OT 24B Joseph Forgives His Brothers Part 2

Links: Lesson | Resources

Reference: Genesis 42-45

Plain text	Things to say. Questions are normally followed by the answer in parentheses.
Italicized text	Quotes from the NIrV Bible to read.
▸ **Yellow text**	Something you need to do.
▸ Grey text	Something you need to draw on a chalk/marker board.
***	Dialogue for a story character actor (child) to repeat after you, one line at at time.

A. Lesson - *Length: 25-30 min.*

Resources: Egypt Sign, Bring Benjamin Back Sign, One Brother Stays Sign, Test Sign, Canaan Sign, Present Pictures, Silver Cup Picture[1]

[1] *You'll only need this if you don't have a fancy glass to use.*

Materials: Crown, Throne[1], Chair, Bible Robes (2), Large Bag of Rice, Handcuffs[2], Resealable Sandwich Bags (11), Marker, ¼ Cup Scoop, 18 Silver Coins, Small Bowl, Large Bowl, Washcloth, Oyster Crackers[3], Fancy Glass[4], Clipboard

[1] *A stack of chairs.*

[2] *You could make two loops in a length of rope to make "handcuffs".*

[3] *Any food with small pieces would work.*

[4] *To be used as Joseph's silver glass. If you can spray it with silver paint, that would be even better.*

Setup:

- Create the Food Bags: write each of the following names on their own sandwich bag in large letters using a marker:
  - Dan, Judah, Asher, Reuben, Levi, Issachar, Naphtali, Gad, Zebulun, Benjamin, Simeon
- Pour the large bag of rice into the large bowl. Put the scoop in that bowl.

Note: This story is a bit longer than normal. You'll have to move through it quickly to finish it in the normal amount of time.

- Last week, we read about when Joseph's brothers went to Egypt.
  - ▸ **Attach the EGYPT SIGN to the wall on the right side of the teaching area.**
- Who did King Pharaoh put in charge of Egypt? (Joseph.)
  - ▸ **Do the following:**
    - Set the "throne" (STACK OF CHAIRS) on the right side of the teaching area.
    - Select a "Joseph" to wear a CROWN and a ROBE and sit on the throne.
- Egypt had seven years with lots of food, then seven bad years with no food. What did Joseph do during the seven good years? (Collect extra food to eat during the seven bad years.)
  - ▸ **Set the RICE BOWL next to Joseph.**
- Why did 10 of Joseph's brothers go to Egypt? (To buy food.)
  - ▸ **Pass out the 9 FOOD BAGS (all but Simeon's and Benjamin's bags) to 9 different kids in their seats.**
  - ▸ **Tell them they'll represent the brother whose name is on their bag.**
- They paid money to Joseph for the food.
  - ▸ **Set the SMALL BOWL on Joseph's lap. Drop 9 COINS in the BOWL one at a time.**
- What brother stayed behind? (Benjamin.)
- The brothers had sold Joseph as a slave to Egypt years ago. Did they recognize Joseph when they saw him? (No.)

- Did Joseph recognize them? (Yes.)
- Joseph pretended to be a stranger to the brothers and talked to them in a mean way. What did Joseph say they were? (Spies.)
- To prove they weren't spies, who did Joseph want them to bring back? (Benjamin.)
    - ▸ **Hand Joseph the BRING BENJAMIN BACK SIGN to hold.**
- To make sure they came back, Joseph made one brother, Simeon, stay in prison in Egypt.
    - ▸ **Hand Joseph the ONE BROTHER STAYS SIGN to hold.**
    - ▸ **Select a child to wear the HANDCUFFS and sit on the floor by Joseph.**

- Why did Joseph call them spies, want Benjamin back, and throw Simeon stay in prison? Did he want revenge on his brothers and get them back for selling him as a slave? It looks like that, but in today, we'll read that, instead of revenge, he was giving them a test.
    - ▸ **Hold up the TEST SIGN.**
- Here's what he wanted to find out.
    - ▸ **Have the kids repeat after you:**
        - Are these still
        - the mean old brothers
        - who sold me as a slave
        - or have they changed?
    - ▸ **Attach the TEST SIGN to the wall somewhere near Joseph.**
- Joseph wanted to test and see if the brothers were still the bad guys who sold him as a slave to Egypt or if they were sorry for what they had done and had changed. His test would help him answer this question. The brothers didn't know it was a test. They thought it was real! Let's start reading from the Bible.

