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**RCC Unoffendables: Lesson 2 ‘ “It’s Not Fair”**

*Lesson Adapted from “The Bait of Satan” by John Bevere*

**Age:** Elementary 9-11

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Lesson Topic:** | | | |
| **LESSON** | **WHAT CHILDREN DO** | **SUPPLIES**  **NEEDED** | **PREPARATION OVERVIEW** |
| **1**  **Getting Started** | Introduction/Ice Breaker:  (about 15 mins.)  Bible Jeopardy - Children form teams to answer bible questions in Jeopardy-style categories. | Bible questions, arranged by category and assigned point values based on difficulty (see example - [Bible Jeopardy Game](https://www.christianity.com/trivia/jeopardy/)), prizes | Make trivia cards for the game questions and categories, and matching answer sheet for the teacher. |
| **2**  **Bible Exploration.**  **Key Verse Activity.** | Key Verse:  Genesis 50: 19-20  **Memory Verse: Eph. 4:32**  Bible Story:  **“It’s Not Fair**”  Explore how Joseph avoided satan’s “bait” of offense, even though he faced many difficulties.  Bible Activity: “**Act it Out”**  Children break into groups to create skits that depict the key points covered in the scripture. | Chalk or dry erase markers | Teachers write acronym on the board to teach the main points of Joseph’s life:  J-Jacob's favorite  O-object of his brothers’ hatred  S-Sold into slavery  E-Egyptian Prisoner  P-Pharoah's minister  H-helper of others  [Victory Over Difficulties (slideshare.net)](https://www.slideshare.net/coffeemom/victory-over-difficulties-a-bible-lesson-for-children-on-joseph) |
| **3**  **Faith Into Life** | **Craft/Make and Take:**  **Bible Notebook –** Children will create a notebook, and decorate Joseph with a colorful coat for the cover.  **Object Lesson/Game:**  **“Three Buckets”** - During the Bible exploration, this activity will help the children explore the difference between carrying the “weight” of unforgiveness, and the freedom of trusting God through their difficulties”.  **Other Activity:**  n/a | Colorful tissue paper  [“Bible Friend” doll](https://makingfriends.com/f_tanwithhair/)  Scissors  Glue  Construction Paper  White Paper  Stapler  Staples  Three five gallon buckets, 5-6 heavy objects (weights, rocks), three signs, tape or sticky “tack” | Teacher prints out Bible Friend Dolls for class, and provides paper for students to create and decorate coat, as well as the notebook.  Teacher prints, cuts out and attaches one of the following signs to each bucket - “Betrayed”, “Hated”, “Abandoned” |
|  | **Daily Challenges:**  Choose a daily challenge to apply God’s word.  Each day, children will make sure they keep “short accounts”, quickly forgiving others for offenses or unfair treatment. They can record testimonies of how it feels to let go of offenses, in their Bible Notebooks. |  |  |
| **4**  **Lasting Impressions** | **Prayer Points:**  Ask God for the wisdom of Joseph to avoid taking offense and to trust Him instead of blaming others or circumstances for difficulties in life. |  |  |
|  | **Faith at Home:**  Talk about how to share what they learned with their families. |  | What parents can do at home:  **“Write it Out”**  Help children recall a time when they have had to forgive an offense, pray with them, and have them draw a picture or make a journal entry in their Bible Notebook. |

Lesson Topic: “It’s Not Fair”

Lesson Background/Foundation for Teachers: Joseph's story appears in the book of Genesis, chapters 37—50. The Bible tells us that Jacob "loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him" (Genesis 37:3). Joseph’s brothers hated him, because they knew Joseph loved him more than them (Genesis 37:4). Things get even worse when Joseph shared his prophetic dreams with his family—showing him one day ruling over them Genesis 37:5–11).

His brothers plotted to kill him. He ended up being sold into slavery to a high-ranking Egyptian, Potiphar, and later, because of the excellence he showed in handling his duties, he became the trusted supervisor over Potiphar’s entire household. When Potiphar’s wife’s unwanted advances led to being falsely accused of assaulting her and thrown into prison (Genesis 39: 7-20). Instead of wallowing in the unfair treatment he received, Joseph chose to honor God, and eventually, he because ruler over all of Egypt, second only to Pharoah.

Our lesson, found in Genesis 50, verses 19-20, highlights an important crossroads in Joseph’s journey. Reunited with his family, which is struggling to survive due to severe famine, Joseph was faced with a choice – to turn his back on the very brothers who hated him, sold him into slavery and convinced his father he was dead, or resist the “bait” of satan, and in an act of forgiveness, reveal himself as their “lost” brother, and deliver his family from the sentence of death the famine would surely bring. God allows us to go through many trials and tests in life, and at times, betrayals come, even a the hand of those closest to us. Will we take the “bait” satan has laid before us, attempt to defend ourselves, or even more dangerous – to pay back the wrong with another wrong? Or will we allow God to use the circumstance to help us learn to resist the enemy of our soul, even when we are treated unfairly?

Pray and ask God for the wisdom to resist satan’s evil plan to use offenses to separate us from God’s divine purpose, and to choose God’s way – to keep our hearts clean, letting Him be our defense and refuge.

