



## 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 Joseph? (Threw him in a pit, sold him as a slave) Joseph's brothers were jealous of Joseph, and they sold him as a slave!***

***When his brothers came to Egypt to get grain, Joseph recognized them immediately. But, the 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!***

***Show me a giant smile if you think it was good that Joseph obeyed God. (Participate with kids) Great! 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 that Joseph gave them. So, their father, Jacob, sent them back to Egypt for more grain.***

***This time, Jacob sent his sons back with twice the money and gifts. 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. Then, Joseph's brothers headed back to Egypt.***



***When his brothers arrived, 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!***

***Do you think Joseph was obeying God by showing kindness to his brothers? (Yes) Yes! Let's all hold up a one to remember the first way Joseph obeyed God. (Participate with kids by hold up a one)***

***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.***



***After eating with his brothers, he sent them back home with plenty of food. When they weren't far down the road, Joseph sent a servant to bring them back.***

***Joseph had planned a way to test his brothers on their journey home, but he knew this was wrong. So, he decided not to follow through with his plan. Let's hold up two fingers to remember the second way Joseph obeyed God. (Hold up two fingers with kids) Joseph obeyed God by NOT following through with his plan to test his brothers.***

***When Joseph's brothers came back, Joseph revealed that he was their brother. How do you think Joseph's brothers felt when Joseph told them who he was? (Allow responses)***

***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. Hold up a three for the third way Joseph obeyed. (Hold up three fingers with kids) When we forgive others, we're obeying God!***



***Joseph even 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 to eat.***

***Was Joseph obeying God by being generous to his brothers? (Yes) Exactly! Let's hold up four fingers to show the fourth way Joseph obeyed God.***

***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) Right! Joseph obeyed God by showing kindness, by NOT testing his brothers, by forgiving them, and by being generous.***

***Great job counting! Now, we'll all get our prize for obeying my instructions and counting during the story.***