

Scripture for Sunday, May 17, 2020: [Genesis 45:4-8](#), [Matthew 18:21-22](#)

Choose experiences as a family to further explore forgiveness.

Worship Bulletins and Coloring Pages

Bulletins for Genesis 45:4-8: [Ages 3-7](#) [Ages 7-12](#)
[Joseph Coloring Page](#) [Forgive Coloring Page](#) [Lord's Prayer Coloring Page](#)

Gather

You may wish to light a candle to mark this time together. Select one or more questions to discuss:

What does forgiveness mean to you?

When have you forgiven someone?

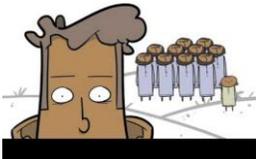
When have you been forgiven?

Hear the Story

There are countless stories in the bible about God's forgiveness and the importance of our forgiving others. Worship today concentrates on one Old Testament story and one New Testament story.

Today's Old Testament reading is Genesis 45:4-8. This reading is just one piece of Joseph's story which can be found in Genesis 37,39-47. As you read [Genesis 45:4-8](#), it's important to know that leading up to this reunion, Joseph's brothers had treated him VERY badly. We could expect Joseph to be VERY angry with them. However, you may be surprised at how Joseph responds instead.

- Check out this video if you are interested in a summary of Joseph's life leading up to today's reading.



- Read [Genesis 45:4-8](#) from your favorite bible. Or, choose a comfortable version from www.biblegateway.com. Perhaps you will want to start with the Easy-to-Read version with children.
- Read this summary from [Growing in Grace and Gratitude](#) and consider some of the corresponding family activities.

Today's New Testament reading is Matthew 18:21-22. This reading follows the story of the lost sheep and precedes Jesus telling the parable of the unforgiving servant. As you read [Matthew 18:21-22](#), understand that this is a part of a larger discussion of love and forgiveness.

- Read [Matthew 18:21-22](#) from your favorite bible. Or, choose a comfortable version from www.biblegateway.com. Perhaps you will want to start with the Easy-to-Read version with children.
- Read this summary from [Growing in Grace and Gratitude](#) and consider some of the corresponding family activities.
- Sing along to "Forgive One Another" by We Are United:



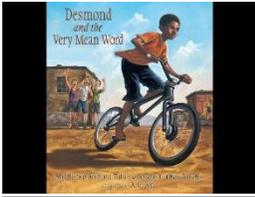
Respond

Use the Veggie Tales to respond to these lessons.

[God Wants Me to Forgive Them](#) explores forgiveness through two videos, “The Grapes of Wrath” and “Larry’s Lagoon”. Activities and a summary of Matthew 18:21-35 are included in this [lesson guide](#).



Hear and discuss [Desmond and the Very Mean Word](#) by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams.



Go Forth

Pray the Lord’s Prayer together, paying special attention when you pray, “Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” Discuss this together. Who do you need to forgive? And, for what do you need to ask forgiveness?

[Psalm 103:12](#) promises, “God has taken our sins as far away from us as the east is from the west.”

To explore this, grab a shallow dish, water, black pepper, and some dish soap. Try the experiment in this video.



- Think of the black pepper as mistakes you have made, behaviors you know as wrong. What happens when you ask for forgiveness? Dip your soapy finger in the water and see!
- Now, think of the black pepper as hurts that you hold from other people. What happens when you forgive them? Dip your soapy finger in the water and see!
- Try to ask for and practice forgiveness as you [go forth](#) into the upcoming days.

(Thank you [Better Bible Teachers](#) for your inspiration.)

To understand how forgiveness lightens our lives, grab two pieces of paper, a penny, and some tape. Make two identical paper planes but tape the penny inside one of them. Discuss together how differently they fly.

- The penny weighs down the plane in the same way that sin weighs us down. When we ask for forgiveness, we are free to fly.
- The penny weighs down the plane, too, in the same way that anger and grudges burden our minds. When we forgive others, we also are free to fly.

(Thank you [ChildrenAndYouth](#) for your inspiration.)

Share your experiences with Ms. Jen at jlanglois@covenantfrazier.org. Miss you! 😊