



STORY: **Joseph and His Brothers**

ABOUT THIS CLASS:

The Bible story for this Frolic Faith Class is from chapters 37, 45, and 50 in Genesis. You will read the story "Joseph and His Brothers" on pages 8-9 in the Frolic First Bible.

Prep Time

Putting the Story in Perspective

The story of God's people continues with Joseph, who is separated from his family, sold into slavery by his brothers, imprisoned, and eventually recognized by Pharaoh as a gifted leader. God is with Joseph through it all, protecting him and giving him the ability to interpret dreams. In the end, Joseph gives his hungry family food to eat. Just as important, Joseph offers them forgiveness. Take a close look at the word *forgive*. See the word *give* in there? Think about forgiveness as a gift. Today's class is full of opportunities for families to discover and affirm this gift.

A Parent's View of the Story

Joseph's story is not an easy one for caregivers to hear. It begins with events and actions that may seem unthinkable to us—a father who plays favorites, Joseph's vivid dreams, and siblings so enraged they consider killing their brother. We've all felt the jealousy of Joseph's brothers. And hopefully we have also acted like the older, more mature Joseph, forgiving instead of getting angry. This story reminds us that Joseph's acts of forgiveness show God's way for us. And it also reminds us that sibling rivalry has been around forever!

A Child's View of the Story

The more extensive story of Joseph can be a challenging one for children once they grow older and learn more details. Why would siblings want to get rid of their brother? What do those vivid dreams mean? Why was the family so hungry? In this Frolic Faith Class, the simple retelling of this story emphasizes the tension between brothers that resolved when Joseph forgave his brothers at the end of the story. Families and forgiveness are big themes that repeat in the Bible, and this story is a great way to share how God has sent people to help model the gifts of giving and receiving forgiveness.



Bible Verse

"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today."

—Genesis 50:20



Today's Ritual

Use the ASL sign for *forgive* as you teach this rhyme. Search online for videos of this sign.

God forgives us.
We forgive others,
Just like Joseph
Forgave his brothers.



Gather Time

If families arrive early:

Encourage parents and children to meet each other. You can also have music playing in the background and a center available for families to explore together before the class begins. Select the center that best fits your space and available materials.

OR

If you open the door at the start time:

Invite families to sign in, choose an instrument from the basket, and sit in a circle.

Welcome

Gather together in a circle. **Welcome, families! We are together today to explore the story of Joseph and his brothers and how this story is related to our lives as caregivers of young children.** Lead families in singing a welcoming song, tracks 1-3 on the Frolic Faith Music CD, while children play their instruments. Then teach the ritual from page 1.

Share

Lead families to share about a recent unexpected moment when they experienced forgiveness (either received or given). To start the circle, take the lead in celebrating an unexpected moment, or ask a caregiver who would be comfortable being the first to share. Jot down notes in the space to the right so you remember what to include in later prayers.

Prayer

Dear God,

We give you thanks for the unexpected moments in our parenting journeys and our children's journeys. We ask for your presence and guidance in our community gathered here today. Incorporate the unexpected events the caregivers named.

Amen.



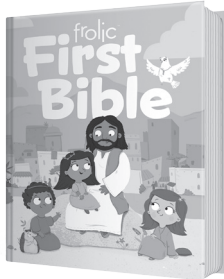
Get Ready

- Print the Welcome sign and post it at the entrance.
- Place the sign-in sheet and nametags near the door.
- Place the basket of rhythm instruments on the floor.



Prayer Notes

Story Time



Hold up the story basket that contains a Frolic First Bible for every family. Place it in the middle of the circle. Lead the story basket rhyme below.

Group Storytelling

Let's hear a story from the Bible! This story is about Joseph and his brothers. It is on pages 8-9. Hold up the Bible Story Poster of "Joseph and His Brothers" so everyone can see the pictures. Read the story from the back of the poster in a lively, animated way.

Ask these questions and encourage toddlers to respond.

- **How do the brothers feel about Joseph in each picture?**
- **The brothers were hungry. Who fed the hungry brothers?**
- **Do you ever get hungry? Who feeds you? What do you eat?**
- **Joseph fed his brothers. He also did something else. Do you remember what Joseph did?**

Ask families to point to the sentence on the bottom of page 9. **Joseph forgave his brothers, even though they were jealous. Families can forgive each other. Let's practice the sign for the word forgive.** (Before this session, search online for a video of someone making the ASL sign for *forgive*.) Lead families in practicing this American Sign Language sign, pointing out that in making the sign, you are making sweeping motions, as if sweeping away the action that is now forgiven.



Sing Together

Sing this song, track 24 on the Frolic Faith Music CD, to invite families to take a Frolic First Bible from the basket.

**Time for a story.
Come get a book.
Open the pages.
Let's take a look.**

If you want to sing together, sing "God Is So Good," track 13 on the Frolic Faith Music CD.

One-on-One Storytelling

Now it's time for you to read the story together. Give time for caregivers to read the book to their children. Once they've read the story "Joseph and His Brothers" together on pages 8-9, offer these tips.

For Infants

Point to the angry brothers on page 8 and say "angry brothers." Then point to the older brothers on page 9 and say "forgiven brothers." Bounce your child up and down gently in your lap. Say, **Families can forgive, forgive, forgive. Families can forgive, all day long.** Repeat many, many times!

For Toddlers on the Move

Joseph traveled a long way after he left his brothers. Reenact this story! Walk around the room together on a journey. Have someone be Joseph traveling to the new place first. Then have brothers follow, find Joseph, and ask for food.

For Talkative Toddlers

Talk about the emotions on the brothers' faces on page 8 and how they are different from their faces on page 9.



Caregiver Conversation

The story of Joseph is one of sibling rivalries and sibling forgiveness. Invite caregivers to share stories of family forgiveness. (Not everyone may have a story they wish to share.)



Transition to Play Time

Choose an instrument such as a tambourine or chime and play it to get the children's attention. You can also say or sing the song at right.



Sing Together

Sing this song, track 25 on the Frolic Faith Music CD, to transition to Play Time.

**Time to explore!
Time to play!
Find a center
About God today.**

Play Time

Time to play! Choose the centers that best fit your space and materials. Make photocopies of the center descriptions on pages 8-15, fold them in half, and post them near the materials for parents to reference. Caregivers and children can explore the centers at their own pace. Caregivers may also use this time to connect with each other while their children play and discover.

1 Let's Color Together

This center supports **coloring skills**. *For toddlers.*

Supplies: Joseph and His Brothers Coloring Page on page 16, crayons, and blank paper

Make copies of the Coloring Page and place on a low table with crayons and blank paper.

2 Let's Read Together

This center supports **early literacy**. *For infants and toddlers.*

Supplies: Frolic First Bible, Frolic books, board books, letter blocks, and cushions or pillows

Create a cozy reading nook with pillows or cushions. Display the Frolic First Bible and other books. Place letter blocks nearby. Point out that *F* is for *forgive*.

3 Feed the Hungry

This center encourages **pretend play** and **social skills**. *For toddlers.*

Supplies: Plastic and wooden toy food, empty food boxes, plastic tableware, children's kitchen set, and a low table and chairs

Set up a kitchen area for children to make and serve pretend food.

4 Family Life

This center supports **social skills** and **memory**. *For toddlers.*

Supplies: Dollhouse, small plastic people, and other props like small furniture, cars, and pets

On a low table, set up supplies children need to create a replica of their home.

Play Time continued

5 Forgiveness Fun

This center supports **visual search** and **fine motor skills**. *For infants and toddlers.*

Supplies: Child-safe mirrors

Look up the American Sign Language sign for *forgive* and teach it to caregivers and children.

6 I Can Help!

This center nurtures **independence** and **social skills**. *For toddlers.*

Supplies: Small sponges, brushes, shaving cream, and washcloths

Dampen sponges, brushes, and washcloths with warm water. Dab some shaving cream on the table to make a little mess.

Show children a low table and ask for their help in cleaning it.

7 Forgiveness Food

This center promotes **sharing** and **independence**. *For toddlers.*

Supplies: Round oat cereal, napkins, and banana slices cut into quarters

Ask children to help pass out today's snack.

8 What's the Scoop?

This center supports **early math concepts** and **tactile awareness**. *For toddlers.*

Supplies: Grain scoops, uncooked grain (rice, beans, dried corn), sensory table (or a large, shallow pan), and various sizes of plastic containers

Create a center where kids scoop and fill containers of grain for pretend hungry people.

Send Time

Prior to the end of Play Time give the children a 2-minute notice that it is almost time to stop playing. At the end of 2 minutes play the same instrument that you played at the beginning of Play Time to get the attention of families.

Summing It Up

Thank you for reading and playing with us today! It was so much fun to learn about Joseph and his brothers. We can remember that God forgives us and that families can forgive each other. What will *you* remember about today?
Invite any children and caregivers to respond.

Closing Ritual

Invite caregivers to engage in the ritual from page 1 with their child. Then lead the group in a closing song, such as "This Little Light of Mine," track 18 on the Frolic Faith Music CD.

Prayer

Lead families in this simple prayer. Add other prayer topics and concerns that may have come up during your time together.

Dear God,

When I feel angry, help me forgive like Joseph did.

