

Forgive Others

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1

**Lesson 11****Focus:**

Forgive those who hurt you.

Lesson 11**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 42:1—47:12

Lesson 11**Memory Verse:**

“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
—Matthew 5:44

Students will see firsthand how it’s possible to forgive others, even when they’ve been deeply hurt.

Materials:

Internet access

As students arrive, start a discussion with students by using the following questions:

- **What kinds of things do kids your age do or say that hurt other people?** (Answers will vary.)
- **What is your first response when someone hurts you?** (Answers will vary.)

Give students a few moments to share before moving on to the story below.

The Rwandan Genocide happened in the African country of Rwanda in 1994. The Rwandans of the Hutu ethnicity committed the genocide against the people of Tutsi ethnicity.

Share the following 6-minute audio clip with your students:

After the Genocide, Author Witnessed How Rwandans Defined Forgiveness

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/09/711314421/after-the-genocide-author-witnessed-how-rwandans-defined-forgiveness>

The Rwandan genocide was deeply tragic. Innocent people were killed and persecuted. The whole trajectory of a country and its people changed as a result.

- **Why do you think so many people in Rwanda are choosing to walk in forgiveness for horrific events that impacted them deeply?** (Answers will vary. Accept all reasonable responses.)

➤ **If you were in the same situation, do you think you would be able to forgive? Why or why not?** (Answers will vary. Allow students to share their honest feelings without judgment.)

Forgiving people who hurt or abuse us isn't easy—whether they meant to hurt us or not. In the case of the Rwandan genocide, people were hurting other people intentionally. Sometimes people hurt others without meaning to, and other times the hurtful actions or words are intentional.

➤ **What is the difference in how you respond to someone who did not hurt you on purpose versus how you respond to someone who meant to hurt you?** (Answers will vary; forgiveness is more likely when the hurt is determined unintentional.)

Naturally we want others to forgive us when we hurt them, but it can be a challenge to be the one who has to do the forgiving, especially if the person who did something wrong to us did it on purpose. Joseph's brothers meant to harm him. Let's see how Joseph responded.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)



Lesson 11 / May 29, 2022

Forgive Others

for use as
STEP 4 **Lesson 11****Focus:**

Forgive those who hurt you.

Lesson 11**Bible Basis:**

Genesis 42:1—47:12

Lesson 11**Memory Verse:**“Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.”
—Matthew 5:44**Materials:**

- Internet access
- Paper
- Pencils with erasers (or separate erasers)

If your class is meeting online, invite students to bring paper and pencils with erasers (or separate erasers) with them to class.

The way that Joseph forgave and loved his brothers is an example of how God loves and forgives us. It is also an example of how we need to love and forgive others—even those who hurt us on purpose.

Distribute paper and pencils (or invite students to have those items ready at home). Ask the students to choose an area in the room where they can each work undisturbed in their own personal space.

Write down something that someone did or said that hurt you. Think about how the words or actions made you feel.

Now, using your erasers, erase what the person did or said until there is no trace of it on the paper. As you erase, ask yourself: “Can I forgive the person that same way, so that what he or she did is gone from the record? Can I give that person a fresh start?”

➤ **What is the hardest part about forgiving someone?** (Answers will vary; the person has not shown forgiveness in the past; the person does not appear to be sorry; the person offends me often; the person does not deserve to be forgiven, etc.)

It is easier to say that we need to forgive than it is to actually forgive. Sometimes we like to hold on to the hurt and blame another person for how miserable we feel.

➤ **How do you think Joseph was able to forgive his brothers after what they did to him?** (Answers will vary; God’s love helped him forgive; he knew God would take care of the matter; it was more important for him to please God than to hold a grudge.)

Continue working on your paper, writing down words or deeds that have hurt. Also write

how you feel toward those who hurt you. This time ask God to help you see others through His eyes of love, no matter how bad others may seem to you. When we look at others with eyes of love, it will be easier to forgive them.

Think about God's love and forgiveness for *you* even though you have done hurtful things. Use your eraser to erase both what the people did and your bad feelings toward those people.

You may want to play the following quietly while the students work [2:42]:

Integrity Kids - Forgive One Another

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Er3xtbTPXEg>

Before you go to bed each night this week, write the things that people did during the day that got on your nerves, offended, or hurt you. Ask God to help you forgive and use your eraser to wipe the page clean.

Close in prayer asking for eyes of love and hearts that forgive.

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