



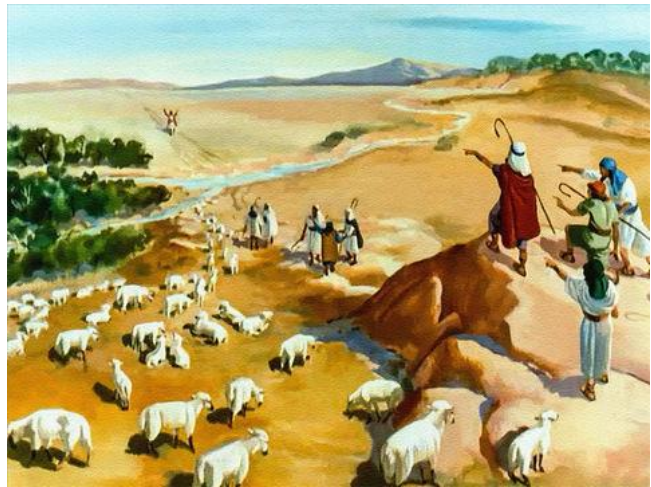
L2L30: Joseph the Dreamer

Genesis 37

Joseph was the first son of his mother Rachel, but he had ten older brothers. He was his father's favorite son, and to make matters worse, Jacob gave Joseph a very special coat, with many different colors. Jacob often sent Joseph to check on his brothers to see how things were going with the flocks of animals, creating animosity between him and them. Then, Joseph began to have dreams he would one day rule over his brothers. He told his father and his brothers about the dreams. Over time, they came to resent and hate him, to the point that they were willing to kill him.

Discuss:

- Jacob grew up in a home where his parents had a favorite child. What might be a problem with a parent showing favoritism to one of their children? Does God show favoritism?
- Why do you think Joseph told his brothers about his dreams?
- What action did his brothers take to get rid of Joseph?
- The older brothers did not seem to think about the great harm that their family would suffer as a result of their actions. What were some of the consequences of their decision? Why is it important to control your emotions and think before acting?
- It is often difficult to be a younger brother or sister. What can older brothers and sisters do to help younger brothers and sisters feel a part of the family?



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Memory Challenge:

Genesis 37:3-4

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of *many* colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.



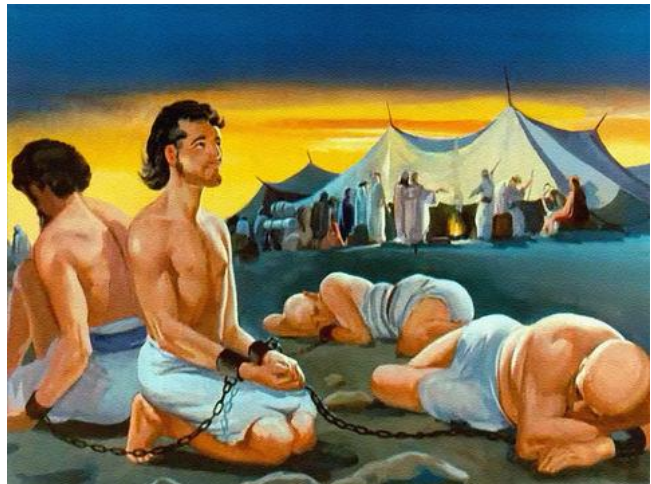
L2L31: Joseph's Troubles

Genesis 39-40

Joseph was in trouble. His brothers had sold him to Midianite traders who took him into Egypt. There he was sold as a slave to Potiphar, a captain of the guard for Pharaoh. Joseph, despite his troubles, decided to do his best to please his master, and God blessed all that he did. However, Potiphar's wife wanted Joseph to betray his master with her. He refused, so she lied to her husband about Joseph. Joseph was soon stuck in prison for a crime he did not commit, but he did not lose hope. Joseph continued trying to make the best of a horrible situation.

Discuss:

- How do you think it would feel to be punished for something you didn't do? How did Joseph deal with his situation? It can help to remember what God has promised in Hebrews 13:5 and Deuteronomy 31:6.
- Joseph showed courage and bravery when he refused to sin against God. Can you think of any examples in your family when someone had to show courage and stand for what is right?
- Joseph maintained a positive attitude through each trial he faced. He continued to obey God and to practice godly principles. Can you name some of Joseph's good character traits?
- Joseph was only a teenager when these things began to happen to him. As a young person he had already made a commitment to obey God. You are never too young to develop a relationship with God.



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Memory Challenge:

Genesis 39:2-3

The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord made all he did to prosper in his hand.



L2L32: Joseph Becomes Governor of Egypt

Genesis 41

The Pharaoh of Egypt had some odd dreams that bothered him so he wanted to know what they meant. When his butler heard about the problem, he remembered that Joseph was able to interpret dreams. The butler told Pharaoh about Joseph, who was still in prison, and Pharaoh quickly sent for him. Joseph told Pharaoh that his dreams were a warning from God that there would be seven years of abundance followed by seven years of famine. Joseph made some suggestions about how Pharaoh could prepare for the famine, and Pharaoh recognized that God was with Joseph, so he wanted Joseph to work for him. Joseph was seventeen when he was sold into slavery. Now, when he was thirty years old, he became one of the most powerful men in Egypt.

Discuss:

- Who inspired and interpreted Pharaoh's dreams?
- God was with Joseph every step of the way. Sometimes God allows us to experience trials so that we can learn important lessons. What do you think are some life lessons Joseph may have learned from his years of trials?
- What does it mean to be diligent? How did Joseph exercise diligence?
- Joseph made a plan to save the nation by storing grain while the harvests were good. How can we use this principle in our own lives?



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Memory Challenge:

Genesis 41:39-10

Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Inasmuch as God has shown you all this, there is no one as discerning and wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all my people shall be ruled according to your word; only in regard to the throne will I be greater than you."



L2L33: Joseph Reunites with his Brothers

Genesis 42-50

The seven years of plenty that God promised quickly passed, and soon famine struck Egypt and the land surrounding it. In Canaan, Israel and his family were running out of food, so when he heard that Egypt had grain, he sent his sons to purchase food there. Benjamin did not go because he was Israel's youngest son and the only surviving son of Rachel. At least, that's what everyone thought! When the brothers arrived in Egypt, they were brought before Joseph. Even though they were face to face with their own brother, they didn't recognize him. On the other hand, Joseph immediately recognized who they were. Should he tell them that he was their long-lost brother? Could he overlook their cruelty on that day that they sold him into slavery? As Joseph agonized over what to do, the tables had been turned. Now, their lives were in his hands. Joseph faced a tremendous challenge, and his brothers were in for a big surprise.

Discuss:

- Why do you think Joseph's brothers did not recognize him when they came to Egypt? (Possible reasons are he was older, he was dressed as an Egyptian, etc.)
- The brothers attributed their problems to what they had done to Joseph many years before. They felt guilty. Repentance is the remedy for guilt. When we repent, God is quick to forgive!
- What was Joseph's attitude toward his brothers? Was he bitter? Did he want revenge?
- Imagine the great joy Jacob and Joseph felt when they saw each other again.
- What did it mean for Joseph to receive the birthright?



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Memory Challenge:

Genesis 45:4-7

And Joseph said to his brothers, "Please come near to me." So they came near. Then he said: "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold into Egypt. But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For these two years the famine has been in the land, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance."