GENESIS TO REVELATION | BIBLE ACCOUNT

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 42-45;50:15-21



YOUR BIBLE READING

Joseph named the wrong honestly and chose care instead of revenge.

Inside: two extended reading pages, a thoughtful reflection, creative activities and a grown-up guide.

AGES 6-10 WITH AN ADULT • 6 COLORFUL A4 PAGES • ENGLISH ONLY

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 1 OF 2

Brothers Come Looking for Food

Genesis 42-45;50:15-21



Famine had reached Canaan, where Joseph's father and brothers lived. Jacob heard that grain could be bought in Egypt and sent ten sons to buy food. He kept Benjamin, the youngest, at home because he feared losing him. The brothers came before Egypt's governor and bowed down. They did not recognize Joseph, but Joseph recognized them. The brother they had sold now stood before them with great authority.

Joseph did not immediately reveal his identity. He spoke sternly and accused them of being spies. They explained that they were brothers who had come for food. Joseph kept them in custody for three days. Then he allowed most of them to take grain home, while Simeon remained behind. They would have to return with Benjamin so that Joseph could test what they had told him.

The brothers spoke about the wrong they had done to Joseph years before. They remembered his distress and their refusal to listen. They did not know he could understand their conversation, because he had been speaking through an interpreter. Joseph turned aside and wept. He ordered grain put into their sacks and their money returned secretly, along with food for the journey back to their father.

When their grain was used up, the family needed more food. Judah promised to take responsibility for Benjamin, and Jacob finally let him go. The brothers returned to Egypt with gifts and money, including the money found in their sacks. Joseph received them into his house. Seeing Benjamin moved him to tears again. After going away to weep, he returned and ate with his brothers. At the meal, Benjamin received five times the portion given to the others.

Remember: Forgiveness does not have to call a cruel action good.

EXTENDED ENGLISH READING • PAGE 2 OF 2

Joseph Reveals Who He Is

Genesis 42-45;50:15-21



Before the brothers left, Joseph ordered his silver cup placed in Benjamin's sack. His steward followed them and accused them of taking it. When the cup was found, they all returned. Joseph said Benjamin must remain as his servant while the others could go home. Judah pleaded for Benjamin. He explained their father's sorrow and offered to stay in his brother's place rather than return without him.

Joseph could no longer hold back. He sent the attendants out, wept aloud, and told his brothers that he was Joseph. They were too frightened to answer. He invited them closer and spoke about how God had used his life in Egypt to preserve lives during the famine. He did not deny that they had sold him. He explained that their father and families should now come near him.

Joseph embraced Benjamin and the other brothers, and they spoke together. Pharaoh welcomed the news that Joseph's family had come. Wagons, clothing, and provisions were sent for their journey. The brothers returned to Jacob and told him that Joseph was alive and ruling in Egypt. At first he could not believe it. When he heard the message and saw the wagons, he was ready to go and see his son.

Years later, after Jacob died, the brothers feared Joseph would repay their cruelty. They asked forgiveness. Joseph wept and answered kindly. Their purpose had been harmful, but God had brought life-preserving good through what happened. Joseph would not take God's place in punishing them. He promised to feed them and their children. His words offered reassurance while still telling the truth about the wrong they had done.

Pause and think: What actions might help rebuild trust after someone has admitted a serious wrong?

THINK, NOTICE & GROW

Truth, Change, and a Safe Welcome



Compare Judah's actions at two points in Joseph's story. Earlier he suggested selling Joseph. Now he offers to remain so that Benjamin can go home. The later action does not erase the earlier wrong, but it shows something different in the way he treats a brother. What kinds of actions can help show that a person is beginning to change, beyond simply saying so?

Sometimes a good thing grows from a painful situation. That does not turn the hurtful action itself into something good. If a friend breaks your model and later helps rebuild it, the repair matters, and so does the truth about the breaking. This is an ordinary example, not an extra event in Joseph's life. Both truths can be spoken together without pretending.

Forgiveness and safety can belong together. You do not have to hide harm, trust someone immediately, or be alone with an unsafe person. A trusted adult can help you decide what repair and protection are needed. Joseph's story includes a long separation, difficult conversations, and changed actions. It gives us much more to think about than a command to forget whatever happened.

A SMALL STEP FOR TODAY

Joseph names his brothers' wrong and uses his power to preserve life instead of taking revenge.

What actions might help rebuild trust after someone has admitted a serious wrong?

Read, Remember & Create

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Think about the reading

1. How did Judah offer to help Benjamin?

2. How did Joseph respond when his brothers feared revenge?

2 Put the ideas in order

Write 1, 2 and 3 for the order these ideas appear in the reading.

- ☐ Later he reassured them that he would provide for them.
- ☐ The brothers came to Egypt for grain.
- ☐ Joseph revealed himself and welcomed them.

3 Draw a meaningful picture

Draw a storehouse beside a scene of Joseph welcoming his brothers.

Tell someone how your picture connects to the reading.

Read & Grow Together

Read and learn with context

This English edition is designed for ages 6-10 with an adult. Read both extended readings together, or enjoy one each day. Pause at unfamiliar words, invite questions and use the reflection page to connect the story with everyday life. These are retellings and lessons with explanations; read the listed Bible passage for context. Poetry, parables, letters and symbolic visions are identified by type.

Remember this

Forgiveness does not have to call a cruel action good.
Original memory thought, not a direct Bible quotation. Related passage: Genesis 50:19-21

A thoughtful conversation

God bringing good from Joseph's story does not make the brothers' abuse good. Forgiveness need not mean immediate trust, secrecy, or returning to unsafe people.

Activity answers

1. He offered to remain as a servant in Benjamin's place.
2. He spoke kindly and promised to feed them and their children.
Sequence boxes, top to bottom: 3, 1, 2. Personal responses and drawings will vary.

Optional prayer

If you wish: God, help me tell the truth about hurt and grow toward mercy with wise help.

Print and share

Each pack has 6 pages. Print on A4 at Actual Size (100%). The worksheet is page 5. You may print just that page, or use the separate 150-page activity book. The collection contains 150 packs in Bible book order, 15 volumes and one ZIP. Catalog pack IDs stay the same when new readings are added.

Sources and sharing

English retellings, lessons, reflections and activities by DigiPick (2026), based on Genesis 42-45;50:15-21. Source checked with the public-domain World English Bible. Illustration © Sweet Publishing; 01_Ge_45_06_RG.jpg. CC BY-SA 3.0. Source: unfoldingWord. Resized proportionally, without cropping.
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