



# God's Heroes Are Forgiving



## THE MISSION AIM

God's people are forging with His help.



## KEY VERSE

**Ephesians 4:32 (NIV):** "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you."



## Pre-Mission Activity



## SUPPLIES NEEDED

- 10 sponges (note: these sponges will be used in Lesson 4 as well)
- 10 rocks of varying sizes and shapes
- 2 strong bags or backpacks
- Tape to mark a start line and a second line where the tower is to be built.
- Note: You may want to have two pieces of carpet or cardboard placed on the floor at the second line so that the rocks do not mark the floor.

## DIRECTIONS

**SAY:** We are going to begin today by playing a game. To play this game we will need to split into two teams. Each team will line up one behind the other. I've got the items each team will need to build a tower in these bags. Each team member will put their items into the bag, run to the second line, empty their bag of supplies and build a tower using each item their team's items. When their tower is complete, they will then place all the materials back into their bag and run back to their team, giving the next team member the bag. When all members have completed the same task sit down first and be declared the winning team.

**DO:** Dump supplies out in front of each team. Sponges for team one, rocks for team two.

**SAY:** It appears that this could be a difficult task for team two. Let's see if they can do it. Ready, set, go.

**DO:** Give the teams time to complete their task. When the game is over, have everyone sit down. There will probably be some grumbling from the team that had the rocks.

**SAY:** Excellent job everyone. I hear the team with the rocks are thinking they were at an unfair disadvantage. Do you think you were not treated fairly? The rocks were heavy and difficult to build a tower with as they were all so different. The team that had the sponges found their task to be easy because they were light and easy to stack.

**SAY:** Sometimes we are presented with difficult tasks in life. Sometimes we find ourselves facing things or having things happen to us that just seem unfair. Sort of like today with this game. How did it feel to be on the team with the rocks? (*Unfair, disadvantaged*) I did want you to experience the feeling of being treated unfairly. There are times in our lives when we will be treated unfairly. When a friend or family member hurts us or betrays us it is never easy. I hope that the team with the rocks can forgive me today for making you work so hard at that task. Right now, I think it is time to check in with the Recon Team.



## Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 1 – Bible Heroes Episode 3: God's Heroes Are Forgiving"

Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 3 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have BT-Episode\_3-Heroes\_Are\_Forgiving.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



## Mission #1



### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Jeopardy Game Board – see attachments on page 9 and 10. Make one copy large enough for all to see either on the wall, floor on poster board. You can use index cards or post-it to create the board.
- Tape pieces of paper or sticky notes on top of the answers. Take these off as the recruits choose their category to reveal the answer. Recruits should not be able to see the answers until after they have chosen a category and point amount.
- Bibles for each group
- Chart paper with three columns: "What Happened to Joseph?", "How Might Joseph Feel?", "How Would You Feel?"
- Marker



### MISSION ASSIGNMENT

**SAY:** We've got our first mission for today. Let's read it together, (reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, your mission is to gather information on one of God's Bible Heroes – Joseph. How was he hurt by his family members and how did Joseph feel?" What do you say recruits, can we look into the story of Joseph and see how God helped him to forgive? Can we complete this mission?"

**Note:** You know your recruits best. The story of Joseph is a familiar one, however, you may have a group of recruits that are new to the church. Please feel free to change the order of this activity. You may play the Joseph Jeopardy game first or retell of the story of Joseph first. Be sensitive to the needs of your recruits.



**SAY:** A great way to look at Joseph's story is to play "Joseph Jeopardy." Each team will have an opportunity to choose a category and a point amount, the greater the points, the harder the category. The answer will be revealed and your team needs to come up with the question that would have been asked for that answer to be correct. You may use your Bible to look up the scripture reference if you need a little help coming up with a question. For the "Feelings" category, you need to question that you think Joseph must have felt during his life or a time in your life that you may have felt that way. For example, if the answer is joyful, your team could say, "How did Joseph feel when he saw Benjamin in Egypt for the first time?" or you might say "How did I feel when my friend forgave me for breaking her pencil?" Are you ready to play?

**DO:** Split the recruits into two teams. Be sure to provide a Bible for each team. Choose a team to begin. Keep track of the points. The first team chooses a category and a point amount (i.e., "People in Joseph's Life" for 200). Present them with the answer and allow time for them to provide an appropriate question. Note: in some cases, there could be multiple correct questions for each answer

If the team is not able to provide a question, give the other team the opportunity to try. Be sure to have your Bible open to Genesis 37 – 50. If necessary, refer to scripture to aid the recruits.

