#### Lesson 7:

#### Jacob Prepares for Famine/Jacob’s Family Moves

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Genesis 41-50

MEMORY WORK:

Insert your own

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God does not want me to “get back at” someone who has hurt me in some way. God wants me to forgive.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Last week, we learned about how Joseph got out of prison. How did he get out? What did Pharaoh’s dream mean? Now, Pharaoh gave Joseph an important job and he had lots of power. He was to be in charge of all the food supplies of Egypt. Remember how Joseph’s brothers were mean to him and sold him? Today, we are going to learn about how Joseph forgave them for what they did to him. What does it mean to forgive someone? God wants us to forgive others

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review briefly Pharaoh’s dream and Joseph’s interpretation. Joseph had told the king there would be seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine. Pharaoh rewarded Joseph by making him second-in-command, putting him in charge of all the food supplies of Egypt to prepare for the famine.
2. Joseph was 30 years old when Pharaoh put him in charge of all the food supplies of Egypt. He also gave Joseph a wife, Asenath. Joseph and Asenath had two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim.

**NOTE:** Even in his prosperity, Joseph did not forget God and how He helped him. When he named his first son, he said, “For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father’s house.” When he named Ephraim, he said, “For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction” (Genesis 41:51-52).

1. Joseph spent the seven good years storing up all the grain he could throughout Egypt. (Genesis 41:49 says that the grain Joseph gathered was like the sand of the sea, and he stopped counting because it was without number.) When the famine did come, it spread to many other countries, too, so multitudes of people were starving. Many people from many different places came to Egypt to buy food when they heard that Egypt had stored grain. Joseph’s brothers were among those who came to Egypt to buy food.
2. Ten of his brothers made the long trip from Canaan to Egypt. They had to talk to Joseph, but they did not recognize him. They had not seen him in over 20 years. By this time, Joseph was 39 (Genesis 45:6). He wore the clothes of an Egyptian official, spoke the Egyptian language, and had an Egyptian name (Zaphenath-paneah). In addition, Egyptians, both men and women, wore make-up. When his brothers bowed down before him, asking to buy food, Joseph remembered his dreams from many years before (bundles of grain bowed down to his bundle; the Sun, Moon, and stars bowed down to him.)
3. Joseph asked them about any family they had left behind in Canaan, so that he could find out if his father Jacob was still alive and if his brother Benjamin was all right.
4. Joseph accused his brothers of being spies and put all of them in prison for three days. Then he took Simeon and put him in jail while the nine returned to Canaan with the grain—and their money. Joseph told them that Simeon would be released from jail if they would return and bring their youngest brother.
5. When the nine brothers returned to Canaan to their aged father, Jacob, they told him they must take Benjamin back to Egypt in order to get Simeon out of jail. But Jacob said he wouldn’t let them take Benjamin. He was still very sad (mourning) over Joseph after all that time and didn’t want anything to happen to another son, especially the last remaining son of Rachel.
6. Finally, however, the brothers had to go back to Egypt to buy more food. They took twice the amount of money they had at first, and they took Benjamin after all. After a very long journey, they came to Joseph again. Joseph invited them to be his guests at a meal and released Simeon from prison (probably a year later, Genesis 42:23). They were surprised that he sat them in order of their ages, from oldest to youngest. He gave them all more than enough to eat, but he gave Benjamin five times as much as the others.
7. When the brothers started to return to Canaan, Joseph had one of his servants hide his own silver cup in one of the bags of grain. After the brothers had gone out of the city, Joseph sent his steward to accuse them of stealing his cup. He probably did this to test their character—to see if they would feel sorry for anything they did, to see if they had tender hearts willing to accept responsibility for hurting Joseph and their father so many years before. The steward found Joseph’s cup in Benjamin’s bag, and the brothers were horrified. They all returned to Egypt with Benjamin. (Note how different the brothers felt about Benjamin, even though he was now Jacob’s favorite.)
8. When they were brought back to Joseph, he listened to Judah’s defense (“God has found out the iniquity of your servants!”—Genesis 44:16) and to Judah begging Joseph to keep him instead of Benjamin. Joseph then realized his brothers truly had changed, and he broke down and cried, telling them in their own language that he was their long-lost brother Joseph.
9. His brothers were speechless at first; they were so surprised to find Joseph in such a position of power, exactly as his dreams had predicted. Then they were afraid, thinking Joseph might take revenge on them. Joseph reassured them that he was not interested in getting even with them, because he said God had used his situation for the good of many people. Then Joseph kissed his brothers and cried with joy over them.
10. When Pharaoh heard that Joseph’s brothers had come from Canaan, he invited all of them and their father to live in Egypt, in an area called Goshen. The Bible says Pharaoh gave the Israelites Goshen because the Egyptians did not like to live near shepherds. (Living in Goshen kept the Israelites isolated from the Egyptians and helped preserve their heritage and identity as God’s people.) Joseph sent them back to Jacob with many wagons full of food and gifts.

**NOTE:** Acts 7:14 says 75 people, which has caused some to say that the Bible contradicts itself. See the article, “[Jacob’s Journey to Egypt](http://www.apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&amp;article=808),” on the Apologetics Press Web site for a defense of the Bible on that matter.

