

The Second Journey of Joseph's Brothers **Genesis 43,44**



Aim How did Joseph's brothers show that they had changed?



Truth Joseph's brothers showed love for their father and for Benjamin.

Application: God wants us also to show love for others.

Response: We show love for others out of love for God.

Lesson Summary: When Jacob instructed his sons to return to Egypt, Judah reminded his father that Benjamin must come along and personally guaranteed Benjamin's safety. In Egypt, Joseph continued to test his brothers, who showed love, rather than jealousy, toward Benjamin.



1 John 4:8
*** The Fifth Commandment**
 (with explanation)



famine—a time when there is a great shortage of food

responsible—being the one who must get a job done and take the blame if it is not done



See Franzmann, *Bible History Commentary: Old Testament*, pages 196–199; The People's Bible: Jeske, *Genesis*, pages 350–364.



Dear Lord, I know that you want me to show love for all people. Yet, when one of my students shows a lack of love for me or for classmates, it is difficult for me to maintain a loving spirit toward that child. Help me consistently be a model of Christian love for all my students. Amen.

Looking Back at Lesson 2

The First Journey of Joseph's Brothers

Genesis 42

Aim: Why did God let troubles come to Joseph's brothers?

Truth: God wanted Joseph's brothers to repent of their sins.

Application: God sometimes uses troubles to lead us to repentance.

Response: We respond to God's loving discipline by repenting.

Lesson Summary: When the famine struck Canaan, Jacob sent his ten oldest sons to Egypt to get food. They were brought before Joseph, but they didn't recognize him. Joseph tested them by accusing them of being spies. He imprisoned Simeon and commanded the other brothers to go home and return with Benjamin. The brothers thought they were being punished for their sins against Joseph.

Memory Treasures: *Romans 8:28; Hebrews 11:1; *The Seventh Petition of the Lord's Prayer; *Hymn 429:2

Alternate Lesson Plan



Sing: Sing “Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear” (hymn 282:1) to pray that God would

bless the children as they hear his Word.

Pray: Dear God, as I hear your Word today, send your Holy Spirit to strengthen my faith. Keep me your dear child forever. Amen.



You’ll need the Dr. Seuss book *Green Eggs and Ham*.

Show the book. Ask what Sam-I-Am kept trying to get his friend to do. [*To eat green eggs and ham.*] Point out that at first his friend wouldn’t even try them and said he didn’t like them. Ask how, in the end, the friend showed that he had changed. [*He ate the green eggs and ham, said that he liked them, and talked about all the places he would eat them.*]

Tell or remind the children that Joseph was testing his brothers to learn whether they had changed. Ask how the brothers had shown long ago that they were full of jealousy and hatred. [*They were upset when their father gave Joseph a special coat. They planned to kill Joseph, threw him into a well, and sold him.*]



Today we’ll hear the answer to the question, **How did Joseph’s brothers show that they had changed?**



WORSHIP

Sing: Sing “Love in Christ Is Strong and Living” (hymn 490:1). This hymn tells us that God’s love in our hearts leads us to show love to others.

Pray:

Lord, let me show love
To each of my friends
In thanks for your love—
Love that never ends.

Lord, let me show love—
All this week, every day—
In all that I do
And all that I say. Amen.



Before class, write the following words and phrases on the board: “Benjamin, come back, Egypt, grain, he didn’t, jealousy and hatred, recognize him, sins, spies.”

Review Lesson 2 by challenging the children to finish the following sentences that summarize the lesson, choosing from the words and phrases on the board:

- Joseph’s ten older brothers had come to Egypt to buy [*grain*].
- They were brought before Joseph, but they didn’t [*recognize him*].
- Joseph knew his brothers but pretended [*he didn’t*].
- He wanted to see if their hearts were still filled with [*jealousy and hatred*].
- So he accused them of being [*spies*].
- Then he said they must go home and bring back their youngest brother, [*Benjamin*].
- Joseph also kept Simeon in prison to make sure his brothers would [*come back*].
- The brothers thought they were being punished for what they had done to Joseph, and they were sorry for their [*sins*].
- When they got home and told their father what had happened, Jacob said that he would not let Benjamin go to [*Egypt*].



Aim

In today’s lesson we’ll talk about how Joseph finished testing his brothers and found out that they really had changed. You’ll hear **how Joseph’s brothers showed that they had changed.**



Note: Remember there are To Do at Home activity options in a separate file on the Teacher’s Guide CD.