**DO:** When the recruits have completed the game, quickly recap Joseph's life. Tape chart paper to the wall and have recruits come up and write on it the hurtful things that happened to Joseph.

**SAY:** As we look at the story of Joseph, let's count how many times bad things happened to Joseph. To help you I've put up a piece of chart paper and when hear something bad or hurtful that happened to Joseph, come up here and write it in column one with this marker (These items are underlined.) Ready? Here we go.

**SAY:** Joseph came from a big family. He was loved by his father. In fact, Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coloured robe. This made his brothers hate Joseph. To make things worse, Joseph had a dream. In the dream, it appeared that Joseph would one day reign over his brothers. Of course, this made things even worse. One day, Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers and when he arrived to them, he found that they were angry and jealous of him. In fact, they were plotting to kill him. However, they decided to get rid of Joseph instead of killing him. They threw him into a large pit but then they saw a caravan travelling by and pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him to these people. This caravan took Joseph to Egypt. Joseph's brothers, on the other hand, tore Joseph's coat, put blood on it and went back to their father, Jacob, telling him that Joseph was dead.

**SAY:** Joseph's brothers really hurt him and betrayed him. How would you feel if you were Joseph? What do you think you would do?

**DO:** Write down recruits' responses in column two. These could include hurt, angry, betrayed, confused, a lack of trust.

**SAY:** God had his hand in Joseph's life and took care of him. Once in Egypt, Joseph became a slave in the house of Potiphar. Potiphar saw how loyal Joseph was and trusted Joseph to care for his home and family. Potiphar's wife however wanted more from Joseph and when Joseph would not do as she had asked, she lied to her husband and had Joseph thrown in jail.



**SAY:** Again, Joseph has been betrayed. Lies have been told about him. How would you feel if lies were told about you? How would you react if you were Joseph?

**DO:** Write down the recruits' responses in column three.

**SAY:** Joseph did get out of jail eventually. God had given him the gift of interpreting dreams. While in jail, Joseph was able to interpret the dreams of both Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker. The cupbearer was the lucky one. His dream told him that he would soon be removed from jail and be back to working for Pharaoh. The baker on the other hand, soon learned that his dream meant that he would be put to death. Pharaoh himself was having bad dreams and when he heard about Joseph's gift, he sent for Joseph and asked him to interpret his dreams. Joseph did this and also presented a plan to Pharaoh to help protect Egypt and ensure their prosperity. Joseph was removed from jail and put in Pharaoh's court as second in command.

**SAY:** It is hard to believe that one person could go through so much. How many bad things happened to Joseph? (5) The things that happened to Joseph were horrible. He was hurt, betrayed and offended by those who should love him, trust him and care for him. Imagine if that was you what would you do? Would you be able to forgive the people that hurt you so badly?

**SAY:** I wonder if the feelings Joseph might have had are similar to how Natalie and Kate are feeling. Let's get back to the team and share our discoveries about Joseph with them and find out if they have been able to fix the problems they were having with the Recon Van.



### Mission Uplink 2



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 3 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission #2.



### Mission #2



### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- A small piece of paper for each recruit
- Pencil for each recruit



### MISSION ASSIGNMENT

**SAY:** Well recruits, it appears we have another assignment. (Reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, turn to your Bibles and find out what forgiveness looks and feels like. Why is it important to forgive others? Recruits, are you ready to serve?"



**SAY:** Before we answer that question let's go back to Joseph's story and find out if he was able to forgive his brothers.

**SAY:** One day, during the terrible drought and famine, Joseph's brothers arrived in Egypt asking for food. Joseph knew right away who they were and could have had them put to death but he didn't. Instead, Joseph provided them with the food they needed and then asked them to bring their brother, Benjamin back to Egypt. Once they did this, Joseph revealed who he was and celebrated with his family. His father was brought to Egypt to see Joseph as well. Joseph told Pharaoh all that had happened and Joseph's family was provided with a piece of land in Egypt where they could live.

**SAY:** Joseph forgave his brothers for all that they did to him. He showed them kindness, compassion and mercy. He did what it says in Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just as in Christ, God forgave you."

