



Joseph's Cup Found

Genesis 43; 44:1-17

Level D

Ages 15-18

Life Focus: I am responsible for my actions.

Story Summary: The famine continued, and Jacob and his family needed more grain. Judah reminded Jacob that Benjamin had to go to Egypt with them, and he took responsibility for Benjamin's safekeeping. The brothers returned to Egypt with gifts and double the money they needed. Joseph saw them and prepared a feast for them. The frightened brothers told the steward about the money in their sacks and learned that it was not a problem. The brothers bowed to Joseph when he arrived. Overcome by seeing Benjamin, Joseph wept. The brothers were seated by age at the feast, and Benjamin was served five times more food than anyone else. The next morning Joseph instructed that his cup should be secretly put in Benjamin's sack along with the grain. Shortly after the brothers left, Joseph's steward went after them and found the cup. The brothers returned to Joseph, bowing to the ground.

Lesson 5

Materials needed

		Supplied with Lesson	Additional Materials
1. Getting Started (2-3 min)	Welcome Warm-up Activity	Welcome Warm-up Activity directions p. 38	<i>optional:</i> paper and pens or pencils
2. Focus on the Word use all activities (5-7 min)	Read the Word Talk About It discussion	Talk About It discussion guide p. 38	Bible or copy of Genesis 43; 44:1-17
3. Engage with the Word choose one or two activities (15-20 min)	Service Project decorate a paper or cloth bag with a message of love and care; give bags to your care team or pastor to fill as "care packages" when needed	Care Bags directions p. 39 <i>Comforting Quotations</i> p. 41	paper or cloth grocery bags; supplies for decorating e.g. permanent pens, paints, brushes, stickers, glitter, etc.
	Discussion learn how to make a fresh start after making a mistake by using the steps of repentance	Turn and Live directions pp. 39-40; <i>Turn and Live Scenarios</i> p. 42 <i>Turn and Live Talk Bubbles</i> pp. 43-46 <i>Turn and Live Cards</i> p. 47	
4. Wrap It Up (2-3 min)	Take the Message Home a door hanger with a summary of the lesson and activities	Joseph's Cup Found Door Hanger p. 48	color version available at www.newchurch.org/youth-journey-programs

1. Getting Started

Welcome Warm-up Activity

Two Truths and a Lie

Ask each student to come up with 3 facts about him or herself. Two should be true; one should be made up. (Wait to share them with others!) *Optional*: provide paper and pencils to jot the ideas down for easier recollection.

Students tell their 3 facts to the group. The group tries to guess which fact is not true.

2. Focus on the Word

Read **Genesis 43; 44:1-14** (choose selections)



Select questions from the following to promote group discussion:

Talk About It

Why did Jacob let his food supply run dangerously short before sending his sons to Egypt for more? The Egyptian ruler (Joseph) had kept Simeon in prison and insisted the brothers bring Benjamin with them the next time they came. Jacob was worried that something might happen to Benjamin if he let him go to Egypt.

Jacob cared deeply about his son, Benjamin. Have you experienced intense concern for something or someone you care about?

Jacob sent gifts of food and money to Egypt in addition to his treasured son. What “gifts” might you give someone if you wanted that person to accept what you had to say? Compliments, positive comments, perhaps even presents.

The brothers confessed that they had discovered the money in their sacks after their previous trip. What did the steward say? He had their money, they owed nothing, and the money in their sacks was a gift from their God. **If you were one of the brothers, what might you have thought about this?**

Benjamin was a connecting point for his family. He had the same mother as Joseph and he had shared a life with his other brothers. Reunited with Benjamin, Joseph could once again be connected with his family. He was moved to tears. Have you ever been deeply moved by connecting with some true and admirable qualities in another person?

Joseph hid his cup in Benjamin’s sack. The deeper spiritual meaning has to do with the way the Lord (represented by Joseph) plants good and true ideas in our minds without our knowledge. The steward’s accusation that Benjamin stole the cup pictures the way we sometimes take credit for the true and good ideas from the Lord, claiming them as our own (see *Secrets of Heaven* 5780).