- *25 Joseph gave orders to have their bags filled with grain.*
    - ▸ **Scoop a ¼ cup of RICE into each of the 9 FOOD BAGS.**
- *[Joseph] had each man's money put back into his sack.*
    - ▸ **Put one SILVER COIN (from Joseph's BOWL) into each FOOD BAG.**
- *26 The brothers loaded their grain on their donkeys and left.*
    - ▸ **Have the brothers pretend to ride a donkey.**
- *27 When night came, they stopped. One of them opened his sack…*
    - ▸ **Direct one Brother to open their FOOD BAG.**
- *He saw his money in the top of his sack.*
    - ▸ **Have them pull out the COIN.**
- **** He said…*
    - *28 My money has been given back.*
    - *Here it is in my sack.*
    - ▸ **Have them all remove the COINS from their FOOD BAGS.**
- *They had a sinking feeling in their hearts. They began to tremble.*
    - ▸ **Direct the brothers to put their hands on their cheeks and shake.**
- **** They said…*
    - *What has God done to us? - Gen. 42:25-28*
- The Bible says the brothers were scared when they found their money in their food bags. They thought the mean ruler, who was Joseph, would say they stole the food and kept their money! They thought God did this to punish them for what they did to Joseph many years ago! Let's keep reading.

- *29 They came to their father Jacob.*
    - ▸ **Do the following:**

        - Set a CHAIR on the left side of the teaching area.
        - Select a "Jacob" to wear a ROBE and sit in that CHAIR.
        - Attach the CANAAN SIGN to the wall behind Jacob.
- *They told him everything that had happened to them.*
- Here's what they might have said.
    - ▸ **Have the brothers repeat:**
        - The man said we were spies!
        - Simeon's in jail!
        - We must bring Benjamin to Egypt!
        - We found our money in our food bags!
        - He'll think we stole it!
- *[36] Jacob said…*
    - *Joseph is gone.*
    - *Simeon is gone.*
    - *Now you want to take Benjamin.*
    - *Everything is going against me!*
- **** [37] [Reuben] said…*
    - *Place [Benjamin] in my care.*
    - *I'll bring him back.*
        - ▸ **When a brother speaks in this lesson, have them stand up while they are speaking.**
- **** [38] But Jacob said…*
    - *My son [Benjamin] will not go down there with you.*
    - *His brother is dead.- Gen. 42:29, 36-38*
        - ▸ **Have Jacob cross his arms and frown.**

- *[2] After a while Jacob's family had eaten all of the grain the brothers had brought from Egypt.*
    - ▸ **Have each brother quickly do the following:**
        - Stand and pretend to eat their RICE.
        - Walk and dump it back into Joseph's RICE BOWL.
- **** [Jacob] said…*
    - *Go back.*
    - *Buy us a little more food.*
- **** [3] But Judah said…*
    - *The man gave us a strong warning.*
    - *He said…*
    - *'You won't see my face again*
    - *unless your brother comes with you.'*
    - *[4] ...send [Benjamin] along with us.*
    - *[9] "I… promise to keep him safe.*
    - *If I don't,*
    - *you can put the blame on me .*
- **** [11] [Jacob] said…*
    - *If that's the way it has to be,*
    - *then do what I tell you. - Gen. 43:2-4, 9, 11*

- Here's what the Bible says [Jacob] had them do. They put money in their bag to buy food.
    - ▸ **Give each brother 1 COIN to put in their BAG.**
- They took the money they found in their bags to give back to the ruler. Jacob thought it had been put in their

bags by mistake and they wouldn't get in trouble if they gave it back.
    - ▸ **Give each brother another COIN to put in their bag.**
- He also had them bring gifts to give to the mean ruler.
    - ▸ **Give each brother a PRESENT PICTURE to put in their BAG.**
- Finally, Jacob said…
    - ▸ **Have Jacob repeat:**
        - *[13] Also take your brother.*
            - ▸ **Give the BENJAMIN FOOD BAG to a child who doesn't have one.**
            - ▸ **Put a COIN and PRESENT PICTURE in Benjamin's FOOD BAG.**
        - *Go back to the man at once.*
        - *[14] May the Mighty God*
        - *cause him to show you mercy. - Gen. 43:13-14*

