

# Joseph Helps His Family

## Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference  
**Genesis 45:1-15,  
50:15-21**

Church Season  
**Pentecost**

Lesson Focus  
**God uses people in  
surprising ways to  
help during times  
of need.**

Bible Memory Verse  
**For God sent me before  
you to preserve life.  
Genesis 45:5b**



If you are using the Semi-Continuous version of the Revised Common Lectionary (ELCIC, Episcopal Church USA, Anglican Church of Canada, PCUSA, United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ), the lesson for Lectionary 24 is The Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-30). The leader material for this lesson is found on page 101. The leaflet for this lesson is included with all other leaflets for this quarter.

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### Gather (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Arrival Activity</b> Kids are welcomed into the space and introduced to the theme of the day.	Leaflets, Activity Pages 	Simple snack for everyone in the group, pencils
<b>Opening Conversation</b> Kids consider hunger and reuniting with friends as they prepare for the Bible story.	Leaflets	Pencils
<b>Opening Prayer</b> Kids write a one-name prayer.	None	Index cards, pencils, bowl

### Open the Bible (20 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Joseph Helps His Family Story</b> Kids dig into the Bible story.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers	Pencils, snacks
<b>Not a Cross Word Puzzle</b> Kids read and discuss the contemporary story.	Spark Bibles, Leaflets	Pencils
<b>Hungry?</b> Kids consider how to prepare for a famine.	Leaflets	Pencils, mural paper, markers, tape
<b>Remember It</b> Kids memorize the Bible Memory Verse	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	None

# Lesson At-A-Glance

## Activate Faith (10 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Helping Hands</b> Kids list organizations in their community that help people.	None	Mural paper, markers, tape
<b>Forgiveness Notes</b> Kids consider how they need to forgive this week.	Leaflets	Pencils, sticky notes
<b>Sacrifice = Survival</b> Kids connect sacrifices made throughout history.	None	None

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## Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
<b>Closing Conversation</b> Kids practice offering words of forgiveness.	Spark Bibles, Spark Bible Stickers, Leaflets	Sticky notes from Forgiveness Notes
<b>Closing Prayer</b> Kids offer a responsive prayer with their leader.	Family Pages 	None



Visit [www.sparksundayschool.org](http://www.sparksundayschool.org) for more Spark content! Watch a short Lesson Prep Video that will prepare you and give you confidence to explore this Bible story with the kids you are leading. You will also find four downloadable resources for this lesson: an Activity Page, a Family Page, and two additional in-class activities.

# Gather (10 minutes)

## Arrival Activity

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If some kids arrive earlier than others and you need a lesson-based activity, make copies of the downloadable Activity Page and set them out for kids to try.

Place all of the snacks near a comfortable seat in the room. Ask kids to sit on the floor as they enter the classroom. Ask the last kid who enters to sit in the comfy chair with all the food, but do not allow the “chosen one” to eat the snacks. Offer no explanation of what’s happening.

*Before serving any food, always check with caregivers for kids who have food allergies. Provide an alternative, if necessary.*

Distribute the leaflets and pencils. Have kids look at the Life Question on the first page of their leaflet. Read the question aloud: **When have you helped someone in a time of need?** Allow time for kids to write a brief answer in the margin of their leaflet. **Would anyone like to share the story of a time you helped someone in need?**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets  
Activity Pages



### Supplies

Simple snack for everyone in the group  
Pencils

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## Opening Conversation

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**Who was able to try a Faith on the Go! activity this past week?** Tell us what you did. Allow some time for sharing. **Who can tell me the Bible Memory Verse from last week?** If kids remember the BMV, invite them to recite it for the group. Guide the kids to help them remember parts they don’t.

**Look closely at the picture of the person who is growing food on the front page of your leaflet. The earth produces enough food for every person alive to have enough to eat. And yet many people around the world and in our community are hungry. Why do you think this is?** Allow time for kids to look at the picture and answer the question aloud. Discuss the idea of people being hungry in your community, not just on the other side of the world.

**Now turn to the second page in your leaflet.** Ask someone to read My, How You’ve Grown. Allow time for them to think of a story and write it down. When everyone is done writing their story, ask a few kids to read their story aloud.

Read Did You Know? on the second page aloud. Ask the following transition questions to get kids ready for the Bible story: **How do you tend to act when you unexpectedly see someone you haven’t seen in a while? Do you avoid him or her? Seek him or her out? Talk to him or her only if he or she talks to you? Does it make a difference if you left on good terms the last time you saw him or her? Why or why not?**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils

## Opening Prayer

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Give each kid an index card and pencil. Place the bowl in the middle of the group.

**Write the name of someone in need of God's help. Put your index card in the bowl.** Once everyone has placed his or her card in the bowl, offer a brief prayer.