Have the children silently copy you as you pantomime parts of the story. For example, when you describe Judah saying that the brothers can't go to Egypt without Benjamin, shake your head no. When you tell how Jacob instructed his sons to take gifts and money with them, act as if you are placing these items in a wagon. The children should copy every action you do as you tell the story. (Note: The asterisks in the story are for use with the alternate **Learn**, Option 2.)

The terrible **famine continued** in the land of **Canaan**. **Jacob** had **already sent ten** of his **sons to buy grain** from Egypt. **Joseph** had **sold grain** to his brothers, but he had **kept Simeon in prison**. Jacob's **family finally used up all the grain** the brothers had brought them. So **Jacob** told his **sons**, "You have to **go back** to Egypt and **buy us** some **more** food."

Judah answered, "If you **don't send Benjamin** to Egypt with us, we might as well **not go**. The **ruler warned** us that he **wouldn't sell** us any **more grain** unless we brought Benjamin along. And we **need to get more** grain, **or** we're all going to **starve**. So you've **got to let him go**. **I myself** will be **responsible for Benjamin's safety**. If I don't bring him back, you can **blame me** for the rest of my life."* [worried]

Then **Jacob** said, "If there is **no other way**, all right! But at least do this: **Take some** fine **gifts** for the ruler. And take **double the amount of money** along, so that you can **pay back** the **money you found** in your sacks. Then **take Benjamin and go**. And **may God cause** that **man to show kindness** to you so that he will **let Simeon and Benjamin come back** home with you."* [happy or worried]

When the **brothers arrived** in Egypt, **Joseph** told his **servant**, "Take these men **to my house**. They're **going to eat with me** this noon."

When **the brothers** realized that they were being taken to the ruler's house, they **were frightened**. They **thought**, "This **ruler is going to accuse us of stealing** the money that was in our sacks. He probably plans to **make us his slaves**."* [worried]

So the brothers **went to Joseph's servant** and told him, "After we bought grain here the first time, **we found** that **the money** we had paid was in our sacks. So we **brought that money back with us**, along with more money to buy more food. We **don't know who put the money back into our sacks**."

But Joseph's **servant** said, "**Don't worry** about it. Your **God put** that **money there**. I received the money you paid for your grain." Then he **brought Simeon out** to them.* [happy]

When **Joseph** got home, he **asked** his **brothers how they were**. Then he asked, "And **how is your father?** Is he **still living?**"

"Yes," the **brothers** answered. "He is **alive and well**." And they **bowed down** before Joseph.

Note: You'll need to use the story in the adjacent column.



Tell the story as if you were Judah. For example, you could begin by saying, "Nine of my brothers and I had already gone to get grain from Egypt. But the famine still continued, and we ate up all the grain. So one day our father, Jacob, told us to go back to Egypt. I told him that..."



Draw **emotion faces** on the board to represent feeling surprised, scared or worried, and happy. Each time you reach an asterisk in the story, stop and ask a child to come to the board to point out how the person(s) in that part of the story must have felt.



Surprised



Scared/
Worried



Happy



Each child will need a 4" to 6" white, paper square and crayons or markers.

Say In today's lesson, Joseph's brothers had some problems, and each problem had a solution. I am going to name the problems, and I want you to tell me what their solutions were.

Do Use these problems:

Problem: Jacob didn't want to let Benjamin go with his brothers to get the food they needed.

Solution: [Judah promised to bring Benjamin home safely. Then Jacob let him go.]

Problem: Benjamin was given five times as much food as the other brothers.

Solution: [The brothers chose not to be jealous.]

Problem: The silver cup was found in Benjamin's sack, and Joseph said that he was going to make Benjamin his slave.

Solution: [Judah offered to stay as a slave in Benjamin's place.]

Ask After the brothers had sold Joseph, how did they also treat their father cruelly? [By making him believe that Joseph was dead.] But now how were they treating their father? [They were being kind to him by taking care of Benjamin for him.]

Then **Joseph looked at Benjamin**, and **tears of joy** began to run down his cheeks.* [happy] He **hurried out of the room** so that no one could see him crying.

When Joseph **returned**, they **all sat down to eat**. The **brothers** were **amazed** to see **that the ruler had seated them** in the order of their ages, **from oldest to youngest!*** [surprised] They were also surprised when the **servants served five times as much food to Benjamin** as to anyone else. Still, they **all were happy** as they ate and drank with Joseph.* [happy]

After the meal was over, **Joseph told** his **servant**, "**Fill each man's sack with grain**, and **put his money into the top** of his sack. Then **put my silver cup** into the **sack of the youngest** brother."

The **next morning** the brothers **started** on their way **home**. But they had not gone far when **Joseph's servant caught up** with them and said, "**Why did you steal** my master's **silver cup**? **Is this the way** you **pay him back** for being good to you?"

