

# Joseph the Dreamer

## Sold into Slavery

Genesis 35; 37



Old Testament 3  
Part 1: Joseph

### SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 3 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

#### SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Genesis 35 and 37

#### MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Love suffers long and is kind..." (1 Corinthians 13:4a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil" (1 Corinthians 13:4-5).

#### SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["The Sons of Jacob"](#)
- ["Joseph's Song"](#)
- ["Three Wandering Jews"](#)

#### LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be scriptural.]
- [Joseph & Moses Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 3 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- Apologetics Press' [Bible Timeline](#)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- "Genesis Chapter Summary" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- A Beka Flash-A-Card Series: Joseph (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- 12 Sons of Jacob Strip visual aid (<https://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/products/156-12-sons-of-jacob-strip/>)
- Twelve Sons of Jacob Take-home (<https://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/>)



[products/12805-twelve-sons-of-jacob-take-home/](#)

- **Family Tree of Abraham Poster** (<https://store.bibleclassworkshop.com/products/162-family-tree-of-abraham-poster/>)

### PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to show love and kindness to others, instead of being jealous or resentful.

## LESSON STARTS HERE

### INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Do you remember learning about a man named Jacob? How many children did Jacob have? (12 sons and one daughter)

How many of you have a brother or a sister? How should we treat our brothers and sisters? Today, we are going to learn about some brothers that did a very bad thing to their brother, Joseph.

### INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Review last week's lesson [i.e., NT2 L13]

Discuss what it means to be jealous. Discuss times students have been jealous of someone else and the feelings they felt. Being jealous can make us have bad feelings inside and can make us do unkind things to other people. Today, we're going to learn about how jealousy caused Joseph's brothers to do a terrible thing to him.

### POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. After 20 years of working for his uncle Laban, Jacob (Israel) and his wives and 13 children (12 sons and one daughter) moved back to Canaan near the town of Hebron. Jacob had large flocks and herds, and his oldest sons were in charge of them.
2. Of all his sons, Jacob loved Joseph the most and showed him more attention than the others. He gave Joseph a **special coat** when he was 17 years old, and this made the other sons very jealous. One day, when Joseph went into the pastures with his older brothers, he went back home to his father and told him that his brothers were not doing what they were supposed to do. This made his brothers more angry and jealous of him.



**NOTE:** The KJV says that Jacob gave Joseph a “coat of many colors.” It is possible that the translation was supposed to be a “tunic with long sleeves,” as in the RSV, or a “full-length robe.” The NKJV, ASV, and ESV, however, all support the idea of a many colored garment.



**NOTE:** Since we know of Joseph's strong character, his “reports” were probably only the truth, not malicious or spiteful.

3. The older sons of Jacob became even more jealous of Joseph after he had two dreams that told about the future. The first dream was about sheaves (bundles) of grain. Joseph said that in his

dream they were all working in the field together, gathering grain into bundles, when suddenly, his bundle of grain stood straight up, and the bundles of his brothers all bowed down to his. The brothers understood that this dream meant that some day they would bow down to Joseph like slaves to a king. They were very angry at the thought of that!

4. In Joseph's second dream, the Moon, the Sun, and the eleven stars bowed down to him. He told his father about this dream and Jacob could hardly believe it. He knew that the Sun represented him, the Moon represented Joseph's mother, and the stars represented the brothers. He could not believe that one day he and the rest of his sons would bow down to Joseph, and Jacob was upset with him for his dream, but Jacob "kept the saying in his mind."
5. One day the older brothers left home to take the flock to Shechem. Jacob sent Joseph to check on them and bring him back a report of how they were doing. He finally found them at a place called Dothan (about 10 miles north of Shechem). When the brothers saw him coming in the distance, they began right away planning to get rid of this brother of whom they were so jealous. Most of the brothers wanted to kill Joseph, but Reuben stopped them. He persuaded them to put Joseph in a nearby, empty water pit. Reuben was planning to return later and rescue Joseph out of the pit and give him back to his father.
6. The brothers took the special coat away from Joseph and put him in the pit. Then they sat down to eat a meal! While they were eating, a caravan of Midianites (apparently, traveling in a group with Ishmaelites) traders came by, and Judah had an idea. He suggested to his brothers that they sell Joseph instead of leaving him in the pit or killing him. So, while Reuben was gone, the other brothers took Joseph out of the pit and sold him to the traders for 20 shekels of silver, the common price for a slave.



**NOTE:** Midianites were descendants of Abraham, as well as the Ishmaelites and the Israelites. The Midianites came through Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2), Abraham's second wife, and the Ishmaelites came through Hagar, Sarah's Egyptian maidservant.

