



## LESSON SNAPSHOT

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Like Joseph, Big Heroes are willing to forgive.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn the importance of forgiving others.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Genesis 45:1-15. Joseph Forgives His Brothers.

### **MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

### **SUMMARY:**

Joseph had every reason to be hard-hearted toward his brothers. They had despised him and sold him into slavery. But years later, when Joseph encountered his brothers, he extended grace and forgiveness to them – in the process saving them from a severe famine. When we are willing to forgive like Joseph, we can be heroes too.

### **SIMPLE PRAYER:**

*Dear God,*

*You are a God of grace and forgiveness. Teach us to forgive so that we may be more like you.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## MEMORY VERSE

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*

*“A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. Let us keep on running the race marked out for us.” - Hebrews 12:1 (NirV)*

### **LARGE GROUP:**

Choose three kids from the audience. Have each one “sing” the memory verse in a different musical style - country, hip-hop, oldies, opera, etc.

### **SMALL GROUP:**

Give all the kids a Bible. After you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.



## SKIT

### **BIG HERO EMPLOYMENT AGENCY: FORGIVENESS-**

#### **ITEMS NEEDED:**

Desk  
Phone  
Chairs

#### **CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2M, 1F**

#### **CHARACTERS:**

Gladys - Secretary  
Mr. Jones – Head of the Employment Agency  
Alan – Frustrated Older Brother

*Gladys sits behind the desk. Alan sits in the waiting area.*

*The phone rings. Gladys answers.*

GLADYS: Big Hero Employment Agency. Big job. Small job. Whatever the job. We've got the man for the job. Or the woman for the job. We've got a lot of both. And no matter what the job, they always do the job. So what job do you need done? *(pause)* That's your cue, hon. *(looks into phone)* Hello? Why does everyone always hang up?

*Mr. Jones enters.*

JONES: Do we have any clients that you haven't managed to scare away yet, Gladys?

GLADYS: Just the one. This is Alan.

*Alan goes over to Mr. Jones.*

# SKIT

JONES: Alan, I'm Mr. Jones. Is there something that the Big Hero Employment Agency can help you with today?

ALAN: Yes. I need to hire someone.

JONES: Excellent. What do you need exactly?

ALAN: It's my little brother.

JONES: Oh, I'm sorry, Alan. We don't sell little brothers here.

ALAN: No, no. I've already got a little brother. But I'm getting tired of him.

JONES: Did you want to trade him in for another model? That's not the kind of shenanigans we get involved with at Big Hero Employment Agency.

ALAN: No, no. I'm not explaining myself very well.

GLADYS: No, you're not.

ALAN: My little brother has gotten on my last nerve. He's always annoying me and touching my stuff.

JONES: I still don't see how we can help you with that.

ALAN: I want to hire someone to follow us around and write down everything he does. Every time he says something annoying to me. Or does something stupid. I want to record all of his mistakes so that I can show him and my parents how terrible he really is.

JONES: That is certainly an odd request. We might be able to find someone to do that. Gladys, can I see our available employee list?

GLADYS: What's this really about, Alan?

ALAN: I don't know what you mean.

JONES: Gladys, the list.

GLADYS: Something happened that got this ball rolling. What happened that got you so mad?

ALAN: He poured water all over one of my favorite comic books.

# SKIT

JONES: He did?

ALAN: Well, not exactly. I left it on the kitchen table, and he set a wet cup on top of it.

GLADYS: I see. Do you know what you need?

ALAN: A cage to put him in?

GLADYS: Forgiveness.

ALAN: How will forgiveness help me get a new comic book?

GLADYS: It won't. But it will help your relationship with your little brother.

ALAN: It will?

GLADYS: Forgiveness helps you to let go of the bitterness and resentment you feel towards the other person. It tears down the walls that keeps you apart and it helps you see all of the good qualities in the other person.

ALAN: Oh, like all the times we actually have fun playing video games together or exploring outside, when none of my friends are around.

GLADYS: See what forgiveness can do?

ALAN: Wow, forgiveness is great. Thanks.