- *[15] They hurried down to Egypt and went to Joseph.*
    - ▸ **Tell them to pretend to ride a donkey.**
- *[16] When Joseph saw Benjamin with them…*
- *[Joseph] spoke to the manager of his house.*
    - ▸ **Select a "Manager" to stand next to Joseph and hold the CLIPBOARD.**
- **** Joseph said...*
    - *Take these men to my house*
    - *I want them to eat with me...*
- *[17] The manager… took the [brothers] to Joseph's house.*
    - ▸ **Direct the Manager to point and say, "Go this way, please."**
- *[18] They were afraid when they were taken to Joseph's house.*
    - ▸ **Direct the brothers to put their hands on their cheeks and tremble.**
- **** [The brothers] thought…*
    - *We were brought here*
    - *because of the money*
    - *that was put back in our sacks.*
    - *He wants to attack us.*
    - *Then he can hold us as slaves. - Gen. 43:15-18*

- **** [23] The manager said…*
    - *Don't be afraid.*
    - *The God of your father*
    - *has given you riches in your sacks.*
    - *I received your money.*
- *Then he brought Simeon out to them.*
    - ▸ **Unhandcuff Simeon and have him sit with the kids.**
    - ▸ **Give Simon's FOOD BAG to him.**
- *[25] They prepared their gifts for Joseph.*
    - ▸ **Direct the brothers to remove the PRESENT and COINS from their bag.**
- *[26] When Joseph came home, they gave him the gifts they had brought into the house.*
    - ▸ **Direct each brother to put their PRESENT and COINS in Joseph's BOWL, then return to their seats.**
- *They bowed down to the ground in front of him. - Gen. 43:23, 25-26*
    - ▸ **Have the brothers bow.**

- **** [27] [Joseph] asked them…*

    - *How are you?*
    - *How is your old father you told me about?*
    - *Is he still living?*
- **** [28] [The brothers] replied…*
    - *...our father*
    - *is still alive and well.*
- *And they bowed low to show him honor.*
    - **▸ Have the brothers bow.**
- *[29] [Joseph] saw his brother Benjamin, his own mother's son.*
    - **▸ Direct Benjamin to wave.**
- *[30] It moved him deeply to see his brother. So Joseph hurried out, ...went into his own room and cried there. - Gen. 43:27-30*
    - **▸ Have Joseph run to the corner of the room and cry loudly.**

- *[31] [Joseph] washed his face and came out.*
    - **▸ Give Joseph the WASHCLOTH to wipe his face.**
    - **▸ Direct him to sit on his throne.**
- **** [Joseph] calmed down and said…*
    - *Serve the food.*
- *[34] ...some food was brought to them from Joseph's table.*
    - **▸ Give all the kids a small CRACKER.**
- *Benjamin was given five times as much as anyone else.*
    - **▸ Give Benjamin five CRACKERS.**
- *So all of Joseph's brothers ate and drank a lot with him. - Gen. 43:31, 34*
    - **▸ Direct all the kids to eat their CRACKERS.**
- *[1] Joseph told the manager of his house what to do.*
- **▸ Direct Joseph to pretend to whisper the following to his manager:**
    - *Fill the men's sacks*
    - *with as much food as they can carry.*
    - *Put each man's money in his sack.*
    - *[2] Then put my silver cup*
    - *in the youngest one's sack.*
- *So the manager did what Joseph told him to do. - Gen. 44:1-2*
    - **▸ Help the Manager quickly do the following:**
        - Scoop ¼ of RICE into each FOOD BAG.
        - Put 2 COINS in each bag.
        - Put the SILVER CUP in Benjamin's FOOD BAG.
- Why did Joseph had his manager put his own special silver cup into Benjamin's food bag? Remember Joseph's test.
    - **▸ Point to the TEST SIGN.**
- Joseph wants to find out…
    - **▸ Have the kids repeat after you:**
        - Are these still
        - the mean old brothers
        - who sold me as a slave
        - or have they changed?
- Joseph put the silver cup in Benjamin's bag as part of his test to see if the brothers had changed. Let's keep reading.

- *[3] When morning came, the men were sent on their way with their donkeys.*
    - **▸ Direct the brothers to pretend to ride a donkey.**
- *[4] They hadn't gone very far from the city when…*
- **** Joseph spoke to his manager…*
    - *Go after those men at once…*
    - *Say [this] to them,*
        - **▸ Direct Joseph to pretend to whisper in the manager's ear.**
- *[6] When the manager caught up with them…*
    - **▸ Have the Manger run over near one of the brothers.**
- *… he told them what Joseph had said.*
- **▸ Have the Manager repeat:**
    - *My master was good to you.*
    - *[5] Isn't this the cup my master drinks from?*
    - *You have done an evil thing.*
- **** [7] But [the brothers] said…*
    - *[8] ...why would we steal*
    - *from your master's house?*
    - *[9] If you find out*
    - *that any of us has the cup*
    - *he will die.*
    - *The rest of us will become your slaves.*
- **** [10] [The manager] said…*
    - *All right...*
    - *The one who is found to have the cup*
    - *will become my slave.*
    - *But the rest of you will be free from blame.*
- *[11] Each of them quickly put his sack down on the ground and opened it.*
    - **▸ Direct the brothers to open their FOOD BAGS.**
- *[12] Then the manager started to search. The cup was found in Benjamin's sack.*
    - **▸ Have the Manager go and "find" the cup in Benjamin's bag.**
- *[13] They were so upset they tore their clothes.*
    - **▸ Have the brothers thrust their fists in the air and shout, "Noooo!"**
- *Then all of them... went back to the city. - Gen. 44:3-13*
    - **▸ Direct the brothers to pretend to ride a donkey again.**
    - **▸ Direct the manager to sit on the floor next to Joseph.**

- *[14] They threw themselves down on the ground in front of [Joseph].*
    - **▸ Direct the brothers to bow.**
- **** [16] Judah replied…*
    - *What can we say?*
    - *God has shown you*
    - *that we are guilty.*
    - *We are now your slaves.*
    - *All of us.*
- **** [17] But Joseph said…*
    - *Only the man who [had] the cup*
    - *will become my slave.*

    - *The rest of you may go back to your father...*
- **** [18] [Judah] said…*
    - *Please, sir.*
    - *[31] When [my father] sees that [Benjamin] isn't with us*
    - *he'll die as a sad old man.*
    - *[32] I promised my father*
    - *I would keep the boy safe.*
    - *[33] Please let me stay here.*
    - *Let me be your slave*
    - *in place of the boy. - Gen. 44:14, 16-18, 32-33*
- To save Benjamin from being a slave, to save his father from being sad, Judah offered to be a slave in Benjamin's place. What a brave and heroic thing to do! Let's think back to Joseph's test.
    - **▸ Point to the TEST SIGN and have the kids repeat after you:**
        - Are these still
        - the mean old brothers
        - who sold me as a slave
        - or have they changed?
- Judah is ready to become a slave to save his little brother Benjamin. Does it sound like Judah has passed Joseph's test and changed? Let's keep reading.

- *[1] Joseph couldn't control himself anymore...*
- **** [Joseph] cried out…*
    - *Have everyone leave me!*
        - **▸ Direct the Manager to run to his seat.**
- *[2] He sobbed so loudly, everyone in Pharaoh's house heard about it.*
    - **▸ Direct Joseph to cry loudly.**
- **** [3] Joseph said…*
    - *I am Joseph!*
        - **▸ Direct the brothers to inhale sharply.**
    - *Is my father still alive?*
- *But his brothers weren't able to answer him. They were too afraid of him. - Gen. 45:1-3*
    - **▸ Direct the brothers to shake with fear.**
- **** [4] Joseph said…*
    - *I am your brother Joseph.*
    - *I'm the one you sold into Egypt.*
    - *[5] But don't be upset.*
    - *God sent me ahead of you*
    - *to save many lives.*
- Here's the rest of what the Bible says Joseph said to his brothers.
- *[9] "Now hurry back to my father. Say to him, 'Your son Joseph says, "Come down to me. Don't waste any time. Five years without enough food are still coming. If you don't come down here, you and your family you will lose everything.' [13] Tell my father about all of the honor that has been given to me in Egypt. Bring my father down here quickly."*
- *[14] Then Joseph threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and sobbed. Benjamin also hugged him and sobbed.*
    - **▸ Direct Benjamin to come up and hug Joseph. Direct them both to pretend to cry.**
- *[15] Joseph kissed all of his brothers and sobbed over them. After that, his brothers talked with him. - Gen. 45:4-5, 9, 13-15*
    - **▸ Direct all the brothers to come up and hug Joseph.**

