

JACK IN THE BOX FOR CHURCHES

YEAR ONE - GOD'S BIG PLAN

AUTUMN - SESSION THREE

Learning Focus: **God helps us to forgive**

IN THE BOX

CLOTH, JACK (PUPPET), CHILDREN'S BIBLE

STORY PROPS: 4 FIGURES, SOME BRIGHT MULTI-COLOURED CLOTH, TOY FOOD



Black text - Leader's Script *Red text - Prompts for Leader* Purple text - Songs

*Sit with the children in a circle. Place the box beside you.
Take out the cloth and spread it on the floor.*

Welcome - Hello Time

Take Jack out of the box and sing the song.



(Tune: The wheels on the bus)

Welcome everyone and say hello,
Say hello, say hello.
Welcome everyone and say hello,
I'm glad you came.



Jack has brought his favourite book, the Bible.

*Jack helps to take the Bible out of the box. Show the Bible to the children and place it on the cloth.
Meanwhile everyone sings.*



(Tune: Frere Jacques)

Here's the Bible, here's the Bible.
A special book, a special book.
What's inside it? What's inside it?
Let's take a look, let's take a look.

Learn - Story Time

Joseph forgives (Genesis 37-47)

Tell the story using the story props.

Joseph was one of God's Big Bible Heroes. *(Take out figure)* He had a lot of big brothers. *(Take out 3 more figures)*

The big brothers used to get fed up with Joseph because he was given special treats by their father. **"It's not fair"**, the brothers complained loudly.



One day Joseph's dad gave him a very special present. *(Take out colourful cloth)* It was a brand new, beautiful, colourful coat. Joseph was so pleased! He put on his lovely coat and showed it off to his brothers. "Look at me!" he said, "I've got a special new coat!"

The older brothers were jealous of Joseph. "That's **so** unfair!" they complained to each other. "Why hasn't Dad given us new coats? Joseph is **so** annoying."

They were so fed up and cross that they played a nasty trick on Joseph and he ended up being taken to another country away from his family. How unkind!

Poor Joseph! The new country was a strange place and he didn't know when he would see his family again. He felt lonely and sad. Everything seemed to have gone wrong.

But God knew what was happening. God knew Joseph would be a Big Bible Hero.

What was going to happen to Joseph?...

Joseph worked hard in his new country, and he became an important person. His job was to make sure there was enough food for everyone. Joseph did his job well so there was always plenty to eat where **he** lived. *(Take out some food)* Yum yum! *(Rub tummies)*

But where the big brothers lived there **wasn't** enough food to eat and before long they were all **very** hungry.

"Oh dear," said the brothers to each other, "What shall we do?"

"There's plenty of food in Joseph's country," said one brother enviously, "Shall we go and ask him?"

"But will Joseph help us after we were so unkind to him?" they all wondered, "He might be cross."

"But maybe he will forgive us," said another brother, "We must tell him how very sorry we are for what we did."

So they set off on a long journey to where Joseph lived. When they found him they were rather nervous. "We're **so** sorry for what we did, Joseph," they said, "Please forgive us for that nasty trick."

Joseph tried very hard to live God's way. He knew that God wants us to forgive when people say sorry. "Of course I will forgive you!" he said. "Now come and share a feast with me. There's plenty to eat here."

"Thank you for coming to say sorry," smiled Joseph as they sat down at the table.

"Thank **you** for forgiving us and sharing your food," replied the brothers.

What a happy day for all of them! No wonder Joseph is one of God's Big Bible Heroes.

Reflect - Thinking Time

Can anyone remember what Jack likes to do when he's looked at the Bible? He likes to have some thinking time. *(Put finger on chin)* Let's sing the song.

🎵 *(Tune: Here we go round the mulberry bush)*
Now we're ready for thinking time, *(point to head)*
Thinking time, thinking time. *(point to head)*
Now we're ready for thinking time, *(point to head)*
What can I learn today. *(put finger on chin)*

Pretend that Jack is whispering in your ear.



Jack thinks it can't have been very easy for Joseph to forgive his brothers for being unkind to him, but Joseph tried to live God's way. I wonder if you've ever had to say sorry for something you did, or forgiven someone else when they were unkind to you.

Let's all have a quiet moment to think... *Pause, and then hear the children's ideas.*

Respond - Prayer Time

Now we're going to get ready to talk to God. Let's sing.



(Tune: Twinkle, twinkle little star.)

We know God is always there, *(point up)*

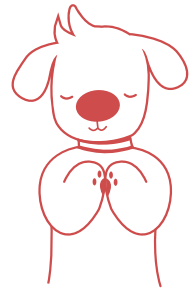
Now it's time to say a prayer. *(hands together)*

Stretch hands wide then give a clap, *(as sung)*

Fold them safely in your lap. *(as sung)*

We know God is always there, *(point up)*

Now it's time to say a prayer. *(hands together and close eyes)*



Thank you God that you forgive us when we say sorry for things we do wrong. Please help us to forgive other people who upset us. Amen

Goodbye Time

We've had fun with Jack but he's sleepy now and needs to go back in his box. We'll see him again soon.

*Invite several of the children to help you to put away the Bible and props while remembering what has been learnt.
As you sing Jack waves goodbye to the children.*



(Tune: first two lines of Baa Baa Black sheep repeated.)

Goodbye everyone, wave goodbye to Jack,

We've had fun and he'll be back. *(repeat twice)*

Jack goes back in his box.

Explore Together

- Bring in any suitable toys or games for sharing –eg cars, bricks, tea set.
- Cut out a coat shape and stick on coloured pieces of tissue, paper, stickers or materials.
- Decorate biscuits with icing and colourful sweets.
- Play with toy food/ playdough to make a feast. Talk about Joseph sharing his food with his brothers and forgiving them.



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Learning

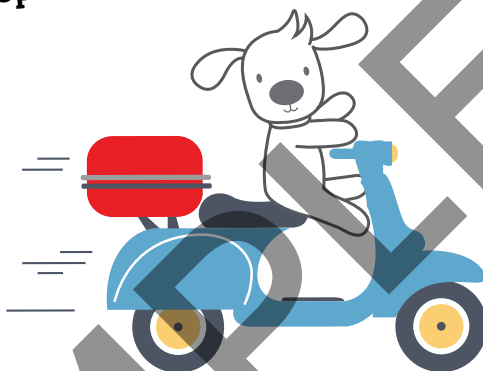
It is good to say sorry and good to forgive.

Story

Joseph and his brothers; his brothers played a nasty trick on Joseph but Joseph tried to live God's way and he forgave them.
(Genesis 37-47)

Talk

When is it important to say sorry?
How do we feel when someone upsets us?
Can we ask God to help us to forgive other people as Joseph did?



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