


*True Love (Lesson 3)*

## Love is Forgiving

by Craig

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### LESSON OBJECTIVE

**Topics:**

Love, Forgiveness, Jealousy, Joseph

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

### AS KIDS ARRIVE ( 12 minutes )

Put the following chart on the board.

Name	What this person did that made me angry or sad
Big brother Bill	Took the last slice of pizza that was supposed to be mine
Sam	Got me in trouble at school
Mom	Made me go to bed when I wanted to stay up

As the kids arrive, give them a piece of paper and a pencil, and have them make a list similar to that shown on the board. Tell them to think hard, to jot down as many names and events they can remember. Help the kids as needed so everyone has at least one name on their list. This activity will be used later in the lesson.

### OPENING PRAYER AND PRAISES ( 5 minutes )

 Further info? [Click Here](#)

### MEMORY WORK ( 10 minutes )

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

**1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 NIV**

Continue memorizing the entire passage, concentrating. Kids should now be memorizing verse 6.

### SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION ( 15 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 now Israel loved one son, named 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. So his brothers were extremely jealous and angry. As we read, let's find out what they did.

Have the children read **Genesis 37: 12-28** silently from their Bibles:

**Discussion Questions:**

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

**Part 2**

**Introduction:**

So the merchants took Joseph to Egypt. But while in Egypt, he was able to help the Pharaoh with a puzzling dream. Joseph told the Pharaoh that his dream meant there would be seven years of abundance, followed by seven years of dry famine. The Pharaoh thanked Joseph for telling him about his dream by placing him in charge of all the land of Egypt. Joseph wisely saved a lot of grain and food produced during the seven good years, so that when the seven bad years came, the people would have enough food to eat. The seven bad years just began, as we continue our story.

Have volunteers read **Genesis 42: 1-8**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. Why did the brothers go to Egypt? (to buy grain because of the famine)
2. How many of the brothers traveled to Egypt? (10, Benjamin stayed home)
3. What did his brothers do when they saw Joseph (Bowed down to him)
4. How do you think Joseph felt when he saw his brothers again?

**Part 3**

**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. How did Joseph use the wisdom and riches he received from God? (prepared Egypt for the famine)
3. Was it better for Joseph to be angry with his brothers, or to be forgiving? (forgiving)
4. How was Joseph able to look at what his brothers did as good? (he saw it all as part of God's plan)

**CLASS EXERCISES (20 minutes)**

**Gifts of Love (Activity)** [Click Here](#)

**ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE (10 minutes)**

**Power of Forgiveness (Skit)** [Click Here](#)

**APPLICATION ( 3 minutes)**

Hate and anger are always defeated when 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.

**NEXT WEEK**

How long is forever? How long can two people be best friends? Come back next week to learn about a loving relationship that will last forever.

**CLOSING PRAYER ( 2 minutes)** Further info? [Click Here](#)

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