- ▸ **Have all the kids (except Joseph) return to their seats.**

- Let's remember Joseph's test.
  - ▸ **Point to the TEST SIGN and have the kids repeat after you:**
    - Are these still
    - the mean old brothers
    - who sold me as a slave
    - or have they changed?
- Joseph put his cup in Benjamin's bag as part of his test. Many years ago, the brothers sold Joseph as a slave. Joseph wanted to see what they would do when they thought Benjamin, his little brother, was going to be a slave for stealing the ruler's special cup.
- What did Judah do when he thought Benjamin was going to be a slave for stealing a cup? (Offered to take his place.)
- When Judah was ready to be a hero and take Benjamin's place, Joseph knew that the brothers had changed. He knew they had passed his test.
  - ▸ Draw a STAR on the TEST SIGN.
- Now, normally, this is where I teach you the big idea. But because this story was so long, we'll have to wait to learn our big idea in our next activity!

B. Instruction Activity - *Length: 15 min.*

Resources: Instruction Activity Sheet (1 per kid) **Materials:** Crayons

Setup/Notes:

- When the children are instructed to fill items in the blank on their Instruction Activity Sheets (IAS), you might need to write these words on the board so the kids know how to spell them.

- Normally, at the end of the lesson, we talk about what we should remember from the story. Since today's story was so long, we didn't have time to do that. So, we're doing to do that now.
    - ▸ **Hand each child an age-appropriate IAS. Set CRAYONS near for them to use.**
- We're going to talk about two things we should learn from the story of Joseph testing his brothers. We'll look at what Judah said and what Joseph said.

- First, we're going to talk about what Judah said. Who was Judah? (One of Joseph's brothers.)
    - ▸ **Have them trace/write the following on the left side of their sheets:**
        - What JUDAH said…
- As part of his test, Joseph hid his silver cup in Benjamin's bag. What did Joseph say he was going to do to Benjamin? (Make him a slave.)
- When Joseph said he was going to throw make Benjamin a slave, Judah spoke up. Let's repeat what Judah said.
    - ▸ **Have the kids repeat after you:**
        - *31 When [my father] sees that [Benjamin] isn't with us*
        - *he'll die as a sad old man.*
        - *32 I promised my father*
        - *I would keep the boy safe.*
        - *33 Please let me stay here.*
        - *Let me be your slave*
        - *in place of the boy. - Gen. 44:32-33*
- What did Judah want to do to save his brother Benjamin from being a slave and save his father from being sad? (Become a slave in Judah's place.)
    - ▸ **Have them trace/write the following on the left side of their sheets:**
        - I'll TAKE Benjamin's PLACE.
- Judah was going to take Benjamin's place. That means he was ready to become a slave instead of Benjamin. That's a brave and heroic thing to do. And when Judah was willing to become a slave to save Benjamin, that's when Joseph knew his mean brothers had changed.

- Judah wanted to take Benjamin's place. Did you know that Judah's great-great grandson wanted to take someone's place, too, over 1,500 years later? It's true!
- Judah's great-great grandson was named Jesus. Yes, *that* Jesus!
    - ▸ **Have them trace/write the following on the left side:**
        - What JESUS did…
    - ▸ **Have them trace/write the following in the arrow on the left side:**
        - GRANDSON
- The Bible tells us that we have all sinned. What does it mean to sin? (To disobey God's commands.)
- What does the Bible tell us is the punishment for our sins? (Death.)
- When we sin, we earn the punishment of death! We were in big trouble, just like Benjamin was! But Judah's great-great grandson Jesus came to take our place. He came to die in our place for our sins. The Bible says this:

    - ▸ **Have the kids repeat after you:**
        - *While we were still sinners*
        - *Christ died for us. - Rom. 5:8*
- How did Jesus die in our place for our sins? (When he died on the cross.)
    - ▸ **Have them trace/write the following on the left side:**
        - DIED in our PLACE
- And the good news is, after Jesus died for our sins, he rose from the dead on the third day!
- When we think about Judah wanting to take Benjamin's place, we should remember that Judah's grandson, Jesus, came to die in our place for our sins!

