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Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 41:46~50:26



Governor Joseph gathered crops during the seven years of abundance for the succeeding seven years of famine*. As soon as seven years passed, the whole land of Egypt began to go through the bad years of famine. And not just Egypt, but all the other countries also began to go through famines, with many people greatly starving. When people in other countries heard that Egypt had food, they all went to Egypt to buy food.

Joseph's brothers also went from Canaan to Egypt to buy food. Joseph's brothers did not recognize the governor of Egypt, Joseph, and they bowed down before him, saying,

“We are men from the land of Canaan. Please allow us buy the grain that we need.”

When Joseph saw his brothers bowing down before him, he remembered the dream he had when he was young.

Joseph, crying with sorrow, said,

“Brothers, it's me, your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt! Although you sold me

*famine: when there isn't enough food to eat.

... and forgiving one another if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

Colossians 3:13



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to this place, don't worry about anything. Do not be afraid. God just sent me to this land before you to protect our family during the bad years of famine.”

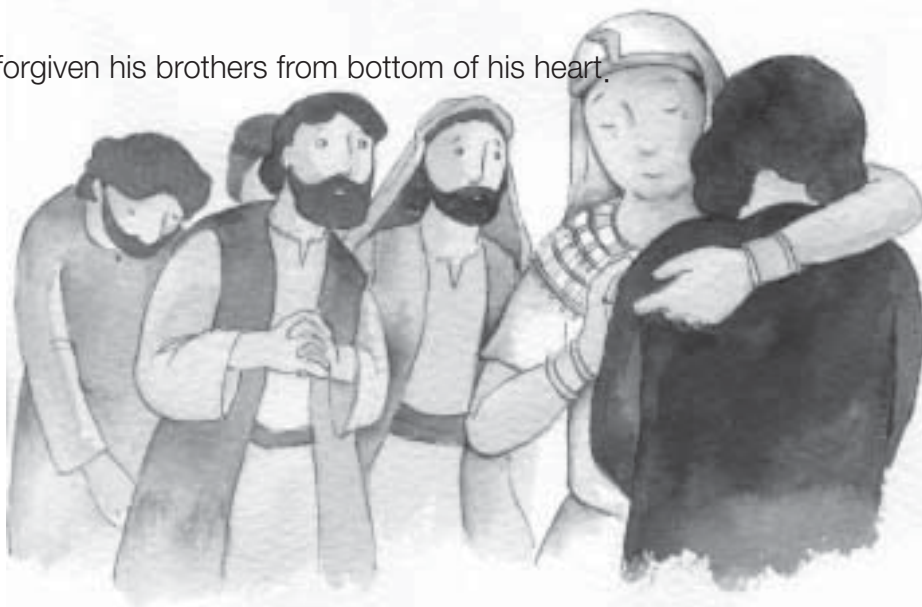
Joseph and his brothers hugged each other and wept. Joseph made it so that his father and all his family in Canaan could come to Egypt and live there, and took care of them so that there wouldn't be any problems. After some time passed, Joseph's father, Jacob, ended up dying. Right after Jacob died, Joseph's older brothers began thinking,

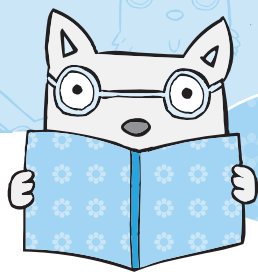
“Since our father has now died, will Joseph start hating us and make us pay back all the bad things we did to him?”

Joseph, knowing that they were thinking these things, sincerely told them,

“Brothers, don't worry. Would I take the place of God? Although you acted to harm me, God used that for God and saved our family like this, didn't He? So don't be afraid.”

Joseph had already forgiven his brothers from bottom of his heart.





Today's Study

Joseph, Man of Forgiveness

1. What did Joseph's brothers do to Joseph? (Think about what we learned in Lesson 19 and answer the question.)

2. What did Joseph do about his brothers who did him wrong?

3. What do you usually do to someone who does you wrong? ()



❶ I pretend there's nothing wrong on the outside, but really hate him inside.



❷ I say bad things to him and yell at him.



❸ I forgive him and treat him like the good friends we once were.



❹ I ignore him and don't even look at him.

4. Compare yourself with Joseph. What did you feel after reading Joseph's story? Write your answer freely and honestly.

There's no one who ever did as big of a wrong to us as Joseph's brothers did to him. No matter how much hate we may have, try to become a forgiving Christian by thinking about Joseph.