What did Judah admit when Joseph interrogated them? They were guilty of having done something wrong. (The full admission of exactly what they had done is in the next lesson.)

You may be familiar with the phrase “a journey starts with a single step.” The first step on the journey towards heaven is to admit that we have done something wrong. Judah spoke out on behalf of his brothers and took responsibility for the way they had treated Joseph. As we are able to acknowledge and take responsibility for our mistakes, we can turn and begin a new life.

3. Engage with the Word

Choose one or two activities

Choice Care Bags

Decorate cloth or paper bags to hold “care packages” for a person or family in need.

Optional: fill a bag with suitable small items, write a note, invite students to sign and deliver. If you are unaware of a person in need, give the bag to your church care team or pastor for future use. Suggested recipients for care packages: new mothers, elderly, shelter residents, homebound, bedridden, grieving, or people with special needs, etc.

Option: contact a shelter near you to find out what residents need. Personal items such as a toothbrush, shampoo, soap or socks are often helpful.



Paper Bags

1. Start by covering logos with paper.
2. *Optional:* Select a *Comforting Quotation* (p. 41) to cut out and paste on the bag or copy it on with pen or markers.
3. Decorate the bag with paper or draw pictures or designs.

Cloth Bags

1. Cover any logos with fabric scraps.
2. *Optional:* Select a *Comforting Quotation* (p. 41) to copy on the bag with permanent markers.
3. Decorate the bag with more fabric scraps or draw pictures or designs with fabric paints or pens.

Choice Turn and Live*

Joseph’s brothers were troubled by what they had done to him but could not openly talk about their actions. Finally Judah took personal responsibility for Benjamin’s apparent theft. His admission was a turning point that opened the way for forgiveness and reconciliation.

This story plays out in our lives again and again. The Heavenly Doctrine lays out steps we can take to turn and live—to become a heavenly person. The first step is to learn true and good ideas from the Word. Then we must

1. Take an honest look at our thoughts and actions (**I was wrong**).
2. Admit responsibility to ourselves and the Lord for the wrong we are doing (**I am sorry**).
3. Pray for help to resist doing evil (**Lord, help me**).
4. Stop doing what is wrong and start doing something new and better instead (**I will change**).

This activity explores these “steps of repentance” by acting out scenarios.

*Thanks to the Revs. John Odhner and Mark Pendleton for their contributions to this activity.

Materials

Comforting Quotations p. 41, paper or cloth bags for decorating, scraps of wrapping paper to cover logos, glue, sharp fabric scissors, tape, your choice of stickers, fancy pens, feathers, doilies, miscellaneous fabric scraps (e.g. velvet, shiny, sequined, plaid, floral, etc.), fabric pens and paints, etc.

Note about Bags

Many stores sell products in nice small paper bags with handles. Call friends and see if they can supply you with a variety of bags for this activity.

Dollar stores often sell inexpensive paper or cloth bags you can decorate. Choose a variety of colors and sizes.

Consult your pastor or care coordinator

...to identify people who could benefit from this project; see if you can use “sunshine” funds to purchase items to put in bags, or ask students to bring a dollar or two to class

Materials

Turn and Live Scenarios p. 42 cut apart, 1 of each *Turn and Live Talk Bubbles* pp. 43-46, enough *Turn and Live Cards* p. 47 cut apart for each student to have one

