

Bible Point

# God wants us to forgive.

## Bible Verse

“Be kind to each other” (Ephesians 4:32a).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- hear a story about Joseph’s brothers asking for forgiveness,
  - learn about forgiveness by singing and acting out the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers,
  - help Whiskers ask his brother for forgiveness, and
  - ask God to help them forgive others.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ Joseph forgives his brothers.

**Genesis**  
**45:1–47:12;**  
**50:14–21**

When Joseph’s brothers came to Egypt to buy food, they were suffering from more than physical starvation—their deceit and guilt weighed heavily upon them, too. When Joseph revealed his identity to his brothers, their terror was justified. They remembered all too vividly what they had done to their brother. Certainly they feared for their very lives! However, Joseph’s message was one of forgiveness, not revenge. In spite of the difficulties Joseph had undergone, he realized that God had sent him to Egypt for a purpose. Joseph knew that his dreams were coming true as his brothers bowed to him, but instead of lording over them, he saved them from the famine. Joseph sent food, and Pharaoh also sent carts with provisions so that all of Joseph’s family could travel to Egypt.

The message of forgiveness and the saving of many lives is central to the Bible. It runs from Adam through Jesus. Both Joseph and Jesus challenge us to forgive the hurts we experience every day.

### Prayer

- Read Colossians 3:13.
- Think about what it cost Jesus to forgive your sins.
- Pray: Lord Jesus, I’m so grateful for what you have done for me. Help me extend forgiveness to...

### Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome Time</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Shirt Name Tags” (p. 24), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
<b>Let’s Get Started</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 1: Disappearing Pictures</b> —Draw and erase pictures, and talk about forgiveness.	Overhead transparencies, watercolor markers, paper towels or wet wipes	
	<b>Option 2: Forgiveness Gift Bags</b> —Prepare a gift bag to get ready to learn about the gift of forgiveness.	Paper lunch sacks, colored markers, gift bows	
	<b>Option 3: Traveling to Egypt</b> —Play with suitcases and pack for traveling.	Small suitcases, dishes, dress-up clothing, stuffed animals, dolls	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Setting the Stage</b> —Carry heavy objects to learn what it feels like not to forgive.	CD player, heavy objects, suitcases	
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Hear and Tell the Bible Story</b> —Learn from Genesis 45:1–50:21 how Joseph’s brothers asked for Joseph’s forgiveness.	Bible	
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Create confetti trumpets, and celebrate the act of forgiveness.	Tape, 1 piece of colored construction paper per child, CD player	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Asking Forgiveness</b> —Teach Whiskers how to ask his brother for forgiveness.		
	<b>Light and Happy</b> —Play with pinwheels, sing a song, and close in prayer.	CD player	

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** “Shirt Name Tags” (p. 24), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s lesson or take-home page. Use questions such as “What did you tell your family about what Joseph did for his brothers?” and “What did you share this week?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God wants us to forgive. What does it mean to forgive?** (To not be angry; to say it’s OK.)
- Hand out the shirt name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. Have extra shirt name tags ready for children who are new to the class or to replace damaged name tags.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



## Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Encourage the children to share the supplies you’ve set out. Ask questions such as “How is erasing your picture like forgiving someone?” or “What does it feel like when someone forgives you?”

### ■ Option 1: Disappearing Pictures

**SUPPLIES:** overhead transparencies, watercolor markers, paper towels or wet wipes

Set out blank overhead projector transparencies, watercolor markers, and paper towels. Help children draw pictures on the transparencies and wipe them off. Talk with children about how Joseph forgave his brothers. He treated them as if they had never treated him badly. It was as if he wiped away the bad things they did to him—in the same way the children wiped away their pictures. Remind children that ► God wants us to forgive. To forgive someone means to treat that person as if the wrong things they did never happened.

### ■ Option 2: Forgiveness Gift Bags

**SUPPLIES:** paper lunch sacks, colored markers, gift bows

Set out paper lunch sacks, colored markers, and gift bows. Have children decorate the sacks like gift bags for someone very special. Talk with them about things they might put in their bags when they get home, such as candy or small toys. Explain that they’ll be learning about a very special gift Joseph gave his brothers.