(Make fists, then the ASL sign for forgive.)

When I feel hurt, help me forgive like Joseph did.

(Hold hand as if hurt, then the ASL sign for forgive.)

When I am sad, help me forgive like Joseph did.

(Make sad face, then the ASL sign for forgive.)

Amen.

(Fold hands in prayer.)



Sing Together

Sing this song, track 26 on the Frolic Faith Music CD, to call everyone back to the circle.

**Play time is over
For you and me.
Come back to the
circle—
One two three!**



Prayer Notes



Make copies of the Coloring Page and place on a low table with crayons and blank paper.

For Leaders

Joseph and His Brothers Coloring Page on page 16, crayons, and blank paper

Supplies

This center supports coloring skills. For toddlers.

Let's Color Together

STORY: **Joseph and His Brothers**

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STORY: **Joseph and His Brothers**

Let's Color Together

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Encourage your child to color the images of Joseph and his brothers. Encourage their colorful creations!

Your child is learning this!

- When I color, I develop my fine motor skills.
- I also learn the names of colors.
- When I color Joseph and his brothers from this story, I remember that the Bible has stories about families and forgiveness.





Create a cozy reading nook with pillows or cushions. Display the Frolic First Bible and other books. Place letter blocks nearby. Point out that F is for forgive.

For Leaders

Frolic First Bible, Frolic books, board books, letter blocks, and cushions or pillows

Supplies

This center supports **early literacy**. For infants and toddlers.

Let's Read Together

Joseph and His Brothers

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STORY: Joseph and His Brothers

Let's Read Together

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Enjoy reading together. Point out letters on the blocks. Spell your names and other words together.

Your child is learning this!

- When I hear you read, I learn about letters, sounds, and words.
- When I handle books, I am learning about features of books and print.
- When I see letters that I can manipulate, I am learning about letter sounds and words.
- **When I learn to read, I will read the Bible.**





Set up a kitchen area for children to make and serve pretend food.

For Leaders

Plastic and wooden toy food, empty food boxes, plastic tableware, children's kitchen set, and a low table and chairs

Supplies

This center encourages **pretend play** and **social skills**. For toddlers.

Feed the Hungry

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Feed the Hungry

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Make a meal together and serve to other families or each other.

Your child is learning this!

- When we cook together, I learn to share and work as a team.
- Pretend play helps me learn to solve problems.
- **When I learn to serve hungry people, I am serving God.**





On a low table, set up supplies children need to create a replica of their home.

For Leaders

Dollhouse, small plastic people, and other props like small furniture, cars, and pets

Supplies

This center supports **social skills** and **memory**. For toddlers.

Family Life

Joseph and His Brothers

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STORY: Joseph and His Brothers

Family Life

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Together, make a small version of your home and family. Talk through your routines and rituals.

Your child is learning this!

- When I "build" my family and home and talk about it, I understand myself and my family.
- When I talk about my family and model their actions, I understand how my family is a part of God's big family.





Look up the American Sign Language sign for *forgive* and teach it to caregivers and children.

For Leaders

Child-safe mirrors

Supplies

This center supports **visual search** and **fine motor skills**. For infants and toddlers.

Forgiveness Fun

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STORY: **Joseph and His Brothers**

Forgiveness Fun

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

With your child, look in the mirror and practice the sign for *forgive* together.

Your child is learning this!

- When I learn sign language, I learn another way to communicate.
- Enjoying activities together strengthens our relationship.
- **Learning the word *forgiveness* together helps me discover that it is an important part of my family relationships.**





Dampen sponges, brushes, and washcloths with warm water. Dab some shaving cream on the table to make a little mess. Show children the low table and ask for their help in cleaning it.

For Leaders

Small sponges, brushes, shaving cream, and washcloths

Supplies

This center nurtures **independence** and **social skills**. *For toddlers.*

I Can Help!

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STORY: **Joseph and His Brothers**

I Can Help!

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Scrub along with your child. Make up songs to sing while you work or sing old favorites.

Your child is learning this!

- When I hold a cleaning cloth and scrub with it, I'm strengthening fine motor skills and coordination.
- When we clean together, we have fun together.
- **When I help my community, I help like Joseph did.**





Ask children to help pass out today's snack.

For Leaders

Round oat cereal, napkins, and banana slices cut into quarters

Supplies

This center promotes **sharing** and **independence**. For toddlers.

Forgiveness Food

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STORY: **Joseph and His Brothers**

Forgiveness Food

Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Bless today's snack before eating. While snacking, remember the story together. When finished, help clean up.

Your child is learning this!

- When I learn to feed myself, I develop independence.
- When I help at snack time, I am learning to be part of a group.
- **I can feed my friends and family like Joseph did!**





Create a center where kids scoop and fill containers of grain for pretend hungry people.