The **brothers** said, "**How** can you even **think** that **we would** do such a thing? Didn't we bring back the money we found in our sacks last time? Here, **search our sacks! If you find the cup**, you can **kill the man** who has it. And the **rest of us will be** your master's **slaves!**"* [worried]

The **servant searched** the sacks one by one, beginning with the oldest and ending with the youngest. Of course, he **found the cup in Benjamin's sack**.* [surprised] Shocked and saddened, the **brothers returned to Joseph's house**. There they **threw themselves on the ground** before Joseph, and **Judah spoke** for them all. "**What can we say**, my lord?" he asked. "**How can we prove** that we did not steal your cup? **God is punishing us** for our sins. Sir, **we will all be** your **slaves!**"

"No," said **Joseph**. "**Only the one who stole** my cup will stay as my slave. The **rest of you** may **go home** to your father."

Then **Judah** spoke again. "Please **listen** to me and do not be angry. The last time we were here, **you told us** that we had **to bring our youngest brother** to Egypt or you wouldn't let us buy any more food. **Our father was very worried** and didn't want the boy to come. But **I promised** that I would **take care of him and bring him back** safely. **If we go** back home **without Benjamin**, our **father will die** of sadness. So please, sir, **let me stay** here as **your slave in his place**, and let Benjamin go home to his father."* [happy or worried]



discuss

Each child will need **scissors** and duplicates of **Copy Masters 1 and 2**.

Ask When Jacob told his sons to go back to Egypt, what did Judah say? [*That they couldn't go without Benjamin.*]

Say Judah promised to keep Benjamin safe.

Ask How is this different from the way Judah had acted toward Joseph? [*Judah was the one who had suggested selling Joseph.*]

How had Judah and his brothers hurt their father back then? [*They had made their father believe that Joseph was dead.*]

How was Judah now showing love for his father? [*Judah was helping his father feel better by promising to keep Benjamin safe.*]

Say We all have the same Father whom we love—God the Father.

Ask What are some of the ways God has shown his love for you? [*He made us, takes care of us, gives us all we have, and—most important—sent Jesus to take away our sins on the cross.*]

Do Have the children open their Bibles to 1 John 4:19 and read the passage together. Point out that remembering God's love for us leads us to show love to others.

Ask When the brothers were taken to Joseph's house, why were they frightened? [*They thought the ruler was going to accuse them of stealing the money they found in their sacks and make them his slaves.*]

Why did the servant say he had received the money for their grain when he hadn't received the money? [*Either Joseph had told him to say this or else the money had been paid—by Joseph!*]

When it was time to eat, what two things surprised the brothers? [*They were seated in the order of their ages—which the ruler shouldn't have known—and Benjamin was served five times as much food as the rest of them.*]

Say When Joseph had been given more than his brothers—the special coat—the brothers had been very jealous and hated him.

Ask How did the brothers now show that they had changed? [*They didn't show jealousy when Benjamin received more food.*]

Do Give each child a duplicate of Copy Master 1. Ask the children to mark on each line the number from 1 to 10 that shows how jealous they would honestly feel in each of those situations. (Assure them that the papers will not be collected.) When they are done, ask them to look at their papers and think about how tempting it is to become jealous.

Say When Joseph had been Jacob's favorite son, the brothers had been cruel to Joseph. Now it appears that, with Joseph gone, Benjamin was Jacob's favorite son.

Ask How would you have expected the brothers to treat Benjamin if they hadn't changed? [*Cruelly, as they had treated Joseph.*] But how did the brothers treat Benjamin instead? [*Kindly, lovingly.*] So, how did the brothers show that they had changed? [*They showed love for their father and Benjamin.*]

Say The brothers showed something about themselves by the way they acted.

Ask If I said to you, "I love to read," what kinds of things would you expect to see me doing? [*Reading, going to the library, etc.*] If I said, "I love playing basketball," what would you expect to see me doing? [*Playing on a basketball team, shooting baskets in the driveway, etc.*]

Do Have the children read 1 John 4:8 from their Bibles.

Ask If I say, “I love God,” what can you expect to see me doing? *[Showing love for God and others.]* What are some ways Christians show love for others? *[Being kind, sharing, helping, telling others about Jesus, etc.]*

Say Showing love is not something we do to get to heaven. It is a way we say thanks to God, who first loved us and sent his Son, Jesus, to die for us.

Do Give each child a paper square on which to draw a way he or she plans to show love for others. Post the pictures on a bulletin board or poster entitled “We show love for others.”

