

Joseph Helps His Family

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
**Genesis 45:1-15,
50:15-21**

Church Season
Pentecost

Lesson Focus
**God always works
for good.**

Bible Memory 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**



Tear here for easy use!

If you are using the Semi-Continuous version of the Revised Common Lectionary (ELCIC, Episcopal Church USA, Anglican Church of Canada, PCUSA, United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ), the lesson for Lectionary 24 is The Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-30). The leader material for this lesson is found on page 87. The leaflet for this lesson is included with all other leaflets for this quarter.

Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Arrival Activity Kids explore and define the concepts of harm and good.	Activity Pages 	Copy paper, scissors, marker
Opening Conversation Kids review previous week, build relationships, and learn the new Bible Memory Verse (BMV).	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Copy paper, markers, HARM and GOOD letters from Arrival Activity
Opening Prayer Kids pray together about God's goodness.	None	None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Joseph Helps His Family Story Kids hear the story and pantomime Joseph and his brothers.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Fabric pieces
Turning Out Better Than Expected Kids read and discuss the contemporary story.	Leaflets	None
Ask Dara Kids give Joseph advice based on the story.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Pencils

Lesson At-A-Glance

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Fun Facts Kids find large number of Egypt facts within the six facts.	Leaflets	Chart paper, marker
Create-a-Story Kids insert creative parts of speech into the story.	Leaflets	Pencils

Tear here for easy use!

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Closing Conversation Kids review the BMV and look at the Faith on the Go! options.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	None
Closing Prayer Kids name people they want to forgive.	Family Pages 	None



Visit www.sparksundayschool.org for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

Gather (10 minutes)

Arrival Time

If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try.

Cut two sheets of copy paper into four equal pieces each (totalling eight). Write the letters *H, A, R, M, G, O, O, and D* — one letter per piece of paper. Mix up the pieces of paper.

Greet kids as they arrive. **Hi! It's great to see you today! I've mixed up some letters here. The letters spell two words that are opposites of each other. See if you can unscramble the letters and figure out what the words are.** Encourage the kids to help one another unscramble the letters to make the words HARM and GOOD. Briefly discuss what each word means.

Spark Resources

Activity Pages



Supplies

Copy paper

Scissors

Marker

Opening Conversation

Let's each share something someone did for you this past week that was good.

Allow some time for sharing.

Who was able to try a Faith on the Go! activity this past week? Tell us what you did. Allow some time for sharing.

Pass out Spark Bibles. **Who can remember the Bible Memory Verse from last week?** Try reciting it together. If they've forgotten some parts, direct them to look up the BMV in their Bibles to refresh their memories. Read it out loud several times, if needed. Challenge them to close their Bibles and say it without looking. Kids can then put an I Memorized It sticker by the verse.

Direct the kids to help you place the papers spelling HARM at one end of a table and the papers spelling GOOD at the other end. On another sheet of paper, write GOD in big letters. Place this paper in the middle of the table, between HARM and GOOD.

Today our Bible story is going to show us how God fits in between harmful actions and good actions. God is always working for us to experience something good. Even when something bad happens, God is with us working to make something good out of it. Let's look up our BMV and see what kind of hint it gives us. Today's verse is Genesis 50:20. Help kids find the verse on page 58 and read it together several times. They can place one of their I Read It stickers near the verse.

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Supplies

Copy paper

Markers

HARM and GOOD letters
from Arrival Activity

Tear here for easy use!

Opening Prayer

Cue kids to say the word *good* at the end of each sentence as you point to them.

Dear God,

You can change bad times to _____. (*good*)

You can change sad days to _____. (*good*)

You can turn harmful actions to something _____. (*good*)

Thank you for how you take care of us. Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Joseph Helps His Family Story

Let's read our story to find out what harmful action turned out to be for the good of many people. This story is found in the book of Genesis. Who remembers where Genesis is? (*first book in the Old Testament*) **Let's all open to Genesis. The story is in chapters 45 and 50. Let's find the two chapters.** Help kids find chapter 45, which starts on page 51. **The story becomes complete when we read the part in chapter 50.** Help kids find Genesis 50:15 on page 58 in the Spark Bible. **Use one hand to keep your place in chapter 50.**

Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Leaflets

Supplies

Fabric pieces

Joseph's brothers had come to see him before, wanting to get food because there was a big famine. His brothers didn't recognize him and he didn't tell them who he was. Now Joseph's brothers are back and he is going to tell them who he is.