Turn and Live *continued*

1. Everyone makes mistakes! If we never made mistakes we would never experience the joy of success! We feel the joy of success when we have mastered something that has been difficult for us.
2. Some mistakes are small and do not appear to have consequences. Other mistakes are bigger and not only have immediate consequences, but may also affect us for a long time.
3. Joseph's brothers failed to tell the truth about how they treated Joseph, and they felt guilty about what they had done for years. Every time something went wrong they wondered if they would be found out.
4. The Heavenly Doctrine reveals four steps people can take to get back on track if they have done something that they know is wrong. The process starts with knowing what the Word says about what is right and wrong.
5. The first step for change is admitting what you have done wrong to yourself and to the Lord. (Hold up the sign saying *I was wrong*.)
6. The next step is feeling sorry about what was done. (Hold up *I am sorry*.)
7. The next step is asking for the Lord's help—because without Him we can do nothing. (Hold up *Lord, help me*.)
8. With His help, we need to stop doing what is wrong and start doing what is right. This is how we change. (Hold up *I will change*.)
9. We will act out scenarios in which people make mistakes. Your group will act out the mistake and create a follow-up sequence showing where the situation could go from that point by using the four steps: *I was wrong; I am sorry; Lord, help me; I will change*.
10. Divide students into groups of 2-3. Give each group a *Turn and Live Scenario*. Give groups about five minutes to plan their dramatizations.
11. Call groups up to act one at a time. Give the group the *Turn and Live Talk Bubbles* to hold up at the right point as they act out their scenario.
12. Discuss each scenario. Possible questions - Are there other ways in which this scenario could end? Did the right person take responsibility for what had happened? Did the person really show signs of making changes?
13. Wrap up the activity by giving each student a *Turn and Live Card* to take home.

“For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies,”
says the Lord God. Therefore, turn and live!”

Ezekiel 18:32

4. Wrap It Up

Closing

Gather the students together. It is easy to blame others to avoid being caught if we have made a mistake or done something wrong. Admitting the truth can be painful. In what ways can you take responsibility for your actions, as Judah did? The Word says “turn and live” (Ezekiel 18:32). Taking responsibility is a turning point in our journey towards heaven.

Hand each student a copy of the *Joseph's Cup Found Door Hanger* (p. 48). Read the “You can choose to be honest” section at the top of the hanger with the students. Look at “Shun deceit.” Encourage the students to do one or more of the activities this week.

Comforting Quotations

<p>The Lord bless you and keep you. Numbers 6:24</p>	<p>May you be blessed by the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 115:15</p>
<p>He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge. Psalm 91:4</p>	<p>I have loved you with an everlasting love. Jeremiah 31:3</p>
<p>May Your love and faithfulness always protect me. Psalm 40:11</p>	<p>Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you. Psalm 145</p>
<p>You shall comfort me on every side. Luke 9</p>	<p>You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me. Psalm 146</p>
<p>The Lord will have mercy on His afflicted. Isaiah 49:13</p>	<p>As one whom his mother comforts, so I will com- fort you. Isaiah 66:13</p>
<p>I will turn their mourning to joy, will comfort them, and make them rejoice. Jeremiah 31:13</p>	<p>The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:26</p>
<p>You, O Lord, are a shield for me...the One who lifts up my head. Psalm 3:3</p>	<p>I will lift up my eyes to the hills from whence comes my help. Psalm 121:1</p>
<p>The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped. Psalm 28:7</p>	<p>My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:2</p>
<p>Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you.... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14:27</p>	<p>The Lord loves everyone, and does good to every- one from love. <i>Apocalypse Explained 392.4</i></p>