**God, please be with these people, and all others in need. Amen.**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Index cards

Pencils

Bowl

## Open the Bible (20 minutes)

### Joseph Helps His Family Story

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Pass out the Spark Bibles. Help kids find Genesis 45:1-15 on pages 51-52. Ask for a volunteer or two to read the verses from chapter 45 aloud while the others read along silently. **What would you say to Joseph if you were one of his brothers?**

**Turn to someone sitting next to you and share your answer.**

Help the kids find Genesis 50:15-21 on page 58. Ask for another volunteer to read the verses from chapter 50 aloud, while the others read along silently. **Why would Joseph forgive his brothers for their crime against him? Would you? Have kids underline each time God is named in this story. Joseph was intent on giving God the credit for everything that happened.**

Distribute the snacks equally to the kids. Encourage kids to place an I Read It sticker near both of these sections.

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

### Supplies

Pencils

Snacks

### Not a Cross Word Puzzle

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Have kids turn to the third leaflet page and read aloud the instructions for the Not a Cross Word Puzzle activity. Encourage kids to use their Bibles to find the answers. Once everyone has completed the activity, check to make sure everyone understands the correct answers.

Answer Key

45:5—Do not be \_\_\_\_\_ with yourselves, because you sold me here. (ANGRY)

45:14—Tell my father how greatly I am \_\_\_\_\_ in Egypt. (HONORED)

50:17—Forgive the \_\_\_\_\_ of your brothers. (CRIME)

50:18—We are here as your \_\_\_\_\_. (SLAVES)

50:20—So have no \_\_\_\_\_. (FEAR)

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils

*Tear here for easy use!*

## Hungry?

Have kids look at Hungry? on the third page of the leaflet. Read the question for the activity aloud. Then, ask for a volunteer to read the definition of “famine.” While kids are working on their list, tape a piece of mural paper on the wall. When everyone has completed his or her list, indicate that you want to combine all the individual lists into one master list. **Read your list aloud while I write it on the paper.** Once the master list is compiled, indicate that the class needs to work together to come up with a group list of five foods. **Was it more difficult to make your own list or the group list? Which food list gives you the best chance of survival? Why?**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils  
Mural paper  
Markers  
Tape

## Remember It

Ask kids to turn to the BMV on the back page of the leaflet. **Read this verse silently to yourself a few times.**

Have kids sit in a circle. Designate a kid to start by saying the first word in the verse (“For”). The kid to his or her left says the next word in the verse (“God”). Continue around the circle until the BMV has been recited by the group at least three times.

Conclude with all kids saying the BMV aloud together. Encourage kids to find Genesis 45:5 on page 52 in their Spark Bibles and place an I Memorized It sticker next to the verse.

**How did God use Joseph to preserve his brothers’ lives? How can God use you to preserve the lives of others in your community?**

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles  
Spark Bible Stickers  
Leaflets

### Supplies

None

# Activate Faith (10 minutes)

## Helping Hands

**Joseph interpreted the pharaoh’s dreams to help Egypt prepare for seven years of famine. He also allowed his starving family to move into the palace, where they were kept alive.** Ask the kids to think of organizations in the community that help other people. They might have become aware of these groups through school, family, neighborhood activity, or the church. Tape mural paper on the wall and write the names of the helping organizations. If kids can’t remember the name of the organization, write a brief description of the kind of help they provide. **Are there any of these groups that you would consider working with? If so, which ones?**

### Spark Resources

None

### Supplies

Mural paper  
Markers  
Tape

## Forgiveness Notes

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Distribute two sticky notes to each kid. Ask for a volunteer to read Forgiveness Notes from the back page of the leaflet. Allow kids time to write down whom they need to forgive and whom they need to ask to forgive them.

Encourage kids to put the sticky notes in their Bible near Genesis 45:5 on page 52. Teach the following prayer. Go over it a couple of times until everyone can say it together. Take a moment of silence and then pray together. **God, give us the courage to forgive others and to ask others for forgiveness. Amen.**

### Spark Resources

Leaflets

### Supplies

Pencils

Sticky notes

## Send (5 minutes)

### Closing Conversation

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Talk with kids about a catastrophic event that led to people making sacrifices to help others. Examples include the tsunami in 2004 that killed over 200,000; the plane crashes of September 11, 2001, that killed thousands; or Hurricane Katrina in 2005 that killed thousands and displaced tens of thousands. Encourage kids to share other examples of people making sacrifices for others. **What are ways you can make sacrifices for the good of others? Consider putting a Makes Me Want To sticker next to a verse that talks about the seven-year famine.**

Ask kids to consider Faith on the Go! on the back page of the leaflet. Encourage kids to talk to someone they need to forgive.

### Spark Resources

Spark Bibles

Spark Bible Stickers

Leaflets

### Supplies

Sticky notes from Forgiveness Notes

### Closing Prayer

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**Today's story has shown us that God can turn things intended to harm someone into something that can help others. God asks us to forgive those who have been unkind to us. Forgiving isn't always easy. But God promises to help us with that, too.** Invite kids to think of someone they would like to forgive. Inform them that they will get a chance to name these people on your cue during the prayer.

**Dear God,**

**You helped Joseph forgive his brothers.**

**We ask you to help us forgive \_\_\_\_\_.** (Kids say aloud or silently the names of those they want to forgive.)

**Help us to see how you can change these hurtful actions into something good.**

**Amen.**

Be sure to send the leaflets and a Family Page home with the kids.

### Spark Resources

Family Pages



### Supplies

None

Tear here for easy use!