Invite the kids to read Genesis 45:1-15 and 50:15-21. Read the Know It! and Think About It! questions from page 52 in the Spark Bible and see what answers kids provide.

Now I'm going to read the story again and you will all be Joseph. Give them fabric pieces to wear as head coverings, then read the story aloud. **How did it feel to be Joseph?**

I will read the story one more time and you will all be one of Joseph's brothers.

Allow room for the kids to walk forward as you read the story. **How did it feel to be one of the brothers?**

Pass out leaflets and discuss the I Wonder statements on the front page. **God promises to forgive us. Let's look at an example of how great God's forgiveness is.** Guide kids to look up Psalm 103:8-13 on pages 650-651. **We can forgive others just as God forgives us and Joseph forgave his brothers.**

Turning Out Better Than Expected

People still do things we don't like and make life tough for us. Let's read a story about this.

Read Turning Out Better Than Expected from the leaflet. Discuss these questions.

Why was Sam angry with his brother, Will? How would you have felt if you were Sam or Will? What was the harm situation in this story? What turned out to be good in the story? Help the kids see how forgiveness is an important aspect in both this story and the Bible story. Invite them to share times when they've needed to forgive someone.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Ask Dara

Ask kids to find Ask Dara on the second page of the leaflet. Explain how advice columnists get letters and email from people about their problems. The columnists give people advice and suggestions for how they could respond to these problems. In Ask Dara, kids are going to be advice columnists. **Joseph knows his brothers are coming to see him, and he doesn't know what he should say to them. Should he be angry or forgiving?**

Direct the kids to open their Spark Bibles to today's story. Briefly discuss whether or not Joseph did a good job of handling the situation. Invite them to write their advice, based on the Bible story, for Joseph. Encourage them to read their letters out loud to one another. Then they can write a summary of their advice in the margin of their Spark Bibles.

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Fun Facts

Let's look at the Fun Facts listed on the third page of your leaflet. Read the facts together. **There are more than six separate facts about Egypt in this list. Let's list as many facts as we can.** List them on chart paper. (*size of Goshen, Nile River is in Egypt, Nile River has a delta, Nile Delta was fertile, location of Goshen, the foods Egyptians ate, such as soup, porridge, and watermelons, what was made from wheat and barley the Egyptians grew—bread, soup, porridge.*) **One thing we know from our Bible story is that Egypt had a famine back in the time of Joseph and his brothers.**

Read over the list together. Count how many facts were contained within the Fun Facts.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Chart paper
Marker

Tear here for easy use!

Create-a-Story

How many of you have created a funny story by writing words in the blanks? We're going to have fun with the Bible story by making up some stories. Let's look at Create-a-Story on the third page of the leaflet. Direct the kids to write in the words on the third page. If some of the kids have forgotten what certain parts of speech are, help them with examples.

Once they've all filled in every blank on the third page, direct them to turn their leaflet over to page four. Invite them to write the words from the blanks on the third page into the corresponding blanks on the fourth page. Have fun reading out loud their new twists on the story of Joseph and his family.

Send (5 minutes)

Closing Conversation

Today we've had a great time learning about Joseph and his family. How did God turn the harm the brothers intended toward Joseph into something good for many people? God didn't want Joseph to be hurt or sold as a slave. But when it happened, God used the situation to eventually help others.

Let's open our Bibles to Genesis 50:20 and read it together out loud. Encourage the kids to try saying the verse by memory. If they haven't already done so, invite the kids to place an I Read It! sticker next to the BMV.

Look at the Faith on the Go! ideas on the back of the leaflet with the kids. Take turns reading them to one another. **What would you like to try this week? Why do you want to try it?**

Closing Prayer

Today's story has shown us that God can turn things that are intended to harm others into things that can help others. God asks us to forgive those who've been unkind to us. Forgiving isn't always easy. But God promises to help us with that, too. Invite kids to think of someone they would like to forgive. Inform them they will get a chance to name these people on your cue during the prayer.

Dear God,

You helped Joseph forgive his brothers.

We ask you to help us forgive _____. (Kids say names aloud or silently of those they want to forgive.)

Help us to see how you can change these hurtful actions into something good. Amen.

Be sure to send leaflets home with kids, and give each of them a Family Page to take home.

Spark Resources
Leaflets

Supplies
Pencils

Spark Resources
Spark Bibles
Spark Bible Stickers
Leaflets

Supplies
None

Spark Resources
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Tear here for easy use!