*Alan exits.*

GLADYS: And it's a whole lot cheaper than hiring someone to follow you around with a pen and pad of paper.

JONES: Another satisfied non-customer.

*End.*



## OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Sheet of paper (with a list of names and grievances)

Sheet of paper (blank)

Today is all about forgiveness. Those of us who put our faith in God have been forgiven of so much. It's important that we forgive others as well.

I sure know that I've done a good job of forgiving people. How do I know? Here's my forgiveness list.

*Show the sheet of paper with the list of names.*

It has the names of people I've forgiven and what I've forgiven them for. Like Mary, who stole my lunch money in the second grade. That was really mean of her. And there's Calvin, who used to call me "big ears." That still makes me mad when I think about it.

Okay, truthfully, I made those names up. But I did it to show you something. Did you notice that even though I called this my "forgiveness list" it didn't seem like I had let things go?

We forgive in order to let go of bitterness and resentment. We tell God, the other person, and ourselves that we don't need to pay them back for what they did.

So in reality, our forgiveness list should look more like this:

*Show the blank sheet of paper.*

We don't have to keep a tally of all the bad things others have done to us. We can forgive. We can give them a clean slate. Just like God has given us.

It's the hero thing to do.



# LARGE GROUP GAME

## SHOPPING TRIP

### ITEMS NEEDED:

Grocery sacks

Grocery items – canned vegetables would work well

Tape

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Tape a starting line on one end of the stage. Have two teams of three kids each stand behind the starting line. Give each kid a grocery sack.

On your mark, one kid from each team must run to the “grocery store” on the other end of the stage, place an item in their sack and bring it back “home.” Once home, the next member of the team can go shopping. The first team to have its final member return home wins!

### VARIATION:

To make the game non-competitive, the kids could all be on the same relay team.

To increase the challenge, contestants could be blindfolded.

### WHAT’S THE POINT?

When we need food, we just run to the grocery store. In Joseph’s day, they needed to grow their own crops. When famine hit, food was scarce. When Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt looking for food, they found not only that, but a long-lost brother, a temporary home, and a big serving of forgiveness.



## LARGE GROUP LESSON

### **BOTTOM LINE:**

Like Joseph, Big Heroes are willing to forgive.

### **OBJECTIVE:**

Kids will learn the importance of forgiving others.

### **KEY PASSAGE:**

Genesis 45:1-15. Joseph Forgives His Brothers.

### **INTRO**

For a few weeks now, we've been looking at some of the virtues that great heroes possess. Great heroes have faith. They trust God and believe that he will work things for the good of those who love him. Great heroes obey. Because they know that God has it all worked out ahead of time, they are free to obey God with confidence.

Today, we're going to look at forgiveness. At one time or another all of us have been wronged by somebody. Sometimes it's someone we don't even know; but at other times, it can be someone very close to us. What do we do in that situation?

Joseph had been mistreated by his own brothers. When he was younger, his eleven brothers hated him. One day they threw him in a well and then sold him into slavery. Then they lied to their father, saying that Joseph had been attacked and killed by a wild animal.

As a slave, Joseph ended up in Egypt. Through God's favor, Joseph ended up in a very important position in the Egyptian government – the Pharaoh's right hand man. Through Joseph, God warned the Egyptians of a coming famine and they had enough time to store up enough crops to get through it. Other people who weren't so fortunate, came to Egypt looking for food.



# LARGE GROUP LESSON

One day a group of men came to Joseph looking for food. They were Joseph's brothers. They didn't recognize Joseph. It was up to Joseph whether or not they would even have the food to survive. Here's what Joseph did:

**READ Genesis 45:1-15.**

## MAIN POINT

Joseph could have chosen not to forgive his brothers. He could have punished them for what they had done to him as a child. Joseph could have been bitter and resentful. But Joseph chose a better way – the heroic way.

Joseph forgave his brothers. He wiped the slate clean. He treated them better than they deserved to be treated.

That's the way that God treats us when we turn to him and accept what Jesus did for us on the cross. Even though we have wronged God with our sin, he forgives us if we ask for it. He loves us and forgives us and puts us on the right path.

