

GENESIS**Lesson 9: JOSEPH AND JESUS FORGIVE THEIR BROTHERS****CONTENT:**

1. This lesson helps to bring out the message that Joseph chose to forgive and love and so God was able to work good in his life.
2. It shows how Jesus too forgave those who betrayed him and so saved us all.
3. Guide to lead the children to follow the example of Jesus and Joseph: to forgive those who hurt them in anyway and so bring good into the situation.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Blank sheets for letters, stones for alter and match box.

I. STARTER: (Recapitulation)**STORY: THE RANGOLI COMPETITION**

This is a story told by a girl about your age. Her name was Julie. 'Whoosh!' The wind blew away all my rangoli powder. Some of it went into my eyes, making them water. Anisha and Maya giggled together, enjoying the joke. They didn't think of coming to help me. As I wiped the powder out of my eyes, real tears came streaming down. Anisha used to be my best friend. But now that fancy Maya came to our building, she never even bothered to say 'Hello!' I was fed up I went to Aunt Rita, who was preparing us for the society Rangoli Competition.

Auntie, I don't want to take part in the competition. I'm not well. Aunt Rita just looked at me kindly and then she said – 'Julie, I will be very sad if you don't take part. You're a real artist.. and your peacock design is coming beautifully. You're not really sick, are you?'

I was quite for a while and then I shook my head. 'No, but I feel so angry with those two giggling girls that I just can't carry on. I wish I never see them again in my life!' Aunt Rita made me sit down and then she held my hand and said – 'Julie... you and I are Christians. Do you remember when Jesus was hanging on the cross and he looked down at all the shouting, laughing crowd? He must have felt like you – those who were his friends were now his enemies – laughing at him in his suffering... Julie, do you remember what he said to his Father about the people?'

I thought and then suddenly I remembered. 'He said, Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing!' 'You're quite right! .. Think about those words Julie.. and tomorrow decide if you will take part in the competition or not.'

That night I could not sleep very well. I kept thinking of Maya and Anisha, laughing and giggling.. then of Jesus saying, Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing!' then of my rangoli peacock. In the morning I woke up and thought – 'Today is the competition! And I will take part! I'm not going to give up and disappoint Aunt Rita.'

On the grounds all the children were busy with their designs. Each one had their packet of powder next to them. Anisha and Maya were doing a cartoon of Mickey Mouse together. It looked so bright and colourful. I began to feel jealous, but then I remembered...'Father, forgive them'

'Hello Maya! Hello Anisha!' I said softly. I think they heard, but they just turned their backs to me and pretended I wasn't even there.

I began to work on my design – drawing the outline with chalk and then filling up the bird with pink, green, blue.. Suddenly I heard a big noise – Anisha was crying and Maya was yelling at her. Aunt Rita was next to me, so I asked her – 'what happened?' Anisha forgot to bring the red powder, so they can't finish their picture. 'she looked at my packets of colours. You want me to help them?

After the way they treated me?’.. I asked. It’s for you to decide, Julie!’ Auntie said softly. I looked at my old friend Anisha with red eyes.. and I got up, grabbed a packet of red colours and gave it to her. Then I ran back and continued my work. How happy I felt! All my angry feelings seemed to have gone like magic.’

When the judges came round to look at all the completed designs, they stopped and looked at my peacock for a long time.. Then before I knew it, they were announcing my name a winner of the 1st prize. It was wonderful getting the prize – A silver cup, but better still when I heard everyone clapping and the loudest cheers coming from ... guess who? Anisha and Maya!! ‘Thank –You Auntie Rita!’ I whispered ‘And Thank – You , Jesus.’

II. DEVELOPMENT:

Think about the story for a little while

- Why did Julie whisper ‘Thank You’ to Auntie Rita and Jesus? *[They helped her to forgive and love, even when the others were mean to her.]*
- What do you think made Julie the happiest? Was it winning the prize or something else? *[she felt so happy because she had been able to forgive the girls and do her best, instead of leaving the competition. If she had kept a hold on her anger and refused to join the competition, she would not have had such a happy ending.]*

Write on the Black board [J J J]


Today we heard about 2 people whose names begin with J, who are they? *[Jesus and Julie]*


Write their names on the board.


Both of them were treated badly by others, but they forgave them and then there was a happy ending – Go through the three points in Jesus’s story

- Jesus was betrayed by his own friend – Judas. All the people whom he had healed and taught then turned against him – he was whipped, made to carry a heavy cross and then nailed to the cross.
- But as Jesus hung on the cross, he said – ‘Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they do!’
- Like in Joseph’s story there is a happy ending. Jesus is in heaven and he welcomes us all to this wonderful place.
- But there is one more J on the black board.
- Who is this third person? *[Joseph]*
- Was his story all the same? How?
- He was sold by his brothers.
- He forgave them and treated them well.
- They all lived together in the land of Goshen.

J J J

 They were treated badly by their friends.

 They forgave them.

 There was a happy ending.

III. REFLECTION & PRAYER:

Give each child a small sheet of paper

- Think of someone who has hurt you in some way.. Who has stopped being your friend.. or does not mean things to you... it may be a child or even a big person - mummy or daddy.. your teacher. Now write a letter to Jesus and tell him what you feel.. Tell him how angry and sad you are.*[don’t worry no one is going to read the letter except Jesus. We are going to burn the letter later.]*
- Now ask Jesus to help you forgive that person.. Ask Jesus to bless that person and make him/ her happy. Write this down in your letter.

After all have finished, take the children outside, build a small stone 'alter' placing it in a circle and let the children place their folded letters in the centre. Remind them that we have made a small sacrifice or offering to Jesus, by forgiving our enemy, just as Abraham and others used to burn sacrifices to God. Set fire to the notes as all sing – 'ALL TO JESUS I SURRENDER'.

IV. ACTIVITY:

(Role Play)

Form 2-4 groups and let them plan and act a role – play. Each play should have

- Someone being ill- treated in some way
- That person feeling hurt, but then thinking of Jesus and then forgiving the other
- A happy ending
- Encourage them to think about events that really happen in life.