If you have chalkboards or white boards available to you, let children draw and erase pictures using chalk or dry erase markers and erasers.



## ■ Option 3: Traveling to Egypt

**SUPPLIES:** small suitcases, dishes, dress-up clothing, stuffed animals, dolls

Collect small suitcases, duffel bags, or large purses for children to use to go on a “trip.” Have children pack and unpack dress-up clothing, dishes, and dolls or stuffed animals. Explain that today’s Bible story is about Joseph’s brothers and father moving to Egypt.

When everyone has arrived and you’re ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage children to finish what they’re doing and get ready to clean up.

## ■ Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Lead children in singing “Come Along With Me” (track 2) with the CD to the tune of “Come and Go With Me.” Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things.  
Come along with me and pick up all our things,  
So our room will be clean.**

*(Repeat 2x.)*

## Bible Story Time

### ■ Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, heavy objects, suitcases



Tell the children you’ll play a fun marching song (track 10) to get their attention. Explain that when you play the song, the children are to stop what they’re doing and march toward you. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities you’ve planned.

Have children gather in the story area.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?**

*(Decorated a gift bag; played with suitcases; drew pictures and erased them.)*

Say: **Stand up if you drew pictures and erased them. Erasing is like forgiveness. When you forgive someone, it’s like erasing the mean thing they did. ► *God wants us to forgive.***

Have children who drew pictures sit down. Say: **Stand up if you decorated a gift bag. When you give a gift to someone, it makes them feel special.**

Ask: • **When have you received a special gift?** *(Christmas; my birthday.)*



**BIBLE POINT** ►

• **How would you feel if someone just gave you a present for no reason?**  
(Special; happy; excited.)

Say: **Forgiveness is like getting a surprise gift. Even though people have been mean and their friends or families could be mad at them, they forgive and keep loving instead. Ephesians 4:32 says, ►“Be kind to each other.” Can you say that with me? “Be kind to each other.” Even when others are mean to us, we can be kind to them by forgiving them.**

Have children who made gift bags sit down. Say: **Stand up if you packed to go on a trip. We’re going to hear a story today about a time Joseph’s brothers took a long trip. Let’s get ready for that story by packing some more suitcases now.**

Have children who packed suitcases help you gather the suitcases. Form groups of two or three. Give each group a suitcase and a heavy object. Station the groups in various corners of the room.

Say: **I’ve given you something that’s heavy. When I say “go,” put your heavy thing in your suitcase and carry it to the story area. Let’s see which group can work together and carry your suitcase to the story area quickly.**

After the groups have carried their suitcases to the story area, play the “Marching Music” (track 10), and wait for children to respond. Collect the suitcases, and put them away and out of sight.

Ask: • **What was it like to carry something so heavy?** (They were too heavy; it was hard; it was easy because we all helped.)

Say: **When you stay mad at someone and don’t forgive, it’s like carrying something heavy around all the time. It makes you feel tired and grouchy because you keep remembering the bad thing that happened. God doesn’t want us to feel tired and grouchy all the time. ►God wants us to forgive.**

**Today we’re going to hear a Bible story about Joseph and his brothers. The brothers felt tired and grouchy because they had been mean to Joseph. The mean things they did were like a heavy rock they carried around all the time. Let’s get our Bible and find out if Joseph and his brothers will be friends again.**

## ◀ BIBLE VERSE

## ◀ BIBLE POINT



## ■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

*SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player*

tracks 4 & 5



Say: **Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we’ll pass around our special Bible. The person who’s holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad for the Bible” (track 4) with the CD to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



You can also choose children to be the Bible Replacer (to put the Bible away) and the Cheerleader (someone who can encourage everyone to take part in the lesson). Just be sure to keep track of who fills your roles each week, so each child gets a chance to feel special.

Be sure to emphasize to children that the story comes from the Bible, God's Word.



**I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
I'm so glad for God's book today.  
I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—  
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

*(Repeat first verse.)*

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *coat stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *coat stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought you the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 5) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil In My Lamp."



