



Under Construction: God at Work

“Brothers, continue to think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected.” Philippians 4:8 (ICB)

LESSON - GOD BUILDS A FORGIVING HEART!

Welcome back to Under Construction: God at Work! Last week, we learned that Joseph chose to do what was right and trust God, even when life was difficult. God was still working in Joseph's life, one step at a time. Today, we'll discover one of the most important things God built in Joseph's heart: forgiveness. When Joseph came face-to-face with the brothers who had hurt him, he had a choice to make. Let's find out how Joseph chose forgiveness and showed God's love.

SAY IT: I can forgive!

DO IT: Place your hands over your heart and smile.

While Joseph was in prison, God helped him understand dreams. Later, Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, had some dreams that no one could explain. Joseph told Pharaoh what the dreams meant and gave him wise advice. Pharaoh saw that God was with Joseph and put him in charge of helping Egypt get ready for a time when there would not be enough food.

SAY IT: God helped Joseph!

DO IT: Point up to the sky.

Soon, a famine came. A famine means there was not enough food. Joseph's brothers traveled to Egypt to buy food. They did not know that the man in charge was Joseph! Joseph knew exactly who they were. His brothers had been mean to him many years before. They had hurt his feelings and sent him far away from home. Joseph could have stayed angry, but God was helping him let go of his hurt.

SAY IT: Let it go!

DO IT: Pretend to drop something from your hands.

But one day, Joseph told his brothers who he was. “I am Joseph!” he said. His brothers were afraid because they thought Joseph might punish them. But Joseph had a different plan. Joseph chose kindness. Joseph chose mercy. Joseph chose forgiveness.

SAY IT: Joseph forgave!

DO IT: Open your arms wide.

Joseph told his brothers not to be afraid. Instead of getting even, Joseph showed them love. God had been working in Joseph's heart for many years. God helped Joseph forgive the people who had hurt him.

SAY IT: Choose kindness!

DO IT: Make a heart with your hands.

Then something wonderful happened. Joseph hugged his brothers. His family was together again. The family that had once been broken was beginning to heal because Joseph chose forgiveness.

SAY IT: Forgiveness shows God's love!

DO IT: Give yourself a hug.

Sometimes people hurt our feelings too. Maybe someone says something unkind or doesn't share. When that happens, God can help us forgive just like Joseph did. When we forgive, we show God's love to others. When Joseph forgave his brothers, he chose kindness and mercy instead of staying angry. We learned that God can help us forgive others and show His love too.

SAY IT: I can forgive!

PRAYER: Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us and forgiving us. Help us forgive others when they hurt our feelings. Fill our hearts with kindness, mercy, and love. Thank You for helping us become more like You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

LESSON QUESTIONS - 10 MINS

2 & 3Yr OLDS

1. Did Joseph see his brothers again? **(Yes)**
2. Did Joseph stay angry forever? **(No)**
3. Did Joseph forgive his brothers? **(Yes)**
4. Can God help us forgive? **(Yes)**

4Yrs - 1st GRADE

1. Who helped Pharaoh understand his dreams? **Joseph**
2. Why did Joseph's brothers come to Egypt? **To get food**
3. What did Joseph do when he saw his brothers? **He forgave them and showed them kindness**
4. Can God help us forgive others? **Yes**



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ACTIVITY 1: LET IT GO TOSS

Items Needed: Bean bags and bucket

Connection: Forgiveness lets go of hurt.

Step 1: Give each child a bean bag

Step 2: Have them toss it into a bucket

Step 3: Each time they toss, say: “Let it go!”

Step 4: Remind children that Joseph let go of his anger and forgave.

ACTIVITY 2: WRECKING BALL BOWLING

Items Needed: Bowling game

Connection: When God is building our character sometimes it’s like a wrecking ball; Boom our hearts are made new!

Step 1: Have children line up, one at a time.

Step 2: Each child will roll the bowling ball and try to knock over as many pins as they can! This may take a few tries.

Step 3: When a child knocks over the pins, have everyone shout, “God’s at work!”

ACTIVITY 3: BUBBLE PARTY OR STORY TIME

Items Needed: Bubbles and music OR book basket

We’ve got some extra time today, so let’s spend it worshipping and dancing with bubbles or reading a book to the class (please show the pictures on each page).

CRAFT OR COLORING SHEET (USE 1 OR 2 OPTIONS DEPENDING ON CLASS AGE & TIME)

CRAFT 1: FORGIVENESS CROWN CRAFT

Items Needed: Pre-cut Crown template, crayons/markers, glue/glue dots

Connection: God wants me to forgive others.

Step 1: Distribute pre-cut forgiveness crowns.

Step 2: Allow kids to color templates.

Step 3: Help the children glue the front and back of the crown together.

CRAFT 2: JOSEPH FORGIVES HIS BROTHERS COLORING SHEET

Items Needed: Coloring sheet and crayons.

Connection: God can help us to forgive others.

Step 1: Distribute the coloring sheets and allow time to color.

♥ God Builds a Forgiving Heart! ♥

Joseph Forgave His Brothers

Genesis 45



**Joseph forgave his brothers.
God can help me forgive too!**



Trace:

I can forgive.

Who forgave
his brothers?

Joseph!



I Can Forgive!



Can God help
me forgive?

Yes!