Ask Why does the devil want you to become jealous? *[He wants us to sin, not only by being jealous but also by letting our jealousy lead to hatred and other sins.]*

How can you show your love for God in these situations? *[We can be happy for others and show them love, even when things don't seem fair.]*

Say As Joseph's final test for his brothers, he had his servant put the brothers' money back into their sacks and put his silver cup into Benjamin's sack. Then, when they were on their way home, he sent the servant to accuse them of stealing.

Ask What did the brothers say should happen if the servant found the cup? *[The servant could kill the man who had it and make the rest of them the ruler's slaves.]*

Say When the cup was found in Benjamin's sack, the brothers told the ruler—Joseph—that they would all be his slaves. But Joseph said that only Benjamin needed to stay as a slave.

Ask How might the brothers have acted if they had not changed since they had sold Joseph into slavery? *[They probably would have left Benjamin and gone home.]*

Instead, what did Judah offer to do? *[To stay as a slave in Benjamin's place so that Benjamin could go home.]*

Say From what we know, it seems that after Joseph was gone, Jacob considered Benjamin his favorite son. But the brothers didn't treat Benjamin as they had treated Joseph. Judah showed love for both his father and for Benjamin. God wants us also to show love toward others.

Do Give each of the children a duplicate of Copy Master 2, and have them cut out the long, rectangular strip and the squares.

Say Lay the rectangle on the desk (table) in front of you. Then read the ideas on the squares. Place each square under a heading to indicate how you can show love for those people.

Do When the children are done, have them share their responses, recognizing that some of the squares could go under more than one heading. Here is one possible response:

Classmates, Brothers, and Sisters	Parents	People I Don't Know
play fairly with them	obey them	smile and say hello to them
share things with them	help them do chores	give mission offerings so that they can learn about Jesus
tell them when they've done a good job	say nice things about them	pray for them

Say Let's show our love for God by showing love for others!

CLOSE

Say I'm going to ask you four questions. For each question, if the answer is "cruelly," I want you to scowl and look angry. If the answer is "lovingly," I want you to make a smiling, happy face.

Ask When Joseph was a young man, how did his brothers treat him? [*Cruelly.*]

After they had sold Joseph, how did Joseph's brothers treat their father? [*Cruelly.*]

In today's lesson, how did Joseph's brothers treat their father? [*Lovingly.*]

In today's lesson, how did Joseph's brothers treat Benjamin? [*Lovingly.*]

How did Joseph's brothers show that they had changed? [*Joseph's brothers showed love for their father and for Benjamin.*]

What does God want us also to do? [*God wants us also to show love for others.*]

Say Let's show love for others out of love for God.

Do *Pray:* O loving God, fill us with Christian love for one another. Help us be kind to others as we travel on the road to heaven. We pray in the name of Jesus, who showed us his great love. Amen.



You will need one or two **books** in which characters' behaviors change, such as *Green Eggs and Ham* and *A Christmas Carol*. You will also need a **Bible**.

Do Show the books you have chosen, and ask or tell the children how the behaviors of the characters in those books changed by the end. Then show the Bible.

Ask Today, whose behavior changed in the story from this book? [*Joseph's brothers.*] How did Joseph's brothers show that they had changed? [*Joseph's brothers showed love for their father and for Benjamin.*] What does God want us also to do? [*God wants us also to show love for others.*]

Say Let's show love for others out of love for God.

Do Close by singing "Take My Life and Let It Be" (hymn 469:1,2,6) to pray that our hands, feet, and entire lives show love for God.



1 John 4:8

* The Fifth Commandment

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

Joseph's brothers obeyed this commandment in the way they showed love to their father, to Benjamin, and to one another. God wants us also to help and be friends to others.

OPTIONAL

mid- week Lesson

- Teach the children the refrain to Psalm 51b (hymnal, page 87). Tell the children that you will be speaking a prayer, and they should pray along silently.

Whenever you say, "We sing," they should join in the prayer by singing the psalm refrain. Here is the prayer:

Dear God, you have shown such great love for us! You made us and gave us all we have. You love us as your own dear children. But often we fail to show love to you and to the people around us. We sing (psalm refrain). God, you loved us so much that you sent your own dear Son, Jesus, to die on a cross for us. Jesus paid for our sins so

that we could be forgiven. Yet we fail to show love to others when they sin against us. Help us be forgiving, as you are. We sing (psalm refrain). O God, we want to thank you for your great love by showing Christian love to everyone we meet. But we need your Spirit's help to do this. We sing (psalm refrain). We pray in the name of our loving Savior. Amen.