For Leaders

Grain scoops, uncooked grain (rice, beans, dried corn), sensory table (or a large, shallow pan), and various sizes of plastic containers

Supplies

This center supports early math concepts and tactile awareness. For toddlers.

What's the Scoop?

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What's the Scoop?

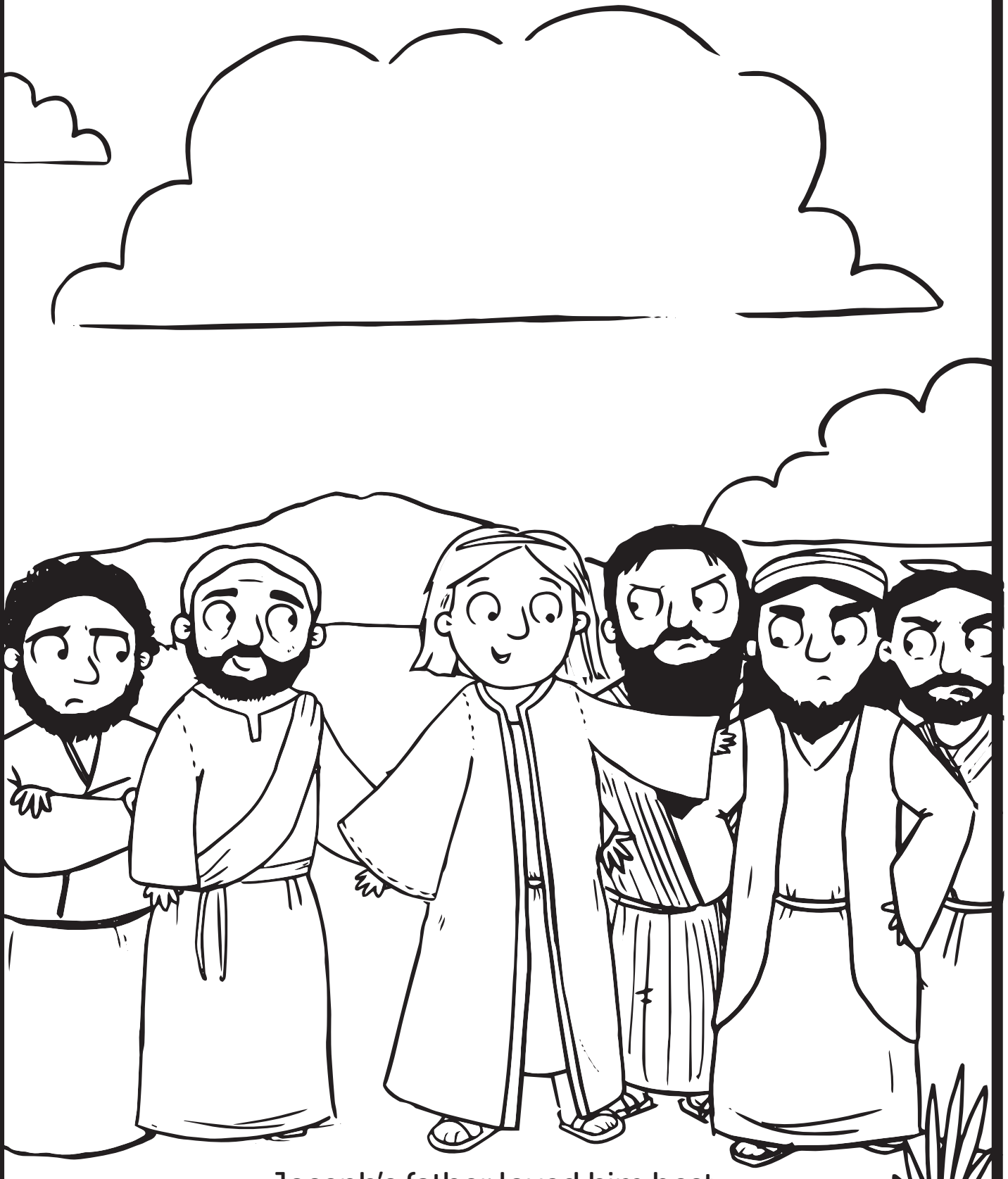
Caregivers, while you do this . . .

Scoop, fill, and dump again and again with your child. Remember how today's story told how Joseph fed his hungry family.

Your child is learning this!

- When I scoop and fill, I learn about weight and volume.
- Handling grains and other small objects helps stimulate my sense of touch.
- Filling up containers with grain helps me remember the story of Joseph giving grain to his family.





Joseph's father loved him best.
Joseph's brothers felt so jealous!