- The second thing we should remember is what Joseph said to the brothers.
    - ▸ **Have them trace/write the following on the right side of their sheets:**
        - What JOSEPH said…
    - ▸ **Have the kids repeat after you:**
        - *5 ...don't be upset.*
        - *God sent me ahead of you*
        - *to save many lives. - Gen. 45:5*
        - *As for you,*
        - *you meant evil against me,*
        - *but God meant it for good. - Gen. 50:20, ESV*
- What evil thing did had the brothers done? (Sold Joseph as a slave.)
    - ▸ **Have the kids trace/write the following by "evil thing":**
        - SOLD Joseph as a SLAVE
- When they found out the mean ruler was their brother Joseph, they were terrified! Why? (They thought Joseph was going to get revenge on them.)
- When the brothers sold Joseph as a slave, they were doing an evil thing. But God had a good plan. God wanted Joseph to be in Egypt to save many lives. How did God use Joseph to save many lives? (He collected food.)
    - ▸ **Have the kids trace/write the following by "good thing":**
        - Joseph SAVED many LIVES
- If Joseph wasn't in Egypt, the people wouldn't have saved food during the seven good years. During the seven bad years, there'd be nothing to eat! Because Joseph was in Egypt, many people were saved from starving to death. The brothers sold Joseph as a slave to Egypt because they hated him, but God wanted Joseph in Egypt to save the people from starving!
- The brothers sold Joseph as a slave to be *evil*, but God had a good plan for Joseph, to save many lives!

- So, what should we remember about today' story? First, we should remember that, just like Judah was willing to be slave in Benjamin's place, his grandson Jesus came to *die* in our place for our sins.
- Second, even though the brothers did an evil thing by sending Joseph as a slave to Egypt, Joseph said that it was good that he was there. God helped Joseph save many lives by collecting food! That means, when bad things happen to us, we can trust that God has a good plan!

C. Verse Activity - *Length: 15 min.*

Resources and Materials: *Verse Sheet (1 per kid), Verse Cards*, 3 Identical Opaque Cups, Table

Verse / Motions: Genesis 50:20, ESV - As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...

- You - point to another person
- Evil - use your fingers to give yourself "horns"
- Me - point to yourself
- God - point up
- Good - two thumbs up

Setup:

- Write the verse on the board.
- Have a table near the teaching area to play the cup game.

- Today's Bible verse is something Joseph said to his brothers. It reminds us that, although the brothers meant something for evil, God had a good plan for Joseph, to save many lives!
    - ▸ **Read the verse in short phrases, having the kids echo after you.**
- When bad things happened to Joseph, God had a good plan for him. And it's true for all of us who believe in Jesus to save us. When bad things happen to us, God always has a good plan!
    - ▸ **Hand each kid a VERSE SHEET. Direct them to quickly trace/write the missing words.**
- As we learn the verse, we're going to play a cup hiding game. What does a hidden cup have to do with today's story? (Joseph hid his silver cup in Benjamin's bag to test the brothers.)
- I'll hide a Verse Card under one of three cups, then switch them around quickly. When I'm done, you'll have to guess which one has the Verse Card in it. If you guess correctly, you get a point. If you guess incorrectly, *I* get a point!

How to Do the Activity - *Repeat the following with different kids...*

1. Select a child to come up front. Have them select a VERSE CARD from the pile.
2. Read the VERSE CARD to the kids. Teach them the motions for those words. Erase those words from the board.
    a. *If possible, give them an idea for something they can quickly draw to represent those words.*
3. Say the verse as a group, doing any motions you've taught them so far.
    a. *The first 3-4 times through, say the verse in short phrases and have them echo each after you.*
4. Put that VERSE CARD into one of the cups, then set all three top-down on the table.
5. Switch the cups around as fast as you can for 10-15 seconds (like you're playing a shell game or three-card monte).
6. Direct the child to select the CUP they think contains the VERSE CARD, then turn the CUPS over to reveal the answer.
7. Award the kids a point if they guessed correctly or yourself a point if they guessed incorrectly.

D. Review Activity - *Length: 15 min.*

Materials: Resealable Sandwich Bags, Uncooked Rice, Two Coins

Setup:

- Make a bag of rice for each child. Put ¼ to ½ cup of rice in each bag.
- In two of the bags, put a coin.

