



Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 43-45

We've been learning about the life of Joseph from the Bible! Last week, we left off after Joseph saw his brothers for the first time in a long time.

Joseph had a pretty rocky past with his brothers. Does anyone remember what the brothers did to him? (Threw him in a pit, sold him as a slave) Joseph's brothers were jealous of him, and they sold him as a slave!

When his brothers came to Egypt to get grain, Joseph recognized them immediately. But, his brothers didn't realize they were standing in front of Joseph at all. Joseph could have been mean to his brothers. Instead, he obeyed God by showing them kindness. He gave them grain and even returned their money!

Today, let's count how many times Joseph obeys God in the story. At the end, you'll get a prize if you count the right number.



Joseph's brothers went back home and ate all the grain Joseph had given them. Their father, Jacob, wanted his sons to travel back to Egypt to get more grain for their family.

This time, Jacob sent twice the money and gifts with his sons. If you were Joseph, what gift would you hope the brothers would bring with them? (Allow responses) Those were some great gift ideas! Jacob sent gifts like lotion, honey, spices and almonds with his sons.

So Joseph's brothers took the journey back to Egypt.



When his brothers arrived in Egypt, Joseph told his servant to invite them to his house and start preparing a meal for them. He even fed their donkeys and gave them water to wash their feet.

How was Joseph obeying God in this situation? (By being kind to his brothers)

Joseph arrived at noon, just in time for lunch. When his brothers saw him, they bowed down to him. They still didn't recognize him! Joseph asked his brothers about their father. They reported that Jacob was still alive and well. Then, Joseph noticed Benjamin, the brother he had loved so much.

Joseph got a little teary when he saw Benjamin. He even had to run out of the room to find a place to cry. Then, he washed his face and went back to eat with his brothers.



After eating with his brothers, he sent them back home with plenty of food. Joseph had planned a way to test his brothers on their journey home. But, he knew this was wrong and sent one of his servants after him to stop his plan and bring them back.

Do you think Joseph obeyed God by deciding NOT to go through with his plan? (Yes) Right. Have you ever thought about doing the wrong thing, and then changed your mind? (Allow responses) We can obey God by NOT following through with wrong thoughts or plans.

When Joseph's brothers came back, Joseph revealed that he was their brother. At first, his brothers were really scared. They knew what they had done to Joseph long ago, but Joseph told them not to be angry with themselves. Joseph had completely forgiven them. When we forgive others, we're obeying God.



Joseph invited his brothers to go home, get their father, and come back with their families to live in Egypt where he would take care of them and give them plenty of food.

When Joseph offered to let his family come back to live in Egypt, how was he obeying God? (By being kind and generous)

Joseph's brothers told their father about Joseph being alive as soon as they got home. Jacob was so happy and planned to go see Joseph.

So how many times did Joseph obey God? (Four) Do you remember some specific ways Joseph obeyed God in this story? (By showing kindness, by NOT following through with his wrong plan, by forgiving his brothers, and by being generous)

Even though we may not be in situations like Joseph's, we can learn from Joseph's example to obey God in similar ways that Joseph did. Can you think of specific ways you can show kindness or be generous this week? Is there someone you need to forgive? (Allow kids to share)

This week, we can obey God!