

2.02 JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

GENESIS 37

Long ago, there was a man named Abraham who had a son named Isaac. Isaac also had a son named Jacob. All these men loved God and wanted to obey Him.

Jacob had twelve sons. He loved all his sons, but one son was special to Jacob. This son was named Joseph. Joseph was special because he had been born when Jacob was old. Jacob made Joseph a coat to wear with many colors on it. Joseph's brothers hated him when they saw this coat. They knew their father loved Joseph the best.

Sometimes Joseph would have dreams. He would tell his brothers his dreams and they would hate him even more. He would say to them, "Listen to what I dreamed about." Then he would tell them.

One night, Joseph dreamed about bundles of wheat in the field. He told his brothers he was dreaming they all had bundles of wheat. His bundle of wheat stood straight up, and the other bundles bowed down to his! The brothers were angry! What kind of a dream was this! Did this mean Joseph would be more important than they were?

Then, Joseph dreamed again. He also told his brothers this dream. He said to them, "I had another dream. I dreamed the sun, the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me." Joseph also told his father, Jacob, this dream. Jacob scolded his son and said, "Does this dream mean that your mother and I, and your brothers, will be bowing to you?" But Jacob kept thinking about this in his heart. He wondered what Joseph's dreams meant.

One day, Jacob's older sons were working in the fields. Jacob decided to send Joseph out to check on his brothers to see how they were doing. Joseph was to come back to his father to give a report.

When the brothers saw Joseph on his way to them, they became angry. "Here comes the dreamer," they said. "Let's kill him! We can tell our father a wild animal has eaten Joseph."

But one of the brothers, Reuben, didn't want to kill Joseph. He said, "Let's just put him in the cistern." A cistern was a place for water. This cistern was empty. The brothers liked this idea, so they threw Joseph in. But they kept his coat of many colors.

A while later, a group of traders were coming by on their way to Egypt. The brothers had an idea. They pulled Joseph out of the cistern and sold him to the traders. These men took Joseph with them to Egypt.

Joseph's brothers went back home and told their father that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. They showed Joseph's coat to Jacob. They had put an animal's blood on the coat to make their story look true. Jacob was very, very sad. His family tried to comfort him, but he would not be comforted. He said, "I will be sad for the rest of my life."

But that was not the end of Joseph! His life in Egypt was going to get very exciting!

2.02 JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS - TEACHER'S GUIDE

GENESIS 37

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 1) Jacob had twelve sons. Joseph was his favorite. Joseph had been born when Jacob was old.
- 2) Jacob made Joseph a coat with many colors on it. Joseph's brothers hated him when they saw this.
- 3) Joseph had dreams that made him look more important than his family.
- 4) Jacob asked Joseph to check on his brothers who were working out in the fields.
- 5) Joseph's brothers sold him to some traders from Egypt.
- 6) Joseph's brothers told their father that Joseph had been killed by an animal.

QUESTIONS:

- 1) Why was Joseph Jacob's favorite son?
- 2) What did Jacob do for Joseph because he was his favorite son?
- 3) What made Joseph look more important than the rest of his family?
- 4) What did Jacob ask Joseph to do?
- 5) What did the brothers do to Joseph?
- 6) What did the brothers tell their father when they got home?

ANSWERS:

- 1) Joseph was the favorite because Jacob was old when Joseph was born.
- 2) Jacob made Joseph a special coat with many colors on it.
- 3) Joseph had dreams that made him look more important than his family.
- 4) Jacob asked Joseph to check on his brothers as they were working in the fields.
- 5) The brothers sold Joseph to some Egyptian traders.
- 6) When they got home, the brothers told their father that Joseph had been killed by an animal.

When we trust God like Joseph, God will help us even in hard places and circumstances!