



The Story of Joseph

Hebrews 11:22

“By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his burial.” Hebrews 11:22

Genesis 37-50 = The Story of Joseph

Jacob’s 12 sons

With Leah: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun

With Rachel: Joseph, Benjamin

With Bilhah [Rachel’s servant]: Dan, Naphtali

With Zilpah (Leah’s servant): Gad, Asher

The Opening Scene:

“When Joseph was 17 years old, he often tended his father’s flocks. He worked for his half-brothers, the sons of his father’s wives Bilhah and Zilpah. But Joseph reported to his father some of the bad things his brothers were doing.

Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn’t say a kind word to him.” Genesis 37:2-4 NLT

First Episode: Joseph and Dreams

One night, Joseph had a dream.

Joseph to his brothers: “Hey! I had a cool dream! We were out in the field tying up bundles of grain, and then all your bundles gathered around MY bundle and bowed down to it!”

The Brothers: "REALLY?!"

Joseph: "There's more! The Sun, the Moon, and 11 stars bowed down to me!"

The Brothers: "REALLY?!"

The Brothers *grew more jealous of Joseph.*

The Brothers: "We'll give him a dream! Let's kill him." [Genesis 37:5-20]

The Brothers plotted against Joseph, attempted to kill him, but settled on selling their little brother into slavery to some traders who took him to Egypt.

They bloodied Joseph's beautiful daddy coat with sheep's blood, brought the coat to dad, and said:

"Guess what happened at work today? Yea...something ate Joseph." [Genesis 37:21-36]

1. Favoritism Breeds Jealousy.

The family of Joseph is **dysfunctional**.

"God chose this people to be a blessing to the entire world, but God's family is not even able to be a blessing to each other."

Second Episode: Joseph in Egypt

"The LORD was with Joseph." Genesis 39:2

The Lord blessed Joseph while he was a slave in Egypt: He became the overseer of Potiphar's entire house!

Potiphar's Wife: *Joseph is hot!*

Potiphar's Wife: "Sleep with me."

Joseph: "No! My master has put me in charge of everything he owns, except you because you are his wife! How then could I do this great evil and sin against God?" [Genesis 39]

Potiphar's wife:

- Creates a false accusation
- Grab's Joseph's cloak
- Tells everyone that Joseph was going to rape her.
- She called Joseph a *Hebrew* [Genesis 43:32 – "The Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians."]

Joseph gets thrown in prison by Potiphar.

2. The Power of Seduction

Third Episode: Joseph Reunites with his Brothers

Pharaoh has a dream that no one in all of Egypt can interpret. So, they hear that Joseph is an interpreter of dreams.

Joseph: "The next 7 years will be full of food, but then after that, there will be 7 years of famine throughout the land."

Joseph creates and executes a master plan for saving Egypt from hunger.

Only Egypt has food for the entire world, and guess who comes begging for food?

Joseph's brothers.

"Weeping with joy, Joseph embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same. Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him." [Genesis 45:14-15]

3. Weeping Leads to Reconciliation

Joseph weeps:

Genesis 42:23-24

"Of course, they didn't know that Joseph understood them, for he had been speaking to them through an interpreter. Now he turned away from them and began to weep. When he regained his composure, he spoke to them again."

Genesis 43:30

"Then Joseph hurried from the room because he was overcome with emotion for his brother, Benjamin. He went into his private room, where he broke down and wept."

Genesis 45:2

"Joseph wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace."

Genesis 50:1

"Joseph wept over Jacob, his father."

Genesis 50:17

"Joseph broke down and wept when his brothers asked for forgiveness."

Fourth Episode: Joseph at the End of His Life

“Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. ‘Look, we are your slaves!’ they said.

But Joseph replied, ‘Don’t be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? **You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good.** He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. No, don’t be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children.’ So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.” [Genesis 50:18-21]

4. Keep Going By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave instructions about his bones.” Hebrews 11:22

“Moses took with him the bones of Joseph.” [Exodus 13:19]