



Date: _____

Series: God is There in Tough Times
Fall Year 2, Lesson 27

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Bible Event: Genesis 42:1-3, 45:3-28, 50:20

Take Home Point: *EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – *God makes good things happen.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus' troubles on the cross were for our good.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that we all go through tough times, but we can always depend on God. Sometimes things happen to us that seem bad, but God is always with us. He always helps us get through the bad times when they do happen. God can make good things happen for us even when it doesn't seem possible. Kids will take home the point *EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – *God makes good things happen.*
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: *Veggie Tales: God Wants Me To Forgive Them?!?*; Big Idea Productions, 1994.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from a Dramatized Character

A costumed adult presents the Bible event, telling it from first person point of view. This person should be introduced by asking the children to put on their imagination hats and imagine that this really is the person in the Bible story.

Joseph comes onto the stage holding a sack of grain or an ear of corn to tell this week's portion of the Bible event.

Hi. I am Jacob's son, Joseph, and I am back to tell you the last part of my story. The last few weeks, I've told you about the mean things my brothers did to me. Do you remember? They threw me into a pit and then sold me to some people to become a slave. Then I got sent to prison, but was able to get out when I explained Pharaoh's dreams to him. Egypt was going to have a terrible famine, where no food would be able to grow. I came up with a plan to save food so the people wouldn't go hungry. Here's what happened next.

My brothers still lived with my dad and they had no food. They didn't know what to do! My dad heard that Egypt had some food saved, so he decided to send my brothers there to get some food for the family. My family had no idea I was there!

My brothers had sold me and didn't know where I was. My father thought I was dead!

My brothers started on the long journey to get food. When my brothers finally got there, guess who they asked to get the food? It was me! But they didn't know it! I had grown up a little and they didn't recognize me. But I recognized them! As soon as I saw it was really my brothers, I said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold to be a slave. Do not be afraid; I am not angry with you." But my brothers were afraid. They thought that I would want to punish them for what they had done to me. But I didn't want to punish them... I wanted to forgive them instead.

You see, I know now that it was part of God's plan for me to get sent to Egypt. Because my brothers sold me, I was able to go to Egypt and come up with the plan to save food so the people could eat it. You see, **even in tough times, God makes good things happen.* God can make good things happen instead! So, I wasn't angry with my brothers – I was just happy to see them again. I gave them all hugs and cried because I was so glad to see them.

Then came the best part of all. When Pharaoh found out that my brothers were in town, he was very happy! He told them to go back and get my father and the rest of the family and bring them back to Egypt. He promised to give them land and a place to live and all the food they needed.

Even though I've gone through a lot of tough times, God has always been able to turn my troubles into good. I told my brothers this: "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." Even though what they did seemed bad at the time, God had great plans for me. When you go through hard times, remember that God has great plans for you, too. **EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – God make good things happen.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal. If this is an option at your church, be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Show kids a large package or baggy of crushed chocolate sandwich cookies. Explain that even though the cookies appear to be ruined, we can still turn them into something good. Then give each child some vanilla or chocolate pudding or whipped topping, sprinkle some crushed cookies onto each, and let the kids mix and eat.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Use raisins and talk about how a raisin is actually a dried up grape. While the grape is no longer plump and juicy and round, it is still very sweet and tasty and healthy for you. What would seem like a dried up old piece of fruit is actually very good!!

Drama Zone: Have a ‘forgiveness feast.’ Provide fake food, utensils, a tablecloth, etc. to have a feast just like Joseph did for his brothers.

Puppet Zone: Let the children use puppets to practice the take-home point and to retell the Bible event to one another.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers from today’s Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #23 “Joseph’s Brothers Go to Egypt” from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Provide a container of multi-colored paper cut or torn into small pieces. Even though the paper appears to be ruined, it can still be used for something. Give each child a white sheet of paper with the outline of a cross in the center. Let the children glue the scraps of paper into the cross to make a beautiful mosaic. Attach a pre-made label “Even in tough times – God makes good things happen.”

Play Zone: Create a simple obstacle course. At the end, as a reward for completing the course, have a piece of candy for each child. *Option:* Hide several candies throughout the course for kids to find.

Quiet Reading Zone: Basket of books. Include any that feature the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Music Zone: Your choice of music.

Coloring Zone: “Joseph Forgives His Brothers” coloring page.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba is sad that his friend is moving to California (*if you are located in California, substitute New York*). The presenter feels bad for Bubba and tells him that it's okay to feel sad. The presenter tries to get Bubba to find anything good about the situation. Bubba thinks for a minute and decides that maybe he could go visit his friend and they could go to Disneyland together! The presenter tells Bubba that that's a great way to think about a tough time in a good way.

That reminds the presenter about today's Bible event. It also was about things happening that seemed bad, but God helps to make them turn out okay. Sometimes we all go through tough times, but God is always with us and can make good things happen.

The presenter then reviews the event of Joseph and recounts all of the bad and good things that have happened to him:

(After each 'bad' thing the presenter will say "That's terrible" and after each 'good' thing, the presenter will say "And that's good." The children should catch on and start saying the appropriate refrain.)

- 1. Joseph was thrown into a well by his brothers....That's terrible.
But he didn't die....and that's good.**
- 2. Then he was sold into slavery....That's terrible.
But he had a kind master....and that's good.**
- 3. Then he was tricked and thrown into jail....That's terrible.
But God gave him a gift and he became known for interpreting dreams...and that's good.**

4. **People forgot about him and left him in jail...**That's terrible.
But then he got to interpret Pharaoh's dreams...and that's good.
5. **There was a horrible famine in Egypt...**That's terrible.
But Joseph came up with a plan to save Egypt...and that's good.
6. **Then Joseph's family had no food....**That's terrible.
So they went to Egypt to get some...and that's good.
7. **His brothers were afraid that Joseph would punish them...**That's terrible.
But actually Joseph recognized his brothers and forgave them...and that's good.

Joseph went through many times that appeared to be very bad, but with God's help, they turned out okay. We need to remember that when we go through tough times, God will always be with us, too. Remember: ***EVEN IN TOUGH TIMES – God makes good things happen.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons
- video: Veggie Tales: *God Wants Me to Forgive Them?!?*

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- sack of grain or ear of corn

Action Zones:

Snack:

- crushed chocolate sandwich cookies
- pudding or whipped topping
- Healthy Snack Option: raisins

Drama:

- fake food and utensils
- tablecloth
- costumes or headbands for Joseph and his brothers

Craft:

- colored construction paper, cut or torn
- white paper with cross outline
- glue or gluesticks
- pre-made label "In tough times – God makes good things happen"

Play:

- tables, chairs, etc. for obstacle course
- candy

Quiet Reading:

- basket of books

Music:

- your choice

Puppet:

- various puppets

Felt:

- materials to re-enact Bible story (For example, use Lesson #23 "Joseph's Brothers Go to Egypt" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet
- Kleenex or handkerchief

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

