



Lesson 9

No Longer Counting

Large Group Lesson

Bible Story

Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Genesis 45:1-19

Bible Verse

"For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation."

2 Corinthians 5:19, New Living Translation

Key Teaching Point

Receive God's message of restored friendship.

Materials

- A Bible
- A colorful bandana
- Two buckets (or empty trash cans)
- A pack of ping pong balls (20 or more)
- A sheet of chart paper and a marker



Large Group Lesson

(15 Minutes)

For this story, an adult leader will be the interviewer. Assign a few speaking parts to older students: Joseph's Attendant, Joseph, and Judah

Interviewer: **"Can you tell us what happened here today?"**

Joseph's Attendant: **It's amazing, really! All of Joseph's brothers have arrived in Egypt, and today, Joseph made himself known to them that he is their brother, the one whom they sold into slavery.**

Interviewer: **They must have been in for trouble! Joseph must have been furious with them!**

Joseph's Attendant: **No! That's not what happened at all! Joseph embraced them, and asked that they would not be upset or angry with themselves. He even invited them to come and live in Egypt, where Joseph could take care of them!**

Interviewer: **Wow! I need to talk to Joseph. Joseph, your brothers sold you into slavery, and caused you years and years of great trouble and pain. How could you respond to them in such a way?**

Joseph: **God made it known to me that he was the one who sent me into Egypt to save the lives of my family members. What my brothers meant for evil, God used for his good purposes. God's goodness helps me extend forgiveness to my brothers. My heart is filled with joy that I have been reunited with my brothers and my father. My brothers and I are no longer enemies, we are friends!**

Interviewer: **What happened when Joseph revealed himself to you and your brothers, Judah?**

Judah: **At first, we were shocked and stunned. Our brother Joseph, whom we sold into slavery, a ruler in Egypt!? We fully expected to be punished, so we pulled back from him in complete silence, feeling ashamed of ourselves. But Joseph asked us to come closer.**

Interviewer: **I see now that you and your brothers talk freely with Joseph as your brother, as if nothing happened. How can this be?**

Judah: **God was with Joseph. Joseph reminded us that God was in control all along, even when we chose to do an evil thing by selling our brother into slavery. Joseph told us to not be**



upset or angry with ourselves for what we had done, but to focus instead on what God was doing all along: saving our family from this famine!

Explore the following discussion questions together:

- **What helped Joseph treat his brothers kindly after everything they'd done?** (Joseph received God's understanding of the situation.)
- **How would you have expected Joseph to respond to his brothers?**
- **Have you ever felt upset or angry with yourself because of something you've done? What did Joseph ask his brothers to do with those feelings?**
- **What do you think Joseph's relationship with his brothers was like after all this?**

God entrusted Joseph with a message to share with his brothers. What was this message that Joseph gave his brothers?

Take student responses. (They were forgiven. They would not be treated as their actions deserved. They were no longer enemies! What they had done was no longer counted against them.)

We're also entrusted to share this same message with the people in our lives when they do us wrong. We're going to talk about this more in small groups today. Before we do, what does today's story tell us about who God is and what he is like?

Take students' responses, then dismiss children to their small groups.



Large Group Games

(25 Minutes)

Make It Or Miss It

Materials: Two buckets (or empty trash cans) and a pack of ping pong balls

Divide students into two teams. Give each team an equal number of ping pong balls and assign them one of the buckets. The goal of the game is to get as many ping pong balls inside of their team's bucket as possible. Some ping pong balls will make it into the bucket, others will not. Once a ping pong ball is thrown, it can not be thrown again. When all the ping pong balls have been thrown, have each team count how many ping pong balls they have in their buckets.

Find the Coat of Colors

Materials: A colorful bandana

Seat the students in a large circle. Choose one student to step out of the room for a moment or to stand in the corner of the room for a moment. Give the bandana to another student to hide somewhere on themselves (like in a pocket, under a shoe, or under their arm. A small portion of the bandana must be showing.) Invite the other student to return to the group to try to find the bandana. Play multiple rounds.

Count to 10!

No materials needed.

Seat the students in a large circle. To start, choose a number that you are going to count to (between 10 and 20). Choose one student to start. They can choose to say one, two or three numbers, but they must start with the number one. The next student must begin where the previous student left off, and can also choose to say one, two or three numbers, counting upwards. The student who says the last number must step out of the circle. Continue until all but a few students are eliminated.

