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| <b>Quarter #:</b><br>1 | <b>Class Age:</b><br>1st-3rd graders  | <b>Lesson Title:</b><br>Joseph Forgives     |
| <b>Lesson #:</b><br>12 | <b>Prepared By:</b><br>Emily Sorrells | <b>Lesson Scripture:</b><br>Genesis 42 - 45 |

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**Visuals / Resources:**

- Abeka cards, Flannelgraph, or good story-telling skills, depending on preference.

**Pre-class activity:**

- Sunday - "God Takes Care of Joseph" Worksheet
- Wednesday - Books of the Bible Word Search

**Welcome Activity:** Attendance activity

**Prayer:** Before the prayer, ask the students what they are thankful for. Ask the students who we can pray for. Ask the students how we can praise God. Give examples of these the first few classes. If there is a white board available, you could even keep a prayer request list. Soon they will volunteer plenty of ideas for prayer. Pray.

**Memory Verse:** Romans 8:28

**Review:** Review previous lesson.

**Other Review:** Other memorization work like saying or singing the books of the Bible, the 12 sons of Jacob, or Abraham's Family Tree.

**Lesson Facts:** *(Main points to cover...)*

- During the years of famine, Canaan was also affected. Jacob heard there was grain for sale in Egypt. He told his sons to go down to buy grain so they wouldn't die. However, he did not send Benjamin with them.
- Joseph's brothers went to Egypt and bowed themselves before him because he was the one in charge of selling grain to the people. He recognized them, but they did not know he was their brother, Joseph. He treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. He accused them of being spies. They said they were not spies. He told them they had to prove who they were by going back to get Benjamin while one brother stayed confined in Egypt.
- When the brothers talked to each other they did not know that Joseph could understand him because he had been using an interpreter because it was a different language. They felt this hardship had come upon them because of what they did to Joseph years before. They felt guilty. This made Joseph cry. He turned away from them and wept.
- Joseph took Simeon and bound him. He sent the rest back to Canaan with bags of grain and even had the workers put their money back into the bags. When Jacob heard about it, he was very upset. He did not want them to return with Benjamin. However, after the grain was gone and they needed more food, he agreed to let them return to Egypt and to take Benjamin with them.
- Joseph made a meal for them. He brought Simeon out to join them. He asked about their father, Jacob, and he had to hide again because he started to cry when he saw Benjamin. He was kind to them. However, he tested them again. He told the workers to fill the bags with grain but in Benjamin's sack he told them to return his money and to put Joseph's silver cup. They followed after the brothers and accused them of stealing. They searched the bags and found the cup and money in Benjamin's sack. The brothers were upset and they tore their clothes and fell down.
- Judah begged Joseph to keep him in Egypt instead of Benjamin because their father would die if they returned without Benjamin. Joseph could not control himself, so he commanded everyone

except his brothers to go away. Joseph wept so loud that all of the household of Pharaoh heard it. He told his brothers that he was Joseph, their brother that they had sold, and he asked if his father was still alive. He told them not to worry because God had put him in that place to save their lives because of the famine. Joseph told them to go get Jacob and the rest of the family and tell them that he was still alive and in a place of honor in Egypt. He told them there would be several years of famine, and they would have a place to live and plenty to eat. All of the brothers talked and hugged and wept together.

- The brothers went back to Canaan and told Jacob the good news. He was shocked but happy to hear that Joseph was still alive. Jacob's spirit was revived. He wanted to see Joseph before he died.

**Illustration** - Have the students one by one come to the front and make their body rigid and fall backwards onto the teacher's waiting hands. The teacher catches each student and helps him stand back up. Explain that each one had to trust the teacher that she will catch him and not let him fall to the floor. This illustrates trust - when we cannot see. Discuss the trust that Joseph had in all his "bad" circumstances, yet God took care of him every time. Talk about the ways we can and should trust God to help us and save us.

**Principle:** *(Concept / Key truth to be gained...)*

- God makes difficult things work out according to his plan. No matter what we do, God is still in control.
- God wants us to know that He keeps His promises. He passed his promise from Abraham, to Isaac, to Jacob.
- God wants us to forgive one another. Joseph forgave his brothers for selling him into slavery. God forgives us.
- God wants us to love our brothers and sisters.

**Application:** *(How students can apply...)*

- Because we see that God kept his promises in the O.T., we know he will keep his promises to us. If God says he will reward the faithful, we can know that he will. Do we believe God when we read his word? We should. Do you believe God will reward us with eternal life in heaven if we obey him? We can trust God!
- Be forgiving. If someone wrongs you in some way, forgive them right away. Don't just say it; mean it. A grudge or a problem between you and another person hurts you, them, and others. God forgives us, and he says we must forgive others if we want to be forgiven.
- Don't fight with, tease, hit, call names, or have any other hateful attitude toward your siblings. Love your brothers and sisters.

**Activities:**

Activities for Sunday & Wednesday - choose which activity to do on which day according to time, attendance, student energy level, etc.

- "Joseph is Governor in Egypt" Worksheet
- Cut out the picture squares illustrating Joseph's life. Have the students try to arrange them in front of them in order. Once they are in order, glue them on a piece of construction paper in order to make an illustrated timeline.

**Songs:**

- The 12 sons of Jacob song
- Trust & Obey
- Love One Another

**Other Notes:** If other people have lost items from the master file, I may have copies at home. Let me know; I usually try to keep a copy as well.