Turn and Live Scenarios

1. You are at a friend's house and realize you *urgently* need something from home. You borrow your friend's bike, race home, drop the bike on the driveway behind a parked van and dash in the house. Your dad is running late, jumps into the van, and backs up, running over the bike. You come out to see that the bike is destroyed! You say it's your dad's fault.
2. You and your best friend are having a great time rough-housing. His Mom yells at you both to look out for his 4-year-old sister. You don't see the girl but suddenly she's between you and is accidentally thrown into the wall, badly injuring her arm.
3. You are at an amusement park with your friend and his family. Your friend's dad lectures you about getting to a meeting place on time. Right before you are supposed to meet you beg your friend to go on your favorite ride one last time. He eventually says yes, but the line is long and you both arrive late. He gets in big trouble.
4. Your friend tells you she has a crush on your brother. You think you are being helpful and tell your brother about it. It totally backfires. Your friend is mad and says she will never talk to you again.
5. You are terrified of spiders and all your friends know it. One friend thinks it will be funny to show you a spider. You scream, lose your balance and fall, hitting your head. You are mad and yell nasty names at your friend. Your friend won't look at you or talk to you now.
6. You are with friends. Someone says something that makes you feel stupid in front of everyone. You have a quick tongue and know you can easily win a war of words. You take her down verbally and make her look *really* dumb. You know it's worked—she looks crushed and sulks away.
7. Your soccer team is losing. You have done a great maneuver and kicked the ball to a teammate who has a chance at scoring on an unguarded goal. Your teammate bungles the kick and misses the goal. You are mad and scream at him angrily, humiliating him in front of a girl he likes.
8. You have recently passed your drivers test. Your junior license allows you to take only one passenger under age 18. Two friends beg you to take them home. On the way you pass a parked police car and one friend ducks out of sight. Relieved that you were not caught, everyone starts laughing at once. You turn to look at your friends and swerve sharply into the middle of the road.
9. You are taking care of your neighbor's chickens while they are out of town. You let the chickens out in the morning but are in a hurry to get to work and don't take time to secure the gate. At supper time you return to feed the chickens and find the pen empty.
10. You are driving on the highway. The speed limit is 55. You are going 63, and cars are passing you. A police car starts following you and signals for you to pull over. You are angry! Others were going much faster—you were only keeping up with the flow of traffic. You argue with the policeman and accuse her of picking on you unfairly.



**I
was
wrong.**

**I am
sorry.**



**Lord,
help me.**



**I will
change.**

Turn and Live Cards

Turn and Live

I was wrong “God has found out the iniquity of your servants” (Genesis 44:16). Confession is to be that we see, recognize and admit to our evils and that we are discovering that we are miserable sinners (*True Christianity* 539).

I am sorry The Lord is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit (Psalm 34:18). If we feel any anxiety when we reflect upon our having done what is evil, it is a sign that we... will afterward allow ourselves to be reformed (*Arcana Coelestia* 5470).

Lord, help me God be merciful to me, a sinner (Luke 18:13). One who believes in God also says inwardly, “With God’s help I will overcome it”, and then prays, and gets help This is not denied to anyone (*Charity* 203).

I will change “Go and sin no more” (John 8:11). “Although I am thinking about this and intending it, I will not do it because it is a sin (*True Christianity* 535). If you afterward abstain from one or another sin which you discover in yourself...you are on the way to heaven (*True Christianity* 530). Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance.... He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him go and do likewise” (Luke 3:8,11). Live a new life, which must be a life of good (*Apocalypse Explained* 250.3). The truth of faith and the good of charity compose our new life (*Arcana Coelestia* 9296.2).

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“What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves?”

Joseph's Cup Found

“What shall we speak? Or how shall we clear ourselves?”

Cut out the shaded doorhanger. Fold it in half and hang it over a door.

You can choose to be honest

“So far as a person is not deceitful, he is sincere. By sincerity is also meant integrity, justice, fidelity, and uprightness. A person who shuns fraud, cunning and deceit is in these virtues...from the Lord.” *Doctrine of Life* 82-83

The Lord's Word tells us that in order to learn to do good things we must first stop doing evil things. If we turn away from an evil act or thought, the Lord can fill us with the opposite good thought and desire. So, for example, to become an honest, sincere person, we must stop lying, stop being deceitful.

We may lie for all kinds of reasons—from embarrassment, fear of consequences, even just to avoid inconvenience. We can even deceive ourselves, telling ourselves negative self-messages that aren't true such as “No one likes me.”

Shun deceit

I can stop deceiving others about...

Think of something you lied about recently, even something small. Why did you lie? Figuring out why you reacted with deceit can strengthen your resolve not to do it again.

I can stop deceiving myself about...

Think of a time when you lied to yourself. The next time that message pops up in your head, remind yourself that it is a lie!

I can be true to my ideals...

What does being sincere mean to you? What steps can you take to live with more sincerity?

Cease
to do
evil,
Learn
to do
good...