Introduction Activity: **“Bible Jeopardy”.**

Praise & Worship:

* Song 1: “Free as a bee” Hillsongs Kids
* Song 2: “Amazing Grace” by Chris Tomlin
* Song 3: “Who Am I” by Casting Crowns

Key Verse: Genesis 50: 19-20

Bible Story:

* Scripture Reference: Genesis 50: 19-20
* Narrative of Story:

Using Joseph’s name as an acronym, we will quickly summarize the events that led up to our text in Genesis 50.

**“J” - Joseph Favorite”**

Joseph was the great grandson of Abraham, the son of Jacob and Rachel, and he had ten brothers. Joseph’s brothers hated him – they knew he was their father’s favorite, which is what started all the trouble.

**“O” - Object of His Brothers’ Hatred”**

While Joseph was still a boy, he had a dream – that he would one day hold such a high position of authority, that his brothers, and even his father, would someday bow down to him.

**“S” - Sold into Slavery”**

His brothers later sold him into slavery, and he was forced to live in a foreign country, and wrongfully cast into prison. Joseph was willing to forgive those who sinned against him.

**“P” - “Pharoah’s Minister”**

In spite of his captivity, God favored Joseph. Joseph’s had a gift of interpreting dreams, and when Pharoah found out, he put Joseph’s gift to the test. When Joseph was able to interpret the Pharoah’s dream as well, he eventually because the second in command over all of Egypt.

**“H” - “Helper of Others”**

Twenty-two years after Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery, they came to Egypt to buy food and he revealed to them just who he was – the second in command of all of Egypt.

Joseph did not use his position of authority to take revenge on them, threaten them, or yell at them. After their father died, Joseph’s brothers pleaded for forgiveness, saying, “Now, please, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of your father” (Genesis 50:17). What was Joseph’s response? He wept, then told them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? But as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good . . .” (50:17,19).

It is not always easy to forgive those that have done us wrong, but if we are truly grateful for the forgiveness that we have received from the Lord, then “forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave us” (Ephesians 4:32) should come naturally for us. It is through that forgiveness that we are able to avoid satan’s trap - remembering the wrong things that are done to us, with the evil intent to hold others “hostage” for their unfair treatment.

Bible Activity:

Title: “**Act it Out”**

Children break into groups to create skits that depict the key points covered in the lesson.

Craft/Make & Take: **Bible Notebook**

* Title: [**Bible Notebook**](https://histreasureseekers.wordpress.com/2011/05/02/josephs-colorful-coat/)
* Supplies Needed:
  + [Bible Friends doll template](https://makingfriends.com/f_tanwithhair/)
  + Colorful tissue paper 
  + Construction Paper
  + White/ Blank Paper
  + Scissors
  + Glue
  + Stapler
  + Staples
* Directions: Children will select two matching pieces of construction paper for their front and back notebook covers, then cut out and decorate the Bible Friends doll, then use a white piece of paper to create the outline for Joseph’s coat. Then, they will cut out the coat, cut tissue paper into small pieces, and glue the pieces on the coat. Student will then glue the Bible Friends doll to the construction paper, then gently glue the coat on top of the doll. Students will then select 3-5 pages of blank paper, insert them in between the pages of their notebook cover, and staple the notebook together. Time permitting, students may also write the key verse or memory verse on the front cover of the notebook.

Game/Object Lesson: [**Three Buckets**](https://equipkidmin.com/10-object-lesson/)

* Title: **Three Buckets**
* Directions: Label three buckets, “betrayed”, “set up”, “forgotten”. Place weights (rocks, bricks, etc.) into each bucket. Select one child to be “Joseph”. As you go through today’s lesson, have the child pick up a bucket, then try to walk, or run with them. As they pick up more buckets, the weights get harder to carry. At the end of the lesson, as Joseph forgives, have the student put the buckets down, one at a time, showing Joseph’s load becoming lighter as he forgave the unfair treatment. He now has no problem walking or running. This lesson reminds us of how “heavy” the load of offenses can be to carry, and how letting them go makes us “lighter”.

Daily Challenges:

Each day, children will make sure they keep “short accounts”, quickly forgiving others for offenses or unfair treatment. They can record testimonies of how it feels to let go of offenses, in their Bible notebooks.

Closing Activity & Prayer:

Call to Action:

God wants us to be free of satan’s bait - the sin of unforgiveness.

Forgiveness is not pretending something bad didn’t happen, or that what happened was fair, good, or right. When we forgive, it does not mean that we are letting people mistreat us. Instead, when we forgive, we are making a choice to release someone from a debt they owe us.

* Prayer:

Read Colossians 3:13. • Think about what it cost Jesus to forgive your sins. •

Pray: “Lord Jesus, I’m so grateful that while I was still a sinner, you loved me, and when I gave my heart to you, you forgave me, and threw the debt my sin created into the “sea of forgetfulness”. It is not by my might, but by the power of your spirit, that I ask you to help me to forgive those who have hurt me, or been unfair to me. (Encourage the children to speak the name of the person they need to forgive out loud, or silently through their thoughts.) In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Faith At Home: **“Write it Out”**

Description:

Parents help children recall a time when they have had to forgive an offense, pray with them, and have them draw a picture or make a journal entry in their Bible notebook.