

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Theme: God wants us to forgive others. **Scripture:** Genesis 45:1-15 **Object:** Bible; one lemon slice in a glass per child; one lemon slice sprinkled with sugar in a glass per child; plastic spoons; hand wipes. *Give each child both kinds of lemon slices in cups.*

In today's Bible lesson, Joseph had a choice. He could choose to punish his brothers for what they had done to him, or he could forgive them and reunite with them. Joseph chose forgiveness, and God wants us to forgive others, too.

Read aloud Genesis 45:4-7.

I'd like a few of you to share about a time that someone wronged you and you got angry about it. (Allow time.)

Those things hurt us. We have to make choices every day about whether to forgive people. Let's see what it's like when we choose to forgive others.

Have kids take the cup with the plain lemon and take a bite of the lemon.

What does that taste like? (Allow kids to answer.)

Think about a time that you forgave someone.

Have kids take the cup with the sugar-coated lemon and take a bite of the lemon.

What does that taste like? (Allow kids to answer.)

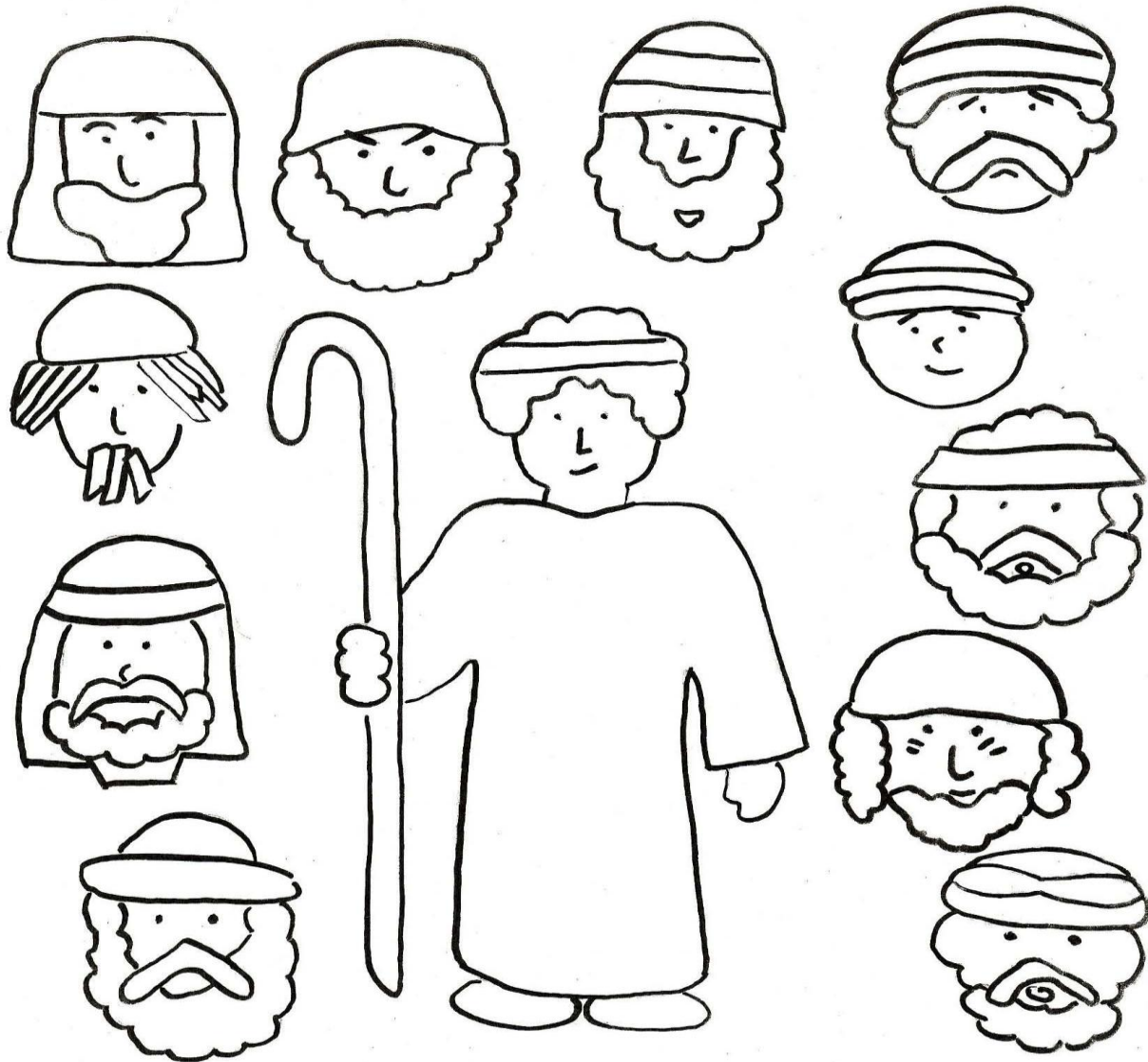
How is the bitter lemon like or unlike not forgiving others? How did the sugar change the taste of the lemon? How does forgiveness change our relationships to be sweeter? (*Sugar is like adding sweetness to a bad situation*)

The first lemon was bitter like the bitterness we feel when we don't forgive. The second lemon was sweet and tasty like the sweetness we feel when we forgive others. God chooses to always forgive us when we ask, and Joseph forgave his brothers for the horrible things they did. God wants us to follow Joseph's example of sweet forgiveness and forgive others.

God, thank You for forgiving us. Please help us remember Joseph and find the strength to forgive people who wrong us. To be able to add sweetness to a bad situation. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.



This is a picture of Joseph (in Egyptian clothes) hugging and forgiving his brothers for selling him into slavery . Through this act, God's purpose was eventually achieved.



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11 - *Joseph and his brothers*

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Copy the paper doll figure and cut it out 12 times. Add a different face to each one to make the twelve sons of Jacob. Colour Joseph's coat in many colours.

Joseph and His Brothers

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph — a beautiful robe. Genesis 37:3 (NLT)

Based on Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 (NIV)



Genesis 37

H O N B O S I L V E R D D R C
 R O P G L A O T M F K M B A W
 W H G I D C Y M L R A O X A T
 J O S E P H G B D D C T C L S
 P O P Z Z D W H N A S C H D T
 I Q E N M R A A J N M A F E U
 P B R G S G L W E M E N L F R
 C O R S Y N R R M E R A O O F
 B R N O A P D A B O C A C D D
 M J B L T L T O Z P H N K S Y
 L O H D I H R D G E A B S K R
 O B W H J F E E O S N P H I F
 V C C K T T H R N O T A D L T
 E Q S Q A U H O S T S M L L X
 D O O H Z E S B D J Y H A Z O

LAND	MERCHANTS	LOVED	JOSEPH	CANAAN
HATED	GRAZE	OLD	BORN	ROBE
SONS	JACOB	BROTHERS	SILVER	CHILDREN
EGYPT	KILL	FLOCKS	FATHER	SOLD



Joseph



Dreams
 Seven
 Jacob
 Forgiveness
 Rachel
 Envy
 Benjamin
 Prison
 Brothers
 Slave
 Coat
 Genesis
 Egypt
 Potifar
 Pharaoh
 Merchants
 Famine



Make all the words fit into this crossword