**SAY:** I want each of you to think of a time when you did something that you shouldn't have done. Maybe it was a time when you disobeyed your parent or your teacher. Maybe it was a time when you spoke rudely to a friend or told a lie to keep you from getting into trouble. Think of one time when you did something wrong. Now, I want you write it down or draw a quick picture to symbolize this event. Don't show it to anyone. No one will see it. Don't write your name on it.

**DO:** Hand out a pencil and a piece of paper to each recruit and allow them a minute or two to write down their response.

**SAY:** Once you are finished, crumple your paper into a ball and hold it in your hand. Let's look at two Bible verses that talk about forgiveness.

**DO:** Have three recruits read Hebrews 8:12, Psalm 103:11-12 and 1 John 1:9 to the other recruits.

**SAY:** WOW! These verses tell me that God will forgive my sins and forget them. He will remove our sins far away from us. They also tell us that when we tell God what we have done wrong, He will forgive us. In fact, in the book of Luke we can read of a parable that Jesus tells. The story explains that there was a son who asked for his inheritance. He received this and took off. He spent all of his money on foolishness. He disappointed his family and in many ways hurt them through his actions. And yet, Jesus tells us that when this son finally returned home, his father met him with open arms, threw a big party for him and welcomed him back home. That is exactly what God does. He forgives us, forgets our wrong doings and welcomes us back home.



The Parable of the Lost Son can be found in Luke 15:11-31.

**SAY:** When we looked into the story of Joseph, we saw that he forgave his brothers. How do we know that he forgave them? *(He told them, Joseph explained to his brothers how God used their wrong actions to bring about good.)* What did this forgiveness look like? *(Joseph allowed them and their children and descendants to live in Egypt; he gave them food; he didn't have them killed)*





## Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 3 (3/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



## SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Crumpled pieces of paper from Mission #2
- Garbage Can

## DIRECTIONS

**DO:** Have the recruits stand in a circle around a garbage can holding their crumpled pieces of paper.

**SAY:** Open up your crumpled piece of paper. Look at what you did that was wrong. God will forgive you too. We are going to take a moment to talk to God. He is willing to forgive us for our wrongdoings. He wants us to know that forgiveness that the lost son and Joseph's brothers felt. I will begin to pray and as I do, you can silently ask God to forgive you for your sins, crumple up your paper once again and throw it into the garbage can.

**DO:** Pray, asking God to forgive the wrongdoings that we do. Pray, asking God to be with each recruit as they bring their papers (their sins) to him. Be sensitive to the leadings of the Spirit and be aware of the recruits movements and actions. You too, should have a piece of paper to throw into the garbage can.

**SAY:** God is with us. If He is willing to forgive us then how should we feel about those that have wronged us, hurt us, betrayed us or angered us?

**SAY:** Right, we need to forgive, just as God forgives us. Joseph was hurt, betrayed and sold to strangers and yet he followed God's leading and forgave his brothers. What an amazing example of what we do should do.

**SAY:** Now that you have experienced forgiveness, can you think of someone that you need to forgive? What do you need to do to show forgiveness to that person?

**SAY:** Let's spend another moment in prayer together, asking God to help us to forgive as well.

**DO:** Pray together, you may lead or if there is a recruit that would like to pray, allow them to do this. Offer a moment of silent time where each recruit can pray on their own.

**SAY:** It is an amazing feeling to forgive and to be forgiven. I hope that Kate has learned about forgiveness. Let's check back in with the Recon Team and see if they have found anything else about forgiveness.





## Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Bible Heroes (S1) Episode 3 (4/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



## Field Mission Project



### SUPPLIES NEEDED

- One or two newspaper articles that depict where one group/person has wronged another group/person (*these articles need to be chosen carefully, choose articles that the recruits could relate to i.e., Bicycle stolen, break in at a convenience store, DUI or careless driving where property damage has occurred*)

### MISSION PROJECT

**SAY:** Recruits we have one last mission for today. (reading mission card from satellite uplink)  
"Recruits how do we know when we have really forgiven someone?"

**SAY:** Throughout our lesson today we found that God forgives us and forgets the things that we have done wrong. We also found that Joseph, our Bible Hero, forgave his brothers for all that they did to hurt him and betray him.

