



## Bible Lesson on Forgiveness with a Children's Book

### I Am NOT Just a Scribble by Diane Alber

#### Bible Story Connect - Joseph

Use the story of Joseph found in Genesis chapters 37-50. Summarize parts while comparing the book for kids story of Scribble and the story of Joseph.

##### 1- Being Different

*"Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a varicolored tunic."* Genesis 37:3

Like Scribble, Joseph was unique & different. He was favored by his father and this made his brothers jealous. They did not like to be around him. They threw him into a pit, then sold him into slavery.

Genesis 37:18-20

*"When they saw him from a distance and before he came close to them, they plotted against him to put him to death. 19 They said to one another, '[1]Here comes this dreamer! 20 Now then, come and let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, 'A wild beast devoured him.' Then let us see what will become of his dreams!"*

How do you think this made Joseph feel? How would you have felt?

Joseph's father had given him a coat of many colors to show how special he was. In this book for kids, Scribble love colors too. Take time to talk about different feeling and what color could be used for each such as - anger may be colored red, sadness-blue, happy-yellow, etc. This will give kids a tool to help them understand their own feelings.

##### 2 - Choosing to Trust God

Joseph could have remained angry with them and become bitter, but instead he chose to trust God and make the best of every situation.

- He was made a slave. Genesis 39:1-3 - *“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an Egyptian officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the bodyguard, bought him from the Ishmaelites, who had taken him down there. 2 The Lord was with Joseph, so he became a [b]successful man. And he was in the house of his master, the Egyptian. 3 Now his master saw that the Lord was with him and how the Lord caused all that he did to prosper in his hand.”*
- He was innocent, but thrown into prison. Genesis 39:19-21 - *“Now when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spoke to him, saying, “[v]This is what your slave did to me,” his anger burned. 20 So Joseph’s master took him and put him into the jail, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined; and he was there in the jail. 21 But the Lord was with Joseph and extended kindness to him, and gave him favor in the sight of the chief jailer.”*
- He was forgotten. Genesis 40:21-23 - *“He restored the chief cupbearer to his office, and he put the cup into Pharaoh’s hand; 22 but he hanged the chief baker, just as Joseph had interpreted to them. 23 Yet the chief cupbearer did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.”*

Joseph could have held bitterness and anger against his brothers, against Potiphar and his wife, against the cup-bearer, but instead he chose to trust God.

God had a plan and Joseph trusted God.

How were both Scribble and Joseph treated wrongly? How did they choose to act? How could they have reacted in a way that would not have pleased God?

God honors and blesses us when we make good choices. Also, we really only hurt ourselves when we choose to hold on to anger and bitterness. No one can really “make” us angry, we can choose how we react.

### 3 - Forgiveness

God blessed Joseph’s faith over and over. Joseph became second in command of all of Egypt. One day his brothers came to him for help although they did not recognize him.

Genesis 42:6 - *“Now Joseph was the ruler over the land; he was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph’s brothers came and bowed down to him with their faces to the ground.”*

Revenge was within Joseph’s power now. He could have had them killed or beaten or at least sent them away to starve, but he did none of these. Joseph chose God’s way; Joseph chose to forgive and show them kindness.

Genesis 50:19-21 - *“But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive. 21 So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.”*

Take time to lead kids to think about who has hurt them and they need to forgive or maybe they need to ask someone to forgive them. You may want to give them colored pencils to write a colorful prayer to God.

End the lesson by reading and discussing the following Bible verses on forgiveness:

Colossians 3:13 - *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."* NIV

Matthew 6:14-15 - *"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins."* NIV

1 John 1:9 - *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* NIV

Matthew 18:21-22 - *"Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?' Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.'" NIV*

If time permits you may want to have them read the parable Jesus told in Matthew 18 following His statement to Peter.

We are to forgive as God has forgiven us; He is faithful to forgive us every time we come to Him in repentance.

# Forgiveness Game

We have probably all played Red Light, Green Light. This similar game uses "I forgive you" or "I don't forgive you" to demonstrate how unforgiveness can divide and cause distance in our relationships with others while forgiveness draws us back closer together.

Have one person volunteer to be it. Everyone else lines up a few yards away. Have a container with various hurtful actions written on slips of paper. With each action include the number of steps they are to move. For the person who is It, have a few slips that either have "I forgive you!" or "I don't forgive you."

Each person pulls a slip from the container and reads the phrase. "It" then chooses a card and based on if they draw "I forgive you" or "I don't forgive you," the person takes the number of steps either towards the person who is it or away from them. The person who makes it all the way to "It" gets to be "It" next.

This forgiveness game helps students visualize how important forgiveness is in our relationships with each other as well as God.

I lied to you.	I made fun of you.	I told the teacher on you.
I blamed you for our team losing.	I said mean things to you.	I gossiped behind your back.
I didn't invite you to my party.	I told others a secret you shared with only me.	I said I wasn't going to be your friend any more.
I took something that belonged to you.	I spread a rumor about you.	I was angry and yelled at you.
I forgive you!	I forgive you!	I forgive you!
I don't forgive you.	I don't forgive you.	I don't forgive you.