forgiving of his brothers?

The reminder of what they had done was painful for the brothers to revisit. Joseph sensed this and encouraged them not to be upset by their actions. Joseph's faith had long convinced

him that everything that had happened to him was a part of God's plan. Joseph explained to his brothers that it was God who had sent him ahead of them into Egypt to preserve their lives.

Joseph described to his brothers what they could expect for the next years and how God would use him to preserve a future for His people. Joseph believed that God had something special in store for the Israelites and that everything that had happened over the years was for that purpose.

4. What was Joseph's plan to deliver his family from the famine?

Joseph instructed his brothers that in addition to the two years of famine that had already passed, five more years were to follow in which there would be neither plowing nor harvesting of crops. Joseph had a plan to deliver the Israelites from the ravages of the famine. He told his brothers to go quickly to their father and tell him that God had made Joseph the second-in-command in Egypt and that they should relocate the entire family to Egypt. They would settle in the land of Goshen and be provided with what they needed to survive the famine.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Even though Joseph's brothers had done something very wicked to him, he did not try to get even. He forgave his brothers for being so cruel to him. Joseph was able to understand that everything that happened to him was for a very important reason. He understood that God was in control of everything.

Joseph knew that God takes care of His people. What happened to him was not an accident or a mistake. There was a greater purpose for what happened to Joseph. God had planned to save Joseph's family, and everything that Joseph went through put him in the place and the position to be used by God to do just that.

God wants Christians to learn from the life of Joseph. He wants us to forgive others when they harm us. He wants us to remember that He is in control of everything.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

Give each student a picture of the earth to color. Have the students color the picture and write the words "God is in control" on the picture. Discuss what this means and encourage the student to put their pictures in a place that will remind them of God's control and His care.

A word search is also included at the end of this lesson summary. Use these activities to further discuss and emphasize the important truths of the lesson.

EXPLAINING THE MEMORY VERSE:

"God sent me before you to preserve you a posterity in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance" (Genesis 45:7)

These words show how kind and forgiving Joseph was to his brothers. They had been very cruel to him, but God had a plan for all of them. Joseph explained that God had sent him to Egypt to make sure Jacob's family would not die out. God, not Joseph and not other people, was in control of Joseph's life.

Christians need to believe that God has a plan for each of us. We should put our complete trust in Him and serve Him everywhere.

PRAYER

Father God, thank you for Your care of us. Help us to know that everything we go through works for our good. Help us to forgive those who do bad things to us. Help us to always trust that you are control of everything, in Jesus' name, amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON:

Next week's lesson is "Giving a Blessing" from Genesis 48:11-19.

Lesson Summarized By:

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WORD SEARCH

Joseph Forgave His Brothers
(Genesis 45:1-12)

Find each of the following words.

EGYPT

PRESERVE

JOSEPH

GOSHEN

FAMINE

POSTERITY

FORGIVE

HARVEST

BROTHERS

DELIVERANCE

RULER

NOURISH

S E H A R V E S T P E A H R A R O C V L U V F
S H P E S O J A G O S H E N E M L H H R P S R
A U E R T O P E I O P T P F E N S S Y O B T V
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E R B R O T H E R S Y V O J R I E R R H E E T
S S F P R B A I C L E C S R P J P R E E P E R
P C O R J C O E P F R N H H L I E S R N P H V

SOLUTION TO WORD SEARCH (Joseph Forgave His Brothers, Genesis 45:1-12)

H A R V E S T
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