**SAY:** When Joseph's father Jacob, died his brothers were worried that maybe Joseph hadn't truly forgiven them. Maybe, he still held a grudge or some hidden anger because of the things that they had done to him. They were afraid. Joseph however, was not upset with them. Genesis 50:20 tells us how Joseph responded to his brothers' fears. He said, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good. He promised them that he would continue to provide for them and to care for them and their children. Joseph had truly forgiven his brothers. He showed them kindness and compassion.

**SAY:** Remember the words from Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another; forgiving each other just as in Christ, God forgave you." Joseph showed kindness and compassion to his brothers and their families. Natalie needs to discover God's forgiveness so that she too can forgive her friend for sharing things that she shouldn't have with others. Kate discovered this forgiveness and she was then able to forgive Simon. Did you notice how happy Kate was when she chose to forgive Simon? She was smiling and laughing. It is a wonderful feeling when you both forgive and are forgiven.

**SAY:** How do you know when you have truly forgiven someone? Do you pray for them or show kindness towards them? Do you forget what happened so that you never think on it again?  
(Allow recruits a moment to consider how they know when they have forgiven someone)



**SAY:** I brought a newspaper article to read. In this article we will see that someone has wronged another person. As I read the article to you, I want you to pretend you are the person that has been hurt or wronged. How would you feel? Could you forgive them as God has forgiven you? What steps would you need to take to forgive? How do you think you would feel if you forgave them?

**DO:** Read the article with the recruits, and then discuss whether they could offer forgiveness and how they would show their forgiveness. Depending on time, you could look at one or two newspaper articles.

**SAY:** Is there someone else that you need to forgive this week? If so, what can you do to show them that you forgive them? *(Make them a card, call them on the phone, email them, ask them to sit with you at lunch, show them kindness and compassion, pray for them)*

**DO:** Give opportunity for the recruits to think about this and to discuss this together.

**SAY:** My challenge to you this week is that if there is one person that you need to forgive that you will seek them out and forgive them. Remember those words from Ephesians, "be kind and compassionate to one another". Next week, come back and tell me how this made you feel.

## NOTES





## Joseph Jeopardy

	People in My Life	Places I've Been	Things I have Done	Feelings
<b>100</b>	Jacob/Israel Genesis 37:3	Canaan Genesis 37:1	Cared for sheep Genesis 37:2	Sad Genesis 37:10
<b>200</b>	Potiphar's Wife Genesis 39:7	Hole in the Ground Genesis 37:24	Interpreted Dreams Genesis 41:12	Betrayed Genesis 37:28
<b>300</b>	Pharaoh Genesis 41:44	Prison Genesis 39:20	Wore a coloured coat Genesis 37:3	Anger Genesis 39:19 Genesis 37:26
<b>400</b>	Benjamin Genesis 42:34	Egypt Genesis 37:28	Hid a silver cup Genesis 44:2	Loneliness Genesis 39:20
<b>500</b>	Cup bearer Genesis 40:13	Potiphar's House Genesis 39:1-2	Planned for food to be stored Genesis 41:33-38	Forgiveness Genesis 45:4

## Joseph Jeopardy

Possible Questions recruits may give to earn points.

	People in My Life	Places I've Been	Things I have Done	Feelings
<b>100</b>	Jacob <i>Who is Joseph's father?</i>	Canaan <i>Where was I from?</i>	Cared for sheep <i>What was I doing in the field?</i>	Sad
<b>200</b>	Potiphar's Wife <i>Who wanted me to do something that I knew was wrong?</i>	Hole in the Ground <i>Where did my brothers put me when they wanted to get rid of me?</i>	Interpreted Dreams <i>What was I able to do that Pharaoh liked?</i>	Betrayed
<b>300</b>	Pharaoh <i>Whose trust did I earn and became his second in command?</i>	Prison <i>Where did I meet the Cupbearer and Baker?</i>	Wore a coloured coat <i>What was one thing I did that made my brothers mad?</i>	Anger
<b>400</b>	Benjamin <i>Who did I demand come to Egypt?</i>	Egypt <i>Where did I go once my brothers sold me?</i>	Hid a silver cup <i>What did I do to see if my brothers could be trusted?</i>	Loneliness
<b>500</b>	Cup bearer <i>Whose dream did I interpret that showed him returning to his place in Pharaoh's court?</i>	Potiphar's House <i>Where was I first put in charge in Egypt?</i>	Planned for food to be stored <i>How did I save the Egyptians?</i>	Forgiveness