Preschool–Grade 5

Joseph Forgives His Brothers Craft

Come near to me · Genesis 45:1–15 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



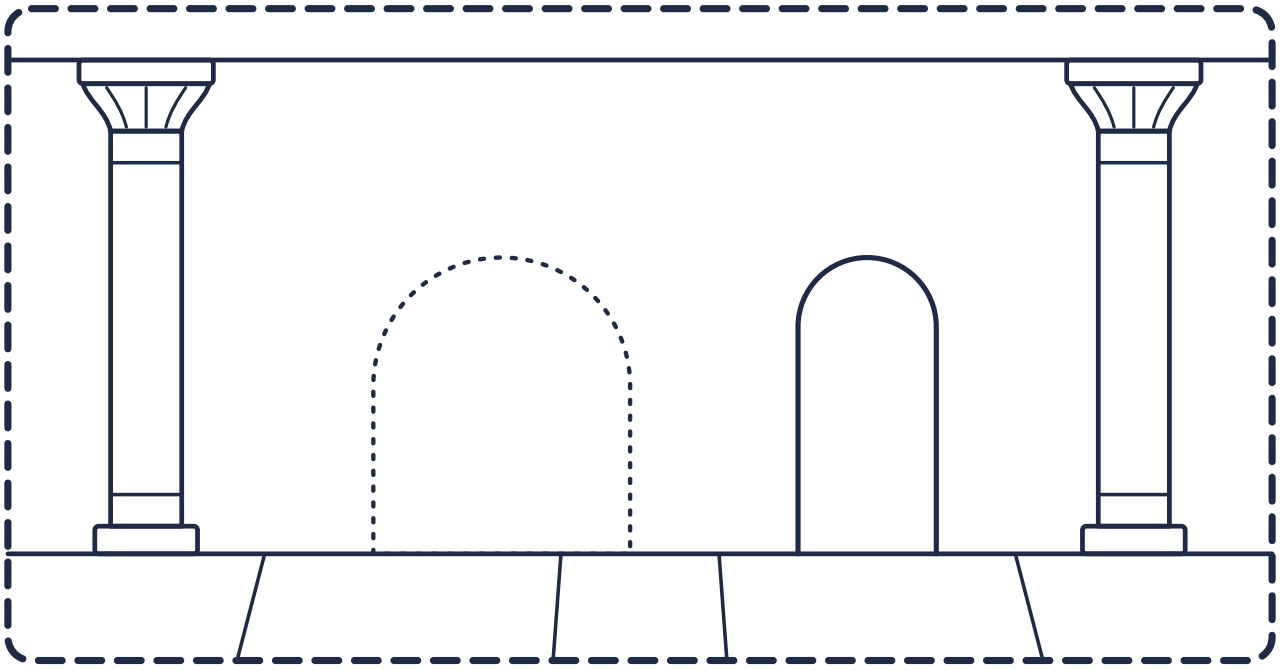
Harder

Both levels are a card of a room in Joseph's house in Egypt, with a light yellow wall, two light brown pillars, an orange floor and a brown door shut over the doorway, because Joseph sent every man out (Genesis 45:1). In the middle, in a blue window frame, Joseph and his brother Benjamin weep on each other's neck (45:14). Medium (left): the card. Harder (right): the same, plus the land of Goshen folding down below it, with sheep and cattle, where Joseph's family would dwell near him (45:10).

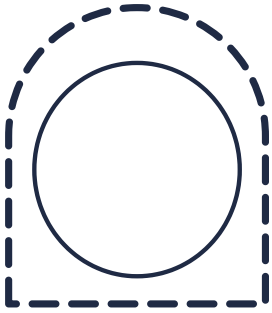
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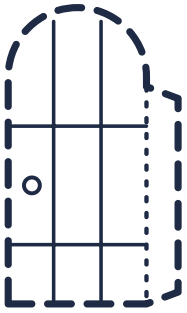
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: wall light yellow, pillars light brown, doorway gray, floor orange.



Joseph and Benjamin: draw them; frame blue



door brown; fold the tab back

Now therefore be not grieved,
nor angry with yourselves, that
ye sold me hither: for God did
send me before you to preserve life.

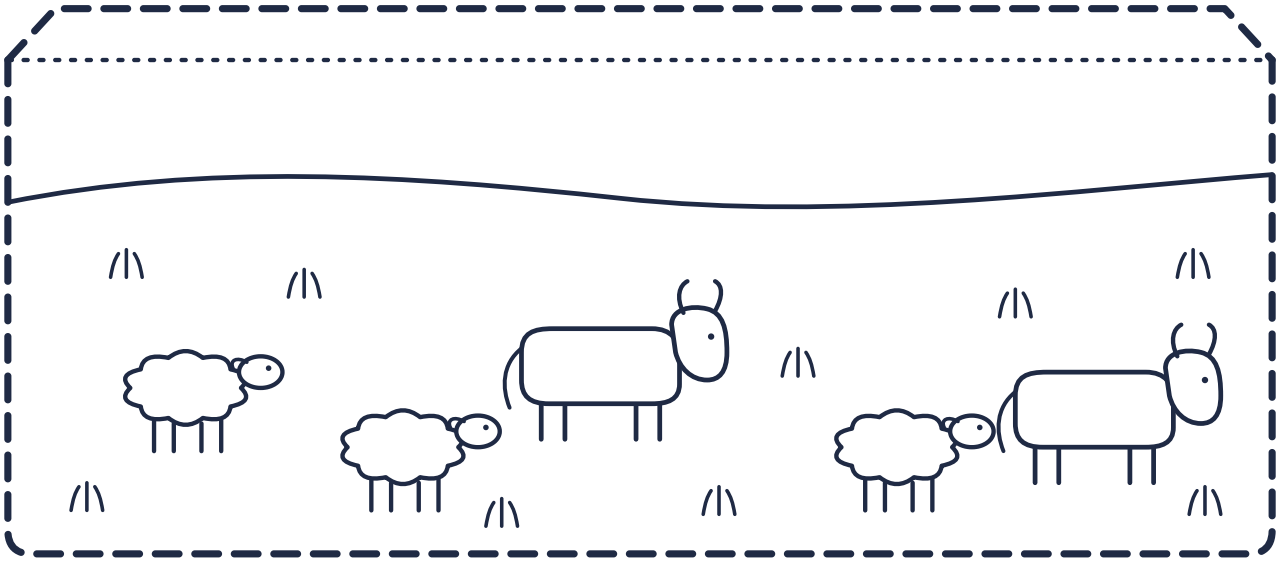
Genesis 45:5 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