**I'm so glad we're together:  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.  
I'm so glad we're all here today.  
I'm so glad we're together:  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—  
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.  
Thank you for everyone who's here.  
Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—  
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

## ■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible



Have the children form a circle, and place the *Learning Mat: Joseph's Journey* in the middle. Say: **We've been learning a lot about Joseph and his family. Let's see what you can remember.**

Have children take turns gently tossing the *comet ball* across the circle and telling one thing they remember about Joseph. Children may look at

the *Learning Mat* to help them remember parts of the story. Encourage children to say the Bible Points from earlier lessons as well. When each child has had a turn, put the *comet ball* away.

Say: **Good job! You've remembered a lot of things about Joseph.** Open the Bible to **Genesis 50:14-21**. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special Book. Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of the Bible.**

**Let's find out how Joseph and his brothers are doing now. Where is the picture of Joseph and his brothers with their arms around each other?** Wait for children to point to the picture. Then continue: **After Joseph shared the grain with his brothers, he told them to go home and tell their father he was still alive. Joseph invited his whole family to come live near him. He promised to take care of them and give them enough food to eat. So Joseph's father, his brothers and their families, and all of their animals traveled to Egypt to live closer to Joseph.**

**Joseph took his father to meet the king. The king told Joseph to give his family a special place to live. Joseph's father, Jacob, was getting very old. He knew he would die soon. He was glad he got to see Joseph again before he died. But Joseph's brothers weren't so happy to see Joseph. They were worried that Joseph would get mad at them for the mean things they did to him.**

Ask: • **What mean things did the brothers do to Joseph?** (They threw him in a well; they sold him; they sent him away from his family.)

Say: **Joseph's brothers had been very mean to him. So they told Joseph they were sorry and asked him to forgive them. Joseph was happy to forgive his brothers. He knew that ► God wants us to forgive.**

Ask: • **How do you think Joseph felt after he forgave his brothers?** (Better; happy; good.)

• **Tell me about a time you've done something that made another person mad or sad.** (I knocked down Anna's tower; I didn't share the eraser.)

• **How can you be friends with those people again?** (Say, "I'm sorry"; ask them to forgive me; give them a hug.)

Say: ► **God wants us to forgive. Sometimes it's not easy to forgive people when they've done something mean to us, but God will help us forgive. Let's sing a song about forgiveness now.** Return the *Learning Mat* to the Learning Lab.

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### teacher tips

Here's a tip about the physical development of your preschoolers.

They

- have lots of energy;
- walk and run with confidence;
- can draw recognizable shapes; and
- can work simple puzzles.



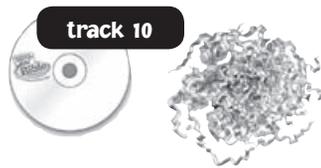
◀ BIBLE POINT



◀ BIBLE POINT

## ■ Do the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** 1 piece of construction paper per child, tape, CD player



Before class, remove the *paper straw* from the Learning Lab and gather construction paper for each child.

Say: **In our story today, we learned that Joseph took care of his family by giving them grain. Joseph’s brothers were sorry for being mean to him before. Joseph could have stayed mad at them, but he didn’t. He forgave them. When we’re unhappy with someone, ►God wants us to forgive, too. I want to know when each of you has forgiven someone.**

One at a time, encourage each child to stand up and tell about a time when he or she forgave someone. If children need prompting, ask the following questions.

Ask: • **When have you been really mad at someone?** (When my sister broke my favorite toy; when my brother hit me; when my friend called me a name.)

• **How did you forgive that person?** (I gave my sister a hug; I told my brother I forgave him when he said he was sorry; I didn’t forgive my friend.)

Say: **Good job forgiving! I’m so proud of you for forgiving those people who made you mad. In fact, I think we should celebrate what a wonderful thing you did when you forgave. Let’s make a special trumpet that we can celebrate with.**

Show children how to roll up the construction paper and tape it to make cone-shaped trumpets. Give each child a handful of the *paper straw* to put inside his or her trumpet.

Play “Marching Music” (track 10) from the *CD* (or play some upbeat celebration music of your own!), and encourage children to jump up and down, twirl, and blow through their trumpets.

Then ask: • **Why is it fun to celebrate?** (Because it’s OK to jump up and down; because it makes me happy.)

• **How did you feel when you forgave someone?** (I felt better; happy; like celebrating.)