- Now it's time to answer questions about today's story. While we do that, we're going to play a game about finding coins in bags of grain. What does that have to do with today's story? (Joseph hid the brothers' money in their bags of grain.)
- Each of you will have a bag of grain. But only two of them will have coins in them. Each turn, you'll look inside your bag and see if you have a coin. If you do, you'll need to answer a question about today's story.
    - ▸ **Have the kids sit in a large circle.**
    - ▸ **Hand each child a BAG OF RICE.**

How to Do the Activity - *Repeat the following as time allows...*

1. Direct the kids to open their BAGS OF RICE and look for the COIN.
2. Have the two kids who find COINS stand up.
3. Ask and have them answer a question from below.
    a. *You might want to repeat the question and have everyone repeat the answer together.*
    b. *If a child has already answered a question, have them select another child who hasn't answered a question yet to answer for them.*
4. Direct the kids to reseal their BAGS OF RICE and set them in the center of the circle.
    a. *Make sure the kids with the COINS put them back inside their bags.*
5. Mix the BAGS up, have the kids grab a new bag, and return to their seats.

Questions // Answers

1. Why did Joseph test his brothers? // To see if they had changed
2. What did Joseph do with the brothers' money? // Hid it in their bags of grain
3. How did the brothers feel when they found money in their grain bags? // Scared, worried
4. At first, would Jacob let them take Benjamin back to Egypt? // No
5. What promise did Judah make to his father Jacob? // To keep Benjamin safe
6. What did the brothers bring to Joseph when they went back to Egypt? // Presents
7. When Joseph saw his brother Benjamin, what did he do? // Ran out of the room and cried
8. What did Joseph hide in Benjamin's sack? // His special silver cup
9. What did Joseph say he was going to do to Benjamin because he stole the cup? // Make him a slave
10. What brother offered to take Benjamin's place? // Judah
11. When Joseph told the brothers who he was, how did they feel at first? // Afraid

Parent Email Information

To help your students' parents reinforce the lesson, you may wish to email the following information

OT 24B Joseph Forgives His Brothers Part 2

Reference: Genesis 42-45

Story Summary:

As a ruler in Egypt, Joseph decided to test his brothers to see if they had changed. First, he put their brother Simeon in prison until the brothers brought Benjamin back to him. Then, he took the money they used to buy grain and hid it in their sacks. When the brothers left for home, they found the money in their bags. They felt afraid because now it looked like they had stolen that money!

Back at home, Jacob would not let the brothers bring Benjamin back to Egypt. But Judah promised to keep him safe and Jacob changed his mind. When Joseph saw his Benjamin, he had to leave the room and cry. He shared a feast with the brothers and sent them off again. This time, he hid his special silver cup in Benjamin's bag of grain.

When the cup was found in Benjamin's bag, Joseph said he would make him a slave. But Judah offered to take Benjamin's place, to save his brother and to keep his promise to his father. When Joseph saw this, he knew his brothers had changed. He told them who he was and hugged them all. The brothers were afraid at first because of what they'd done to Joseph. But Joseph said that God had meant it all for good.

Big Idea and Motions: Even when things look bad, God has a good plan.

- Look - point to your eyes
- Bad - two thumbs down
- God - point up
- Good - two thumbs up
- Plan - pretend to write on our palm like a paper

Verse / Motions: Genesis 50:20, ESV - As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good...

- You - point to another person
- Evil - use your fingers to give yourself "horns"
- Me - point to yourself
- God - point up
- Good - two thumbs up

Questions to Ask Throughout the Week

1. Why did Joseph test his brothers? // To see if they had changed
2. What did Joseph do with the brothers' money? // Hid it in their bags of grain
3. How did the brothers feel when they found money in their grain bags? // Scared, worried
4. At first, would Jacob let them take Benjamin back to Egypt? // No
5. What promise did Judah make to his father Jacob? // To keep Benjamin safe
6. What did the brothers bring to Joseph when they went back to Egypt? // Presents
7. When Joseph saw his brother Benjamin, what did he do? // Ran out of the room and cried
8. What did Joseph hide in Benjamin's sack? // His special silver cup
9. What did Joseph say he was going to do to Benjamin because he stole the cup? // Make him a slave
10. What brother offered to take Benjamin's place? // Judah
11. When Joseph told the brothers who he was, how did they feel at first? // Afraid

Google Docs Links:

- Lesson - http://goo.gl/nYR8Bt
- Resources - http://goo.gl/whVcJI