

TRUE LOVE

LESSON 3: LOVE IS FORGIVING

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In this lesson, the children will learn how to choose love and forgiveness over getting even, through the Old Testament Bible story of Joseph.

TOPICS

Love, Forgiveness, Jealousy, Joseph

OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISE (5 minutes)

Praise and worship are an important part of a believer's life and children often learn best by watching and repeating what they see. So please, praise and worship together.

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION (20 minutes)

Part 1- Introduction:

Today our story is about a large family. In fact, there were twelve brothers. Their father's name was Jacob, also called Israel. With that many brothers surely, there was a lot of arguing, fighting, and competition going on. There was no doubt plenty of opportunity for someone to become angry with someone else. But Israel loved one son, Joseph, more than all the others. Israel made a very special colorful robe for him. Joseph even told his brothers about dreams he had where they all bowed down to him. As a result of Israel's favoritism and Joseph's dreams, his brothers were extremely jealous and angry. As we read, let's find out what they did.

Genesis 37:12-28

Have the children read this passage silently from their Bibles:

Discussion Questions:

1. How did the brothers show their Jealousy and anger? *(They wanted to kill Joseph.)*
2. What did Judah convince the brothers to do instead of killing Joseph? *(Sell him to traveling merchants.)*
3. When you have a disagreement with a brother or sister, how do you normally react?

Part 2 -Introduction:

Joseph was no doubt pleased to see his brothers, but he also wanted to see his little brother Benjamin. So he sent one of his brothers back home with some food to get him. Finally, Benjamin arrived, and Joseph treated his brothers well, giving them food and even preparing a special meal for them. Still, they didn't know they were being treated well by the brother they sold to merchants many years earlier. Finally, Joseph had to let them know.

Read Genesis 45:1-15

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you feel God favored Joseph? *(There was not bitterness or anger in his heart.)*
2. Was it better for Joseph to be angry with his brothers, or to be forgiving? *(Forgiving.)*
3. How was Joseph able to look at what his brothers did as good? *(He saw it all as part of God's plan.)*

CLASS EXERCISE (20 minutes)

Don't be salty (See Video)

SUGGESTED PARENT/CHILD ACTIVITY

Gifts of Love (Activity – See Page 2)

APPLICATION (3 minutes)

Hate and anger are always defeated where there is love. If you know how to forgive, your love will be perfect. Love covers all sins and wrongdoings, as God covers our sins through Jesus Christ. God forgives us because of His love only through the death of His Son. So if we do not forgive, how can we say that we have love? This week show someone that you love them, even if they don't show love to you. And if anyone does something wrong to you, show them how much better it is to forgive than to be upset.

CLOSING PRAYER (2 minutes)

TRUE LOVE

GIFTS OF LOVE

An activity about showing forgiveness to others, as a true act of Godly love.

TOPICS:

Birthdays, Compassion, Forgiveness, Kindness, Love, Valentine's Day

MATERIALS:

Rolls of gift wrap paper
1 Small empty box for each child
Gift tags, markers, ribbons
Transparent tape, Scissors
An assortment of candy, small toys, or other trinkets.



DURATION:

Approximately 20 minutes

PREPARATION

Collect all the items needed and have them ready for class. You may want to ask parents to help with buying candy or trinkets. If it is just not possible to obtain these items, anything kids treasure that you can wrap will do, even pretty leaves or rocks. Make sure you have enough of these items so each child can load up their package. You will put the gifts together during class.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

First, give each child a gift tag. Have them think of someone who has made them sad or angry recently, and write the name of that person on the gift tag. Explain to them that they will be preparing a gift for that person. You might hear some grumbling, this is good. Make a point that what they are making is a gift of love. When they are finished, they will have probably forgotten why they were mad in the first place. Joy and forgiveness should replace the bad feelings. Have the children gather the items they want to include in their package and wrap it as pretty as they can with the wrapping paper, ribbon and gift tag. Have them take the gift home to give to the person they plan to forgive.

Application:

There will always be times when love is hard to give. When there is anger, it is difficult to love and forgive. However, love conquers all. Time after time, when we have love, it is much easier to forgive. How often should we forgive? When Peter asked Jesus this question, Jesus replied, "I tell you not seven times, but seventy-seven times." Is forgiveness important? Yes, not only does the Word of God tell us to forgive, but forgiving also gives us a good feeling. How do you feel now about your gift? Pretty good right? And forgiveness even promotes good health. Those who do not give love and forgiveness, receive nothing but bitterness in return.

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Ephesians 4:32 NIV