Say: **Forgiving someone is a wonderful thing—it’s something we should celebrate. And celebrating is fun!**

**In our story today, Joseph could have been angry. He could have punished his brothers. Instead, he loved his brothers and forgave them. It’s important to forgive people when they hurt us. ►God wants us to forgive. Let’s see if we can help our friend Whiskers learn about forgiveness now.**



**BIBLE POINT** ►



Be aware that blowing on the celebration trumpets will send confetti everywhere. For easier cleanup afterward, have children blow their trumpets in a large, open area or outside.



**BIBLE POINT** ►

# Closing

## ■ Asking Forgiveness

**SUPPLIES:** none

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



*(As you bring out Whiskers, have him whimper and cry.)*

**Teacher:** Whiskers, why are you crying? What's wrong?

**Whiskers:** I'm so sad. My brother Sammy won't talk to me. He won't be my friend anymore.

**Teacher:** Why? What do you think is wrong?

**Whiskers:** First, I was jealous because he had colored markers and I didn't. Then I took his markers and pretended they were mine. I lied and said I didn't know where they were. I think he's still mad at me, and I don't know how to get Sammy to be my friend again. *(Cries some more.)*

**Teacher:** Children, what do you think Whiskers should do? *(Let children respond.)*

Whiskers, we've been learning that God wants us to forgive. Children, can you tell Whiskers what you've learned about forgiveness? *(Pause as children respond.)* Asking forgiveness is being willing to say "I'm sorry" when you've done something wrong. Why don't you go tell Sammy you're sorry and ask for his forgiveness.

**Whiskers:** OK, I'll be right back. *(Hold Whiskers behind your back as you continue.)*

**Teacher:** If you were Whiskers, what would you say? *(Children might reply: Sorry I took your markers; first, I'll ask to use your markers; please forgive me.)*

*(Bring Whiskers back.)*

**Teacher:** Whiskers, you're back! Did you talk with your brother?

**Whiskers:** Yes, I told him I was sorry, and he said he'd forgive me!

**Teacher:** How did you feel when he forgave you?

**Whiskers:** I had been feeling so sad and heavy inside. When I told him I was sorry and he forgave me, I felt light and happy inside. We're friends again.

**Teacher:** That's great, Whiskers.

**Whiskers:** *(Nodding)* I love Sammy. I think I'll go play with him. Goodbye.

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Try one of the following ideas for bringing Whiskers into other parts of the lesson:

- Have Whiskers greet children as they arrive.
- Have Whiskers participate in games or other activities.
- Have Whiskers ask questions to draw out shy children.
- Have Whiskers give the attention-getting signal.
- Have Whiskers ask noisy children to speak quietly.
- Use Whiskers to snuggle or hug a child.

## ■ Light and Happy

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: **Whiskers said he felt light and happy inside after his brother forgave him.**

Ask: • **When do you feel tired and grouchy?** (When I have to take a nap; when someone is mean to me; when I've been mean.)

• **When do you feel light and happy?** (When I forgive someone; when I go outside and play; when I'm with a friend.)

Say: **Earlier we carried heavy objects to help us remember what it feels like when we don't forgive or when someone won't forgive us. Now let's play with some light, colorful *pinwheels* so we can find out what it feels like to be forgiven and to forgive others.**



Say: **Jesus came to forgive everyone for the wrong things we have done. Forgiveness is one way God shows how much he loves us. Let's sing our song about getting along while we play with our *pinwheels* and to celebrate that Jesus has forgiven us.**

Form pairs and give each pair a *pinwheel* to share. If you have more than 12 children in your class, use paper streamers instead. Show children how to blow on the *pinwheels* or wave them in the air to make them spin. Lead children in singing with the CD (track 12): "All Get Along" (Lesson 5) to the tune of "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy."



**I know that God wants us to all get along,  
All get along, all get along.  
I know that God wants us to all get along,  
All get along today.**

**And we're so happy, so very happy  
When all of us are kind to everyone.  
And we're so happy, so very happy  
When all of us are kind to everyone.**

**I know that jealousy is not nice—it's wrong.  
Not nice—it's wrong. Not nice—it's wrong.  
I know that jealousy is not nice—it's wrong.  
I'd rather get along!**

**So let's be kind to everyone,  
To everyone, to everyone.  
Let's be kind to everyone,  
To everyone, to everyone.**

**I know that God wants me to speak only truth,  
Speak only truth, speak only truth.  
I know that God wants me to speak only truth—  
Speak only truth to you.**

I know that God is happy when I share,  
When I share, when I share.  
I know that God is happy when I share,  
When I share with you.