God's Will

1. How did Joseph's childhood dream come to be true? (Think about what we learned in Lesson 19 and answer the question.)

2. When Joseph saw his brothers in Egypt, he came to understand why God sent him to Egypt. What was the reason?

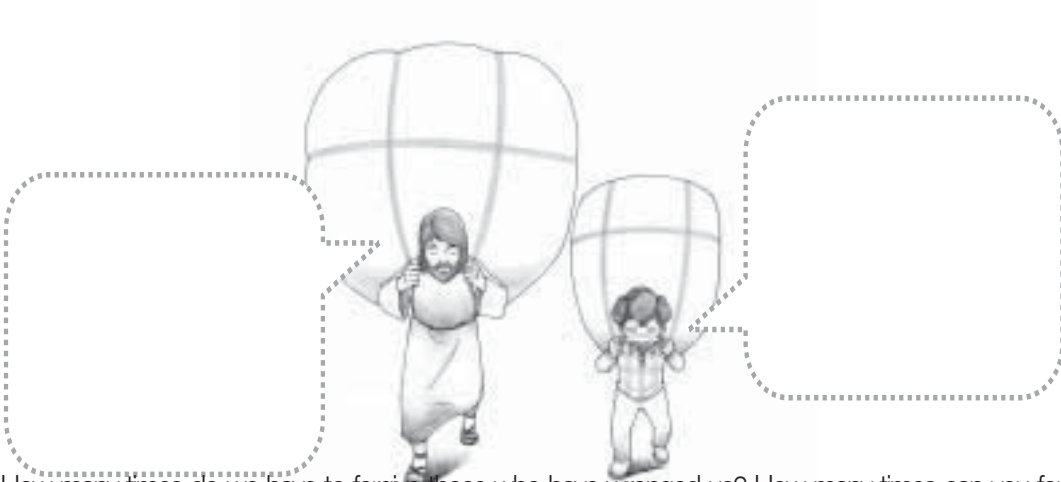
Joseph came to realize that God saved his family through his brothers' wrong doing. Joseph, who had understood the will of God, was able to stop hating his brothers and forgive them.



Today's Lesson

We, Who Received Forgiveness from Jesus, Forgive Like Jesus

1. Why do we have to forgive those who do wrong to us? Write down all the sins that Jesus has forgiven you on the burden that Jesus has borne. And on your own burden, write down the wrongs of your friends or family that you have to forgive.



2. How many times do we have to forgive those who have wronged us? How many times can you forgive your friends who do the same bad things to you over and over again? Write honestly.

Next is a conversation between Peter and Jesus. What did Jesus say in reply to Peter's question? Read Matthew 18:22 and write down Jesus' reply.

"Jesus, how many times should I forgive my brother if he does me wrong? Up to seven times?"



How many times do you think Jesus wants us to forgive a friend's wrongdoing? Just as Jesus eternally forgave our sins, we also forgive our friends' sins to the end.



Today's Lesson

3. What is true forgiveness? Read the text below and think about it.



What do you think true forgiveness is?

then He adds, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will no more." (Hebrews 10:17)

For what reason were you not yet able to forgive the wrongdoings of others?

Forgiving is not something easy. But it's incredibly important that you pray and make up your mind to forgive and make an actual effort. Write down your promise to forgive the friend or family's wrongdoing which you couldn't forgive yet.

And be kind to one another tenderhearted, one another, even as

God in you. (Ephesians 4:32)



Joseph and Jesus

There are many close similarities between Joseph and Jesus. Jesus came to this world and suffered greatly on the cross. However, He resurrected and ascended into the heavens and will later come in the form of a glorious King. Joseph also went through many difficulties and afterwards became the governor of Egypt

Jesus	Joseph
<div>1. Was hated by the Israelites,</div> <div>2. Was betrayed by the Israelites and delivered to the Romans,</div> <div>3. Was sold for 30 coins of silver,</div> <div>4. Forgives all the sins of those who believe Him,</div> <div>5. Rules over the whole world,</div>	<div>1. Was hated by his brothers,</div> <div>2. Was sold by his brothers to Midianite traders and became a servant of an Egyptian person,</div> <div>3. Was sold for 20 coins of silver,</div> <div>4. Forgave his brothers, who repented their sins,</div> <div>5. Ruled over all the people of Egypt,</div>

parents

Teacher

Let's Find out



* Another John Selwyn

John Selwyn who was famous for professional boxer in his college days, served as an evangelism pastor in the south pacific region.

One day, he was rebuking a certain *false convert. The person got angry and hit John hard in the face with clenched fist. But John was just looking at him with crossed arms.

He felt shame and ran into the jungle.

Several years later, John Selwyn returned home due to a serious illness. Many years later, the person who hit John, came to the pastor who succeeded John Selwyn, confessed Jesus Christ as his Lord, and wanted to be baptized.

The pastor asked him about which name he wants to have. Then he said without hesitation, John Selwyn! He taught me who Jesus Christ is.

*false convert: the person who has changed his/her religion