## DRIVE IT HOME:

Just as God has forgiven us, he calls us to forgive other people too.

That kid at school who said some pretty mean things to you. Forgive him. Your brother or sister accuses you of doing something that you didn't. Forgive him or her. Your parents forget to come to your big game, the biggest game of the year. You need to forgive them too.

If you don't, bitterness and resentment will take root in your heart. It will push out all of the love and compassion that you have.

And in those times when you do something wrong against someone else, you should seek forgiveness. Go to God and ask for his perfect forgiveness. And go to the person, admit what you did, and seek their forgiveness as well. They may not always forgive you; but remember, God always will!

As we seek to be more like God, we will become people of greater love and compassion. We will become people who forgive abundantly. We'll be heroes like Joseph was.

## CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*You are a God of grace and forgiveness. Teach us to forgive so that we may be more like you.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

### ICEBREAKER

What is something a sibling or best friend has done that is hard to forgive? Why?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Give all the kids a Bible. After you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Using markers and paper, have kids create a picture of what forgiveness means to them. Provide concrete imagery – the cross or Joseph hugging his brothers – for those kids who find the assignment too abstract.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Read Genesis 45:1-15.**

Why was Joseph crying when he talked to his brothers?

Why didn't his brothers answer Joseph right away?

What other family member did Joseph ask his brothers about?

What did Joseph supply for his family besides food?

How is forgiveness a powerful tool?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to forgive freely and to accept the forgiveness that comes from believing in Jesus.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

### ICEBREAKER

What is something a sibling or best friend has done that is hard to forgive? Why?

### MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Give all the kids a Bible. After you read the verse, give them the reference and see who can find it first in their Bible.

### SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

As a group, create an acrostic of the word "Forgive" coming up with a word or phrase beginning with each letter of "Forgive" that helps describes forgiveness. For example, "F is for Forgetting wrongs", "O is for Open arms", etc.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Read Genesis 45:1-15.**

Why did Joseph cry when he revealed himself to his brothers?

Why were his brothers terrified to learn that they were speaking with Joseph?

How did God use Joseph to save his family (and many other families)?

What details from the story show us that Joseph forgave his brothers?

Is there someone you need to forgive?

### SIMPLE PRAYER

*Dear God,*

*We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to forgive freely and to accept the forgiveness that comes from believing in Jesus.*

*In Jesus' name,  
Amen*



## POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

### Fill in the blank

1. Joseph ordered his attendants to leave so he could talk with his \_\_\_\_\_ alone.

BROTHERS

2. At first his brothers did not speak because they were \_\_\_\_\_ at Joseph's presence.

TERRIFIED

3. Joseph told his brothers that it was not them who had sent him to Egypt, but \_\_\_\_\_.

GOD

4. Joseph provided his family with a place to live in the region of \_\_\_\_\_.

GOSHEN

5. Joseph was a hero because he was willing to freely \_\_\_\_\_ the brothers that had wronged him.

FORGIVE



# MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

## Bible Heroes Lesson 3

### THIS WEEK'S LESSON: JOSEPH



#### IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we learned that big heroes forgive. When Joseph was reunited with his brothers, he could have tried to pay them back for all of the wrong that they had done to him. Instead, he offered them grace and forgiveness. The same kind that God offers us through Jesus. The same kind of forgiveness that we can offer to others.



#### HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Talk to your kids about the things that people do that really get under their skin. Do these annoyances point to a larger problem of bitterness and hardheartedness? Talk to your kids about places where forgiveness needs to take place, and what that looks like. Join them in talking to God for his leading and guiding.



#### AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why were his brothers afraid to be reunited with Joseph?
- How did Joseph treat his brothers?
- Why is it important that we forgive?



#### AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)*



#### PARENT TIME:

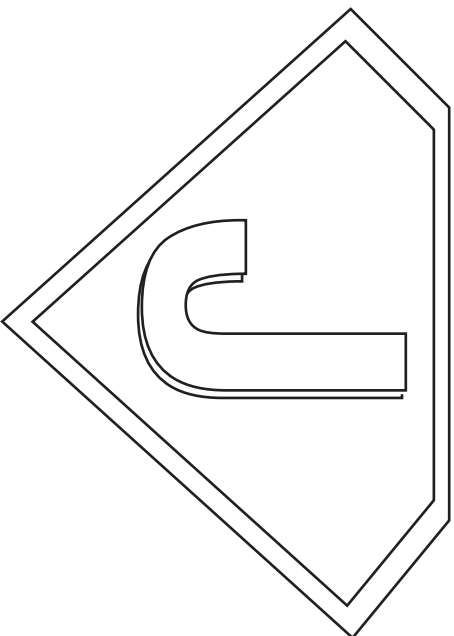
What you need to know:

Who are you harboring un-forgiveness towards? Let go of bitterness and resentment by choosing instead to forgive. Take the matter to God; ask him to change your heart. Go to the other person, if you can, and seek reconciliation. Live the radical kind of faith that forgives freely.



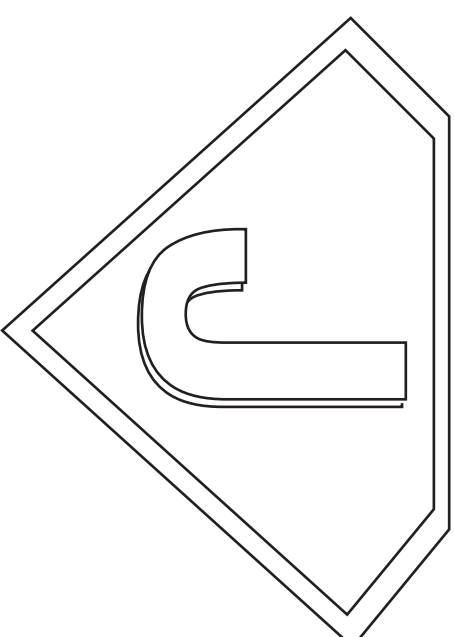
## CRAFT PROJECT

Have kids draw a picture of their greatest hero. It's up to them who it is – a parent, a friend, a fictional superhero, a Bible hero. Beside the picture, have kids list the qualities that make their hero heroic.



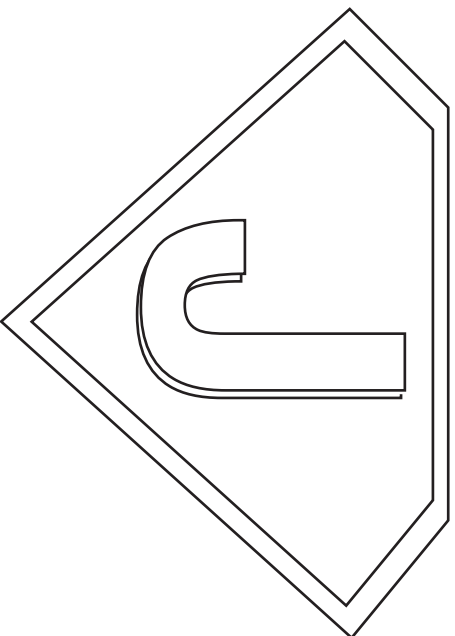
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- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



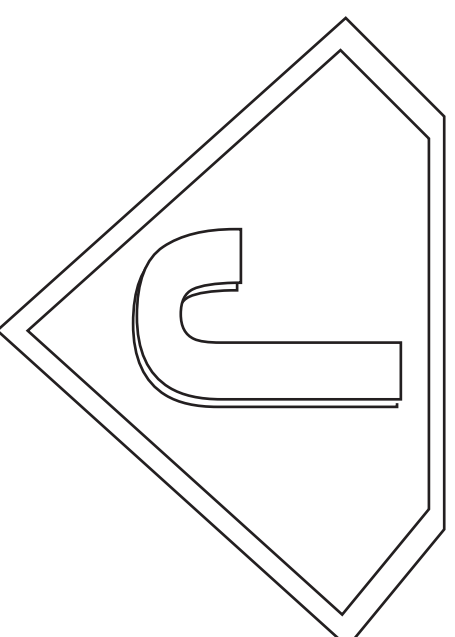
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