

## LESSON 4

# JUSTICE OF THE PEAS

**Scripture**  
Genesis 45:2-5

**Lesson Aim**  
Kids will learn that we can show God's goodness to others.

**K**ids this age tend to believe what they're told. They believe that God is good because we teach them that he is good. But it's one thing for kids to know and believe that God is good and another thing entirely to be able to show that goodness to others. Use this lesson to help children understand that their actions have the power to help others see God's goodness.

In the Bible, Joseph surprised his brothers by forgiving them and helping them through the famine. Joseph treated his brothers kindly because he obeyed and followed God. As a result, Joseph's brothers learned that God is forgiving and loving. Just as Joseph taught his brothers, you can teach kids that God's goodness is unexpected and surprising. Use this lesson to help children see God's goodness in their lives. Show kids they can demonstrate God's goodness to others through their words and actions.

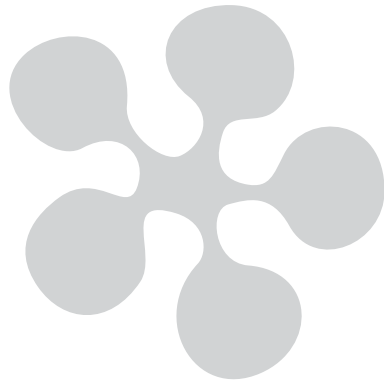
## OBJECTIVES

### Kids will

- Show their friends a hidden object.
- Watch how Little Joe showed God's goodness to his brothers.
- Mirror actions from the Bible and discover they can mirror God's goodness.
- Discover what happens to dough as they think about God's surprising goodness.

### What You'll Need

- NLT Bible
- VeggieTales *The Ballad of Little Joe* DVD, Lesson 4: Justice of the Peas
- DVD player
- Small sensory object
- 1 silver coin for every 2 kids
- Stopwatch
- An additional adult (optional) for the "Hide and Find" activity
- Large hand-held mirror
- 1 copy per child of the "God's Goodness" coloring page (on p. 130)
- Stapler
- Washable markers
- Scissors (several pairs)
- Large bowl
- Spoon and measuring cup
- Baking soda
- Water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Foam bowls
- White vinegar



## Hidden Surprise

Close your hands over the small sensory object, and hide it from the kids.

Welcome children, and gather kids together in a circle. Tell kids that you're really excited to show them something you brought today. Explain that you've hidden it in your hands. Carefully open your hands and show it only to the person sitting on your left. Encourage that child to say out loud one thing he or she really likes about the object without giving away what the object is to the rest of the group. Then carefully hand off the object to that child while keeping it hidden from everyone else. That child will then show it to the next child, and so on. Each child will share one thing about what he or she likes about the object. Continue around the circle until the object comes back to you.

Ask:

- **What was it like to be left out and not know what the object in my hand was?**
- **What was it like to finally get to see the object and show it to someone else?**
- **Tell about a time you showed your friends something surprising or cool.**

Say: **Just as you got to show each other this cool toy, today we're learning that we can show God's goodness to others. Let's discover what that means as we watch our VeggieTales video.**

### You'll Need:

- Small sensory object

### Teacher Tip

Prepare ahead by finding a small sensory object at a local discount or dollar store. It can be something that lights up, makes a noise when squeezed, or has an interesting texture, but it needs to be small enough to completely fit into a child's hands. The key is to find an object that kids haven't used before and that easily fits into kids' hands.

# Hide and Find

## You'll Need:

- VeggieTales *The Ballad of Little Joe* DVD, Lesson 4: Justice of the Peas
- DVD player
- 1 silver coin for every 2 kids
- Stopwatch
- An additional adult (optional)

Say: **Little Joe was the youngest and favorite son of his father. His brothers were jealous of Little Joe and sold him to some desperados, who are bad guys. Just when things started looking up for Joe in his new home, he got thrown into jail for something he didn't do. Even while Little Joe was in jail, God watched out for him. Little Joe helped the mayor understand his dream, and his reward was to become the second-most powerful man in the town. Little Joe used his new power to help people prepare for a time when there would be very little food. Let's check out what happened next.**

**Play** "Little Joe Forgives."

Afterward, ask:

- **In what ways do you think Little Joe showed his brothers God's goodness?**
- **What's one way you've shown God's goodness to someone?**

Say: **Even though Little Joe could've refused to give his brothers food, Little Joe showed them God's goodness by forgiving them and taking care of them. Let's play a game to see what it looks like to show God's goodness to others.**

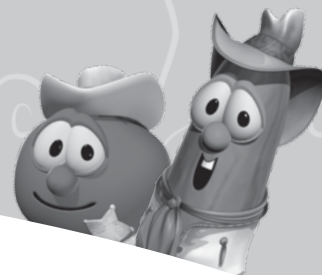
Form pairs. Give each pair a silver coin (like the coins Little Joe used in the video). In pairs, have kids decide who'll be the "Finder" and who'll be the "Hider." Send all the Finders out of the room with an adult (or have them sit with their heads down and eyes closed). Have the Hiders hide their coins. Help kids hide the coins really well so they'll be hard to find in the time limit. Bring the Finders back into the room. Explain that the Finders have one minute to find the coin—but only the coin their partner hid. Start the stopwatch. After a minute is up, have the Hiders lead the Finders to where the coin is hidden. Then have kids switch places and play again.

