

Joseph Becomes a Slave

Joseph's envious brothers sold him as a slave.



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 44 Flip Chart. We saw in our last lesson that it was time for Jacob to return to the land of Canaan.

Remember, Jacob was afraid that Esau was still angry with him. He thought his brother would kill him and his family.

- ? What happened while Jacob was alone at night? *God came and wrestled with him.*
- ? What new name did God give to Jacob? *Israel.*

Yes. Jacob understood that he was a deceiver—a liar and a sinner. But God changed Jacob. The next day, Jacob showed his brother that he was sorry for what he had done, and Esau forgave him.

- ? The brothers were reconciled. What does that mean? *Two people become friends again after an argument.*

Now Jacob could live with his family in peace in the land of Canaan.

Before we get started today, I'm going to pass out some pictures to some of you. Hold them still until it's time to use them. *Pass out the Dream Pictures you prepared for class. If you have a small class, give more than one to some students if necessary.*

Joseph's Dreams

- ? Refer to the Genesis Timeline. Who remembers how many sons Jacob had? 12.

Show the Lesson Flip Chart. Right. The Bible tells us that Jacob loved one of his sons more than all the others. This son's name was Joseph. We're going to talk about what happened when Joseph was 17 years old. He was living with his family in Canaan and working with his brothers, caring for the sheep and goats.

One day Jacob gave Joseph a special gift. It was a coat with many beautiful colors. Usually fathers would give this kind of gift to the oldest son. But Joseph was

not the oldest—he was next to the youngest! Out of all 12 sons, Joseph was number 11. Only Benjamin was younger.

Joseph's older brothers didn't like it when their father treated Joseph like he was extra-special. The Bible says that Joseph's brothers hated him. They were so jealous that they couldn't even say anything nice to him.

- ? Do you think God was pleased with their jealousy? *No. God wants us to love our brothers and sisters, but Joseph's brothers hated him.*
- ? Then one day, things got even worse. Let's find out why. Who has the Bible? Please bring it up. *Have the student bring the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

Genesis 37:5–7

Listen to what happened as I read from the book of Genesis. *Read Genesis 37:5–7.*

- ? Who had a dream? *Joseph.*
- Joseph had some special dreams from God. You and I have dreams all the time. Most of them we probably can't even remember. But Joseph remembered these dreams, and he wanted to tell someone about them.
- ? Who did he tell his dreams to? *His brothers.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. That's right. The first dream was about sheaves of grain. A sheaf of grain is a bundle of grain tied together. Everyone who has a picture of the grain, come up to the front. *Have students bring their bowing sheaf Dream Pictures up. Have one person be Joseph and stand in the middle with the upright sheaf picture.*

- ? What did Joseph's sheaf do in this dream? *Joseph's sheaf stood up. Have the student acting as Joseph raise his sheaf picture up high.*
- ? His grain sheaf stood up tall. But what did his brothers' sheaves do? *Gathered around and bowed down to his sheaf. Have other students encircle Joseph and move their pictures up and down as if bowing.*

Joseph's brothers thought his dream meant that Joseph would rule over them! But they didn't like that idea at all. No way would they ever bow down to their little brother! *Have students return to their seats.*

But that's not all; Joseph had another dream.

Genesis 37:9

Let's find out what was in Joseph's second dream. *Read Genesis 37:9.*

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. What did Joseph dream about this time? *Sun, moon, and stars bowing to him.*

Have students with Dream Pictures of the bowing sun, moon, and stars come up to the front. Also ask for a volunteer to be Joseph. Have him stand in the middle.

- ? What bowed down to Joseph in the dream? *The sun, moon, and 11 stars. Have students move their pictures up and down as if bowing to Joseph.*

This time, Joseph told his dream to his brothers and his father. The 11 stars stood for Joseph's brothers. But the sun and the moon stood for his mother and father! Jacob scolded Joseph because he thought it meant that he and Joseph's mother would bow down to him, too. *Have students return to their seats.*

Joseph's brothers weren't happy at all. They were already jealous of Joseph. And now he dreamed that he would rule over them someday! Even his mother and father would bow down to him. They probably thought that was just ridiculous, and they hated Joseph even more.

The Brothers' Plan

Not long after Joseph had these dreams, something terrible happened! Joseph's brothers were out caring for the family's sheep and goats. Jacob sent Joseph to go and see how they were doing. So Joseph headed out to find them. But Joseph didn't know his brothers were planning how to get rid of him!

Genesis 37:20

Listen to their plan. *Read Genesis 37:20.*

- ? The brothers saw Joseph coming. What were they planning to do to him? *Kill him and throw him into a pit.*
- Oh no! Things were looking bad for Joseph! But his oldest brother, Reuben, came up with a different plan. "Don't kill Joseph," he said. "Let's just throw him into a pit."

The brothers listened to Reuben and agreed not to kill Joseph. But they were still angry and jealous, so they grabbed Joseph, ripped his colored coat off him, and threw him into an empty pit.

After they trapped Joseph down in the deep, dark hole, the brothers sat down to eat a meal. While they were eating, they saw a group of traders passing by on their way to Egypt where they would sell their goods. This gave Judah a different idea. "Hey," he said, "let's sell Joseph to these men. They can take him to Egypt."

The brothers thought that sounded like a good way to get rid of Joseph, and they all agreed—except for Reuben. He wanted to rescue Joseph from the pit, but

before he could do it, the other brothers took Joseph and sold him to the traders!

The brothers remembered that their father would be extremely sad that Joseph was gone. They didn't want to get into trouble, so they covered up what they had done. They killed one of the goats from the flock and spread its blood on Joseph's colorful coat.

When they showed the coat to their father, Jacob, he thought a wild animal had killed Joseph. Poor Jacob! He cried for many days, thinking his favorite son was dead.

God's Plan

- ? But where was Joseph? *In Egypt.*

Remember the dreams Joseph had? Let's see those pictures again. *Have students wave them in the air.*

- ? What did those dreams mean? *Joseph would rule over his family. They would bow to him.*

It doesn't look like his dreams will happen, does it? *Have students put pictures down now.* Joseph's brothers got rid of him! He was a slave in Egypt now.

Genesis 37:36

Let's find out what happened when Joseph got to Egypt. *Read Genesis 37:36.*

- ? Who did the traders sell Joseph to as a slave? *Potiphar.*

Joseph became the slave of a powerful man named Potiphar. He was the captain of the guard—an important man who worked for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt.

Refer to the Flip Chart. Wow! Things looked really bad for Joseph—he was a slave in Egypt! But you know what? We can trust that God's plans always work out perfectly even when things don't look too good.

- ? It was wrong for Joseph's brothers to hate him and harm him. They had a lot of evil plans for Joseph. But can you tell me who was really in control here? Was it the brothers or was it God? *God.*

That's right. God was in control. Nobody's evil plans can stop God's plan because God is sovereign. Say that with me: God is sovereign.

- ? Do you remember what sovereign means? *God is in control of everything.*

Even though Joseph's brothers were mean and sinful, God actually wanted Joseph to go to Egypt—and that's exactly where he ended up. God brought Joseph to Egypt for a special reason, and we'll find out what that reason is in the next few lessons.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game.



Joseph was a
FAVORITE SON.

Joseph dreamed
his family would
BOW to him.



Joseph was sold
as a **SLAVE.**