I want to get along, so I'll forgive you now,  
Forgive you now, forgive you now.  
I want to get along, so I'll forgive you now.  
Forgive you everyday.

*(Repeat verse 2.)*

When the song ends, stop the *CD*. Collect the *pinwheels*, and place them out of children's reach. Have the children sit down.

Say: **That was fun. We always feel light and happy inside when we remember that Jesus has forgiven us. Let's ask Jesus to help us be willing to forgive others just as Jesus has forgiven us. Let's bow our heads, close our eyes, and pray.**

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for forgiving us when we say we're sorry. Help us to ask for forgiveness and give forgiveness when we need to. In Jesus' name, amen.**



### **Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ Lively Learning: Review Run



Say: **We're going to play a game to help us remember what we've learned about Joseph for the past few weeks. Let's stand up and make a big circle around our Learning Mat. As soon as you know which story I'm talking about, run over and stand beside that picture on the Learning Mat.**

- Find the picture with Joseph showing off his colorful coat.

Wait for children to run and stand by the picture. Then say: **We learned ► God wants us to be happy for others.** Have children repeat the Bible Point after you.

- Find the picture of Reuben reaching down to Joseph in the well.

Wait for children to run and stand by the picture. Then say: **We learned that ► God wants us to be kind.** Have children repeat the Bible Point after you.

- Find the picture of the brothers lying to their father.

Wait for children to run and stand by the picture. Then say: **We learned that ► God wants us to tell the truth.** Have children repeat the Bible Point after you.

- Find the picture of Joseph sharing with his brothers.

Wait for children to run and stand by the picture. Then say: **We learned that ► God wants us to share.** Have children repeat the Bible Point after you.

- Find the picture of Joseph forgiving his brothers.

Wait for children to run and stand by the picture. Then say: **We learned that ► God wants us to forgive.** Have children repeat the Bible Point after you.

### ■ Make to Take: Forgiveness Faces

Give each child a construction paper circle and a marker. On one side of the circle, have each child draw a happy face. On the other side of the circle, have each child draw a mad or sad face. For extra fun with this activity, provide yarn, and have children add hair to their drawings.

Tell children the faces are to remind them about forgiving others. When we forgive and are forgiven, we feel happy inside; when we don't forgive or when others won't forgive us, we feel sad inside.

### ■ Treat to Eat: Forgiveness Treats



Have the children create trail mix. Set out a variety of whole grain cereals, chocolate chips, and fish-shaped pretzels. Have the children help you pour the ingredients into a large bowl, and mix them together. Ask each child to scoop out some of the mix into a small paper cup. Say: **Joseph forgave all his brothers and gave them grain to eat.**



See page 5.

### ■ Story Picture: Joseph Forgives His Brothers

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson). Talk with them about how it feels to forgive and to be forgiven. Set out small round cereal, and have the children glue cereal "eyes" on the faces of Joseph and his brothers. Then have them glue on small pieces of red whip licorice for their mouths. Remind them that ► God wants us to forgive.

# Today I learned... God wants us to forgive.

Help me learn this:

“Be kind to each other” (Ephesians 4:32a).

## Ask me:

- What happened to Joseph and his brothers in your Bible story today?
- When have you done something that hurt another person? How can you be friends with that person again?
- What can our family members do to show forgiveness to each other?

## Family Fun

- Tie something heavy to a floating bath toy. Put the toy in the water, and discover together why it won't float. Then remove the weight, and let the toy float. Talk about how staying mad makes us feel heavy inside and how forgiveness makes us feel light again.
- Color in the eyes and faces to show how Joseph and his brothers felt after Joseph forgave.

**Lesson 5**  
Today your child learned that **GOD WANTS US TO FORGIVE**. Children heard how Joseph forgave his brothers (Genesis 50:14-21). The children learned about forgiveness by celebrating the story of Joseph forgiving his brothers.

## Joseph Forgives His Brothers (Genesis 50:14-21)