1. When his 11 sons returned to Canaan and told Jacob all that had happened in Egypt, the first thing he did was to offer sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to God! God spoke to Jacob and told him that he should take his family to Egypt. (There were 66 men, not counting wives, who traveled to Egypt from Canaan—70 men counting Jacob, Joseph and his two sons. See Genesis 46:26-27)
2. Joseph was in a position to punish his brothers but chose to forgive them instead. God expects us to forgive as well (Matthew 6:12-15). Jesus said that we should be willing to forgive as many times as we are asked for forgiveness (Matthew 18:21-35). Forgiveness means to “send away, cover, remove, or wipe away” something done wrong to us. It is not something we can do half-way or half-heartedly. In the same way that God forgives us over and over when we repent and try to make things right with Him, He expects us to have a forgiving spirit towards those that try to make things right with us as well (Luke 17:3-4).

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. This lesson has three visual parts:
	+ “07(A)” shows Joseph preparing for the famine.
	+ “07 (B)” covers Joseph’s brothers coming to Egypt.
	+ “07 (C) shows Jacob’s family moving to Egypt.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“THESE ARE THE** **SONS OF JACOB”**

 (Tune: “10 Little Indians”)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher,

Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin,

These are the sons of Jacob.

**“Three Wandering Jews**

Once there were three wandering Jews. Once there were three wandering Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Once there were three wandering Jews.

The first one’s name was Abraham. The first one’s name was Abraham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

The first one’s name was Abraham.

The second one’s name was Isaac. The second one’s name was Isaac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

The second one’s name was Isaac.

The third one’s name was Jacob. The third one’s name was Jacob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

The third one’s name was Jacob.

They all went down to Canaan’s land. They all went down to Canaan’s land.

Canaan-Canaan, Land-land-land. Canaan-Canaan Land-land-land.

They all went down to Canaan’s land.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Finish a Joseph book
* “Joseph’s Many Robes” Activity: Print a picture of Joseph on cardstock, let the children color him, and stick a piece of Velcro on him. Have five “robes” for each child and have the children color his many robes. (Colorful robe, Slave robe, Servant robe, Prison robe, and Leader robe.) They can change his clothes and review the different times in his life.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

INTRODUCTION:

Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Discuss with students times when their feelings have been hurt, or someone has done something to them. Discuss ways, both appropriate and inappropriate, to handle those situations. Discuss how worldly people would handle those situations, and then search the Scriptures to see how God tells us to handle them.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* This is a good time to do a review of all the Joseph lessons. A long game, like using a candyland board would work well for this. Refer to lessons 4-7 for review questions.

### Review Questions

### 1. How old was Joseph when he became the second-in-command in Egypt?

### 30

### What were the names of Joseph’s two sons?

### Manasseh and Ephraim

### How many years did Joseph spend gathering food and grain?

### Seven

### Did the famine only affect Egypt?

###  No, it spread to other countries, too.

### Why did Joseph’s brothers come to Egypt?

###  They came to get grain and food to eat.

### Did they know Joseph?

###  No, they had not seen him in over 20 years, and he spoke the Egyptian language and wore the clothes of an Egyptian official. He was also given an Egyptian name.

### Did Joseph know who his brothers were?

### Yes. He recognized them.

### Did the brothers bow down to Joseph?

### Yes, and Joseph thought back to his dreams of the stalks of grain and of the Sun, Moon, and stars

### What did Joseph accuse his brothers of being?

### Spies

### What did he do with his brothers?

###  He put them in jail for three days.

### Who did he choose to keep in Egypt?

###  Simeon

### What did Joseph say would get Simeon released from prison?

### They must bring back their youngest brother, Benjamin.

### Did Jacob say Benjamin could go back with them to Egypt?

### No. He did not want to lose another son of Rachel. So he would not let them take him back to Egypt.

### Did the brothers have to go back to Egypt for more food?

### Yes. This time they took twice as much money, and they took Benjamin with them.

### How long had it been since they had been to Egypt?

### About a year

### What did Joseph do when he saw his brothers again?

###  He invited them for a meal.

### How did he seat them for this meal?

### From the oldest to the youngest

### How much food did he give Benjamin?

### Five times more than anyone else

### What did Joseph have his servants hide in one of the brother’s bags?

###  His silver cup

### Whose bag was it placed in?

### Benjamin’s

### Who begged to be taken in Benjamin’s place?

### Judah

### What did Joseph finally tell his brothers?

### That he was their brother Joseph

### Were the brothers afraid?

### Yes, Joseph had great power and could take revenge on them for what they had done to him.

### What did Joseph do?

### He told them to go home and bring Jacob back with them for him to care for them.

### What land did Pharaoh give Joseph’s family to live on?

### Goshen

### Joseph was in a position to punish his brothers, but what did he choose to do instead?

### Forgive them

### How old was Jacob when he moved to Egypt?

### 130

### How long did he live in Egypt before he knew he was going to die?

### 17 years

### Who came to see him before he died?

### Joseph, who brought Manesseh and Ephraim to see him

### How old was Jacob when he died?

### 147

### Where did he want to be buried?

### In the land of Canaan with his ancestors

### How many days did the Egyptians mourn his death?

### 70 days

### What did Joseph’s brothers think Joseph would do after the death of their father?

### Seek revenge against them

### Did he?

###  No. He told them he had no intention of ever harming them.

###  How old was Joseph when Jacob died?

### 57

### How old was Joseph when he died?

### 110

### Where did Joseph want to be buried?

### He also wanted to be buried in Canaan.

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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