Talk with kids about what happened when they physically showed their partners where the coin was hidden. For example, they might've walked with them, pointed to the coin, or talked to them about where the coin was.

Ask:

- **How was showing your partner the coin like or unlike showing a friend God's goodness?**
- **What's one way someone has shown God's goodness to you?**

Say: **Just as you showed your partner where the coin was, we show others God's goodness. Let's learn more about what that means as we dig into the Bible.** Collect the coins.



## Mirrored Emotions

Gather kids together facing you. Remind children that even though Little Joe in the video is a cartoon character, there was a real man in the Bible named Joseph. Open your Bible to Genesis 45:2-5. Show kids the words, and tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Give one child the mirror, and have that child stand facing away from the group. Read the passage aloud, and pause when there's an emotional response or facial expression mentioned. For example, pause before the word *wept*. Instead of reading the word aloud, whisper it into the ear of the child holding the mirror and have that child use the mirror to demonstrate the word to the group. Once the group has guessed the correct emotion, give another child a chance to hold the mirror and continue reading. (Using the NLT version of the Bible, pause after each of these words: *wept, speechless, stunned, upset, and angry*.)

Ask:

- **Even though that Bible passage showed people who were speechless, stunned, upset, and angry, how did it also show God's goodness?**
- **What's one expression you can make to show someone God's goodness?**
- **What can you do so that others can see God's goodness in you?**

Say: **Just as Joseph showed God's goodness by being kind to his brothers, we can show others kindness with something as simple as a smile. It's easy to show God's goodness to others.**

### You'll Need:

- NLT Bible
- Large hand-held mirror

## Flip Book

Set out markers. Hand each child a copy of the "God's Goodness" coloring page.

Explain to kids that they're going to turn their coloring pages into a flip book they can use to show God's goodness in action to others. Ask children to draw a picture in each square that reminds them of something that's good about God. For example, kids might draw a heart for God's love, a smiley face for God's kindness, or a cross for God's forgiveness.

When children have completed their pictures, give them scissors. Show kids how to cut along the dotted lines of the coloring page. (You may need to help younger children cut their pages.) Then have kids bring their pictures to you. Stack the pictures with the Little Joe picture on top. Then staple the pictures together to create a book.

### You'll Need:

- 1 copy per child of the "God's Goodness" coloring page (on p. 130)
- Stapler
- Washable markers
- Scissors (several pairs)

Ask kids to flip through their books and show someone near them what they drew and tell about why they drew those particular pictures.

Ask:

- **What's one new thing you thought about God's goodness as you drew?**
- **How do your pictures show God's goodness?**
- **What's one way you can show someone else God's goodness in action this week?**

Say: **God is good, kind, loving, and forgiving. We can show other people who God is through how we act and how we live each day. Just as Joseph showed his brothers God's goodness, we can show God's goodness to others.**

## Surprisingly Good

### You'll Need:

- Large bowl
- Spoon and measuring cup
- Baking soda
- Water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Foam bowls
- White vinegar

Beforehand, make baking-soda dough. For every six children, mix two cups of baking soda with  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of water in a large bowl. (If the dough is really crumbly, you can add more water). You can also add a couple drops of food coloring to each batch to make it more colorful.

Give each child a small amount of the dough in a foam bowl. Have kids shape the dough to represent one thing that is good about God. For example, kids might make a heart shape because God's love is good. Or kids might make a tree shape to represent how the things God makes are good.

After a few minutes, show children the vinegar.

Ask:

- **What do you think will happen when I add this to the dough?**

Add a small amount of vinegar to each child's bowl, and have kids watch the dough

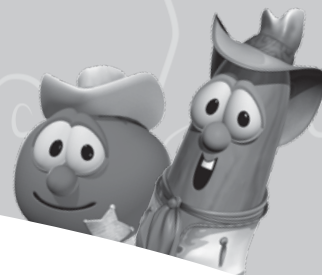
"erupt."

Ask:

- **What surprised you about the way the vinegar changed the shape you made?**
- **What's one way God has surprised you with his goodness?**

Say: **It's easy to think that Joseph's brothers didn't deserve Joseph's forgiveness—but Joseph forgave them anyway and showed them God's goodness. We don't deserve God's goodness, but God surprises us with it anyway. Let's surprise people this week by telling them and showing them God's goodness in some way. We can show God's goodness to others.**





## Good Prayers

Say: **One of the good things about God is that he cares for us. God wants to hear about what matters to us, what makes us sad, and what we need.**

Encourage kids to each share with the group what they would like to pray for. Then have kids practice showing God's goodness to each other by praying aloud for one other person in the group. After each child has prayed for someone else, say: **God, thank you for how good you are to us. Help us to show your goodness to others this week. In Jesus' name, amen.**



# God's Goodness



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