Color each piece the way its label says. Draw Joseph and Benjamin in their window. Cut out the card, the Joseph and Benjamin piece, the door with its tab and the verse strip. You also need a glue stick.

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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level



the land of Goshen: sky light blue, grass green, sheep left white, cattle brown.
Fold the glue tab back on the dotted line.

How to make the harder level

1. Make the card, the Joseph and Benjamin piece, the door and the verse strip from page 2 first.
2. Color the land of Goshen: the sky light blue, the grass green and the cattle brown. Leave the sheep white.
3. Cut out the land with its glue tab. Fold the tab back on the dotted line.
4. Turn the card over. Glue the tab on the back of the card along its bottom edge, so the land hangs down below the floor. Then glue the verse strip on the back too.
5. Fold the land up behind the card. Tell it: Joseph said, "Haste ye, and go up to my father… come down unto me, tarry not" (Genesis 45:9). Let the land fall open! "Thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me… and thy flocks, and thy herds" (45:10).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/joseph-forgives-his-brothers-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light yellow, light brown, gray, orange, brown and blue, crayons for drawing Joseph and Benjamin, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, and light blue and green crayons.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out the card, the Joseph and Benjamin piece, the door and the verse strip ahead of time, and fold back the door's tab.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces. Kids color the room and the door, draw Joseph and Benjamin, and glue them on the dotted arch. Help them glue the door's tab beside the doorway and the verse strip on the back.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut and glue. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level, then add the fold-down land of Goshen from page 3, where Joseph's family would dwell near him with their flocks and herds (Genesis 45:10). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the wall light yellow, the two pillars light brown, the doorway gray and the floor orange. Leave the dotted arch white.
2. **Draw:** in the window of the Joseph and Benjamin piece, draw Joseph and his brother Benjamin weeping on each other's neck (Genesis 45:14). Color the frame blue.
3. **Door:** color the door brown.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the Joseph and Benjamin piece, the door with its tab and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
5. **Glue:** glue the Joseph and Benjamin piece on the dotted arch, so its bottom edge sits on the floor line. Fold the door's tab back on the dotted line, and glue only the tab on the wall just to the right of the doorway, so the door swings open and shut.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card, and read it together.
7. **Tell it:** shut the door. Joseph cried, "Cause every man to go out from me" (Genesis 45:1). He said, "I am Joseph… Come near to me, I pray you" (45:3–4). Point to the window: he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck, and wept (45:14).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Who did Joseph send out of the room? *(Every man; no man stood with him but his brethren, Genesis 45:1)*
- Who heard Joseph weep aloud? *(The Egyptians and the house of Pharaoh, 45:2)*
- What did Joseph say first? *("I am Joseph; doth my father yet live?" 45:3)*
- What did Joseph ask his brothers to do? *("Come near to me, I pray you," 45:4)*
- Who did Joseph say sent him to Egypt? *(God, to preserve life, 45:5, 45:8)*
- Point to the window. Which brother did Joseph weep with? *(Benjamin; Joseph fell upon his neck, and Benjamin wept upon his neck, 45:14)*
- What did Joseph do for all his brethren? *(He kissed them and wept upon them, and after that they talked with him, 45:15)*
- (Harder level) Where would Joseph's family live? *(In the land of Goshen, near Joseph, with their flocks and herds, 45:10)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: refrain himself** means hold back his feelings; **brethren** means brothers; **grieved** means very sad; **hither** means here; **preserve life** means keep people alive; **haste** means hurry; **tarry not** means don't wait; **nourish** means feed and care for.
- **What the Bible says:** Joseph sent every man out, made himself known to his brethren, and wept aloud (Genesis 45:1–2). He fell upon Benjamin's neck and wept, and kissed all his brethren (45:14–15). The Bible doesn't describe the room. The pillars, the door, the floor, the land's sheep and cattle and the colors are the craft's simple picture of the story.
- **No one is drawn on the template:** each child draws Joseph and Benjamin in their window as two grown men, weeping together.
- **Eleven brothers:** Joseph had eleven brothers in Egypt that day: ten came the first time (Genesis 42:3), and Benjamin came the second time (43:15). The craft shows only Joseph and Benjamin, the moment in Genesis 45:14.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child open the door and say Joseph's words, "Come near to me!" (Genesis 45:4)
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Joseph forgives his brothers lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/joseph-forgives-his-brothers.

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