

## 2.20 FRIENDS OF GOD FORGIVE WHEN THEY HAVE BEEN WRONGED

Topic: Becoming Friends of God

Subtopic: Friends of God Forgive

Others: 2B, Scripture; 3A. Made new in Christ

Class: Standard II (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Objectives:

**Knowledge:** When students are asked how to deal with someone who has wronged them, they will say it is better to forgive that person.

**Attitude:** Students will experience peace in their hearts when they forgive.

Materials Needed:

Exercise Book

Memory Verse Exercise Book

Scripture:

**References:** Genesis 37:12-36; 39-41; 42:36-46:34

Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us." Mt. 6:12

### TEACHER ACTIVITIES

#### Introduction:

1. Suppose someone did something to you that made you feel bad. How do you think God would want you to treat that person?

#### Bible Story:

2. Joseph was a man in the OT whose own brothers mistreated him. How did Joseph respond to them? Tell Joseph's story briefly focusing on how he forgives his brothers. Gen. 37:12-36; 39-41; 42:36-46:34

#### *Suggested Discussion Questions*

3. Why were Joseph's brothers so mean to him?
4. What other occasions did Joseph encounter that were unfair?
5. What did God do for Joseph in each situation when he was mistreated?
6. How did Joseph save the lives of his brothers and father?
7. Why didn't Joseph take revenge on his brothers when he had an opportunity?
8. Did Joseph do right to forgive his brothers? Why?

#### Application:

9. How does God want you to respond to someone who hurts you?

#### Evaluation:

10. What does it mean to forgive?

### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

#### Introduction:

1. Students give examples of how to forgive others.

#### Bible Story:

2. Students listen to the story and learn Joseph forgave his brothers.

#### *Possible Answers to Questions:*

3. They were jealous of him because his father loved him more than them.
4. He was made a slave. He was accused of wrongdoing for which he was imprisoned. He was forgotten.
5. God empowered Joseph to serve in an outstanding way so he was given big responsibility.
6. Joseph was overseer for the country. He provided food for his brothers and father during the famine.
7. Joseph saw that God turned something bad into something good. He knew God wanted him to forgive and show love.
8. Yes, the brothers had lived with their guilt. Joseph didn't waste his energy being angry at them. He forgave.

#### Application:

9. We must forgive the other from our hearts.

#### Evaluation:

10. Remember Mt 6:12 when you hurt. Forgiveness means pardoning someone for a wrong done to you.

### **Extension Activities**

1. In their Memory Verse Exercise book, have the students write their new memory verse: “Forgive us the wrongs we have done, as we forgive the wrongs that others have done to us.” Matthew 6:12
2. In their other Exercise book, have the students write: “Friends of God Forgive Others”. Underneath, have the children draw something of Joseph’s story that will remind them of his ability to forgive his brothers.
3. Review together the things you have learned about becoming a friend of God: Friends of God...worship God; talk with God; listen for God to speak; obey God; read and study God’s Word, the Bible, regularly; follow God’s instructions; forgive others who wrong them
4. Form a circle and take hold of hands. As you do so, talk about how God wants to be our friend. Remind them that we learned today that when we are wronged by someone, we need to pardon (excuse) them from that wrong so the friendship can continue. One way you share being God’s friend is to be a good friend to people around you. Together thank God for His friendship and ask Him to help you be a good friend to Him and to the people He has put into your lives. When finished with prayer, drop hands and celebrate His friendship by raising your hands and shouting, “Thank you, God, for being my friend.”

## **NOTES FOR TEACHERS**

### **Highlights for the Bible Story**

You could easily spend more than one lesson on the story of Joseph but you want to give just enough background to make the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers an example of what God wants us to do when we are wronged. Here is a quick outline.

1. Joseph was his father’s favorite son. He had eleven brothers who were jealous of him because he had more of their father’s attention.
2. Joseph went to take food to his brothers taking care of the flocks. When they saw him coming, they decided to throw him in a well.
3. Instead of killing him, they took him from the well and sold him to slave traders.
4. Joseph was taken to Egypt where he was sold to a king’s officer as his slave. His master soon learned Joseph was a person of extraordinary abilities and entrusted him to oversee his household.
5. Joseph’s master’s wife accused Joseph of wrongdoing and even though he had not done anything wrong, he was put in prison.
6. Joseph interpreted dreams for two prisoners which came true but they forgot him after one was released and the other died.
7. When the king had a dream, Joseph was asked to interpret it. His interpretation was right. There would be 7 good years and 7 lean years. The king made him overseer of the whole country to collect food during the good years which he would determine how to distribute during the lean years.

8. Joseph's brothers and father didn't have enough food and finally had to ask for food from Joseph. When they came, Joseph recognized them but they didn't recognize him.
9. Joseph gave them food but he demanded his younger brother, Benjamin, be brought back with them before they would be given any more food.
10. The brothers knew if Benjamin was brought back and something happened to him, it would be too hard on their father.
11. Hunger made them come back with Benjamin.
12. Food was again given to them but Joseph's silver cup was put into Benjamin's bag of food.
13. A servant was sent to check what happened to Joseph's silver cup.
14. When they came back, Joseph told them he was their brother and he hugged each of them.
15. The brothers were very fearful because they knew they had done wrong to Joseph
16. Joseph told them not be sad about selling him to the slave traders. He told them it was God's plan to bring him to Egypt so that God could use him to keep their family and many others alive during the terrible famine. Joseph forgave his brothers.

### **Key Point**

Jesus tells us to forgive those who wrong, or sin against, us because then the Father in heaven will forgive you. Holding a grudge toward someone who has wronged you will prevent you from having peace in your heart. Forgiving the other will bring peace to your heart. A friend of God forgives those who wrong them.

### **Teacher Evaluation**

If you were Joseph, how would you have treated your brothers? Are you carrying a grudge toward someone? Is there someone you need to forgive? If so, experience God's peace when you forgive that person.