- Use **Activity 1** under **Lesson Activities** to review the story.
- Use **Activity 2** to find specific ways the children can show Christian love to others.
- Close by singing "Love, Love" (**Copy Master 3**).

Lesson Activities

1. Review

Question Box

Purpose: To write and answer questions about the facts of the lesson.

Procedure: Divide the children into groups of two or three. Give each group four index cards. On each card have them write a question about the lesson. They should write the answer on the back. Then put all the cards in a box. Choose a volunteer to draw a card out of the box and answer the question written on it. Repeat until all the cards have been used.

2. Application

Love in 1 Corinthians

Purpose: To study the “love chapter” in the Bible, 1 Corinthians 13, and find specific ways the children can show Christian love.

Procedure: Have the children read about Christian love in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a. Then for each phrase, ask the children to name several specific ways to follow that example. For instance:

Love is patient/suffers long—I can try to be patient when my little sister messes up my room again and again.

Love is kind—I can be kind to the new boy in my class.

It does not envy/is not jealous—I won't be jealous that my friend has so many neat video games.

3. Music

“Love, Love”

Purpose: To reinforce the lesson application and practice singing a round.

Procedure: Teach the children the song “Love, Love” (**Copy Master 3**). Then teach them to sing the song as a round.

4. Art

Paper Ball Hearts

Purpose: To make reminders that we show love because God loved us and sent Jesus to die for us.

Procedure: Give each child a 6" square of brightly colored poster board, one sheet of black tissue paper, several sheets of colored tissue paper, and a 3" piece of yarn. Have the children follow these steps:

- Draw a large heart on the poster board square.
- Draw another heart about one-half inch inside the previous heart.
- Draw a cross in the center of the hearts.
- Cut the tissue paper into 2" squares and roll it into balls the size of large peas.
- Glue a single line of black balls to cover the cross. Fill in the visible area of the larger heart with balls of desired colors.
- To make a hanger, tape both ends of a 3" piece of yarn to the back of the picture.

5. Review and Apply

Joseph's Brothers Return

Purpose: To review the story using “who” questions and to name ways to show love.

Procedure: Have each child complete **Copy Master 4**. The answers are as follows:

Part One: 1. c, 2. e, 3. f, 4. d, 5. a, 6. b, 7. d, 8. f, 9. b, 10. a, 11. e, 12. g

Part Two: The answers will vary.

Love That Shows (Challenge)

Purpose: To outline the lesson and learn what 1 John 4:7-11 teaches us about love.

Procedure: Discuss how to outline the important points of a lesson. Then have each child complete **Copy Master 5**. The answers are as follows:

Part One: (Wording may vary.)

- I. The brothers needed to return to Egypt.
 - A. Jacob's family had [no more food].
 - B. Judah said that [he would take care of Benjamin].
 - C. Jacob decided [to let the brothers take Benjamin to Egypt].
- II. The brothers went to Joseph's house.
 - A. They were afraid that [the ruler would make them slaves].
 - B. They were seated [from oldest to youngest].
 - C. Benjamin was given [five times as much food as the others].
- III. Joseph continued testing his brothers.
 - A. The servant put a silver cup [in Benjamin's sack].
 - B. The brothers told Joseph [they would be his slaves].
 - C. Judah offered to [stay in Benjamin's place].

Part Two: (The answers for 1 to 4 may vary slightly.)

1. Love comes from God.
2. He sent his Son, Jesus, into the world.
3. God sent his Son to be an atoning sacrifice/propitiation (turning away God's anger by a sacrifice) for our sins.
4. We ought to love one another.
5. verse 8
6. 11 times

6. Other Ideas

Heart to Heart

Purpose: To encourage students to thoughtfully say they are sorry or say they forgive someone.

Procedure: Often children quickly say "I'm sorry" or "It's okay" when there has been a sin or a need for forgiveness. Hopefully the following activity will make them think about what they have done or need to say instead of flippantly apologizing or forgiving merely because an adult asked them to do so.

Cut out a few paper hearts, each about 6 inches across. Cut each heart into two sections, and put each pair of sections into a separate envelope. Have these hearts on hand to use when one student sins against another. When such an event occurs, have one of the children choose an envelope. Tell the two children that they should think for a moment. One should think about what he or she did that hurt the second child; and the other, about what to say to the one who did the hurting. Give one section of a paper heart to the child who sinned, and have that person write down what he or she wants to say to the other one (hopefully admitting guilt and apologizing). Give the other heart section to the child who was sinned against, and have that one write what he or she would say to the other person (forgiving the person). Remind the children of the forgiveness Jesus earned for them, encourage them to be kind to each other, and have them join the two paper sections together to form a heart.