7. Reuben came back to the pit and found that Joseph was not there. He was very upset and tore his clothes (a sign of great grief or trouble). As the oldest of all the brothers, he was responsible for the safety of the flocks and of his brothers. He knew how upset his father Jacob would be that Joseph was gone. Instead of telling Jacob what they had done, the brothers made another bad choice: they decided to lie and tell him that a wild animal had killed Joseph.
8. The brothers killed a goat and dipped Joseph's beautiful, special coat in the blood. They went back home and showed the coat to Jacob, asking him if he recognized it. They pretended that they had just found the coat and didn't know if it was Joseph's. They tricked Jacob into believing that his favorite son was dead. Jacob was so unbelievably hurt by the supposed death of Joseph that he said he would go to his grave miserable and unhappy ("would not be comforted").
9. What did the brothers gain by selling Joseph? They were so jealous of Joseph that they let their anger control their thinking. Not only did they make their aged father very unhappy, but they each had to bear the guilt of what they had done, and pay the consequences for their bad choices for many years to come.
10. Does it help to have bad feelings toward someone else, to be jealous of what they are or what they have? No! God wants us to show love and kindness toward others, and jealousy is certainly not loving or kind, is it?



**RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS:** See the article “[The Mosaic Authorship of the Joseph Story](#)” on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to skeptics who claim that Moses did not author the story of Joseph.

**PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):**

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

### **Ages 2-5:**

- “[Joseph the Dreamer Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “Pin the Coat on Joseph” Game: Draw or copy a cutout of a man on half of a sheet of poster board. Copy coats of many colors to pass out to the children. Blindfold the children and see who can stick his coat closest to the body. ([Man](#) and [coat](#) cutouts provided in activity sheets.)
- Bring a “coat of many colors,” and let the children act out the story taking turns being Joseph.
- Make a game using a human cutout and colorful coats. Write questions on the men and the answers on the coats. Help the children read and match the right coat to the Joseph cutouts.
- Have children draw a picture of themselves and their brothers or sisters, and write or print the memory verse on the paper. (If they don’t have siblings, they can draw friends.)
- Print a picture of Joseph wearing his coat of many colors on cardstock, and have the children color Joseph. Then paint the coat with watercolors to make it colorful.
- Have the children read the following:
  - *Joseph*, by Jason Parish, Bible Friends series

### **1st-2nd Graders:**

- Make a game using a human cutout and colorful coats. Write questions on the men and the answers on the coats. Have the children read and match the right coat to the Joseph cutouts. (Can be played like a “memory” game.) ([Man](#) and [coat](#) cutouts provided in activity sheets.)
- “[Joseph the Dreamer Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Have the children read the following:
  - *Joseph and His Brothers*, by Kelly Pulley, Zonderkidz I Can Read! Series
  - *Joseph, Jacob’s Favorite Son*, Arch book, Eric C. Bohnet
- Make a coat of many colors for each child. Items needed: A standard/queen/king white pillowcase, colorful fabric markers or paint, fabric scissors.

*What to do:*

Teacher should cut out armholes and head hole before the children begin to decorate the coat. Have the children use their creativity to decorate their own coat.

### **3rd-4th Graders:**

- “[Joseph the Dreamer Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Make a game using a human cutout and colorful coats. Write questions on the men and the answers on the coats. Have the children read and match the right coat to the Joseph cutouts. (Can be played like a “memory” game.) ([Man](#) and [coat](#) cutouts provided in activity sheets.)
- Play “Hangman” with key words/phrases from the story.

- Have the children read the following:
  - Genesis chapters 35-37
  - AP's kids morality tracts: "[What God Says About Bragging](#)"; "[What God Says About Jealousy](#)"; "[What God Says About Lying](#)"; "[What God Says About How We Treat Others](#)"
  - *Joseph and the Coat of Many Colors*, A Chunky Book, by Mary Josephs (DISCLAIMER: note that Benjamin was the youngest; Joseph was the second to youngest)
  - *Joseph's Coat of Many Colors*, Children's Bible Stories, Publications International
  - *Joseph the Dreamer*, by Penny Frank, The Lion Story Bible

## SONGS:

### **"THE SONS OF JACOB"**

Author: Jeff Miller

(Tune: See "[Kids Prep](#)" CD)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah,  
Issachar, Zebulun, Naphtali;  
Dan, Gad, Asher,  
Joseph, and Benjamin.  
These are the sons of Jacob.

### **"JOSEPH'S SONG" ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Unknown\*

(Tune: "London Bridge")

Joseph's father had twelve sons,  
Had twelve sons, had twelve sons.  
Joseph's father had twelve sons,  
Oh, what a family.

Joseph's father loved him best,  
Loved him best, loved him best.  
Joseph's father loved him best,  
Oh, what a family.

A coat of many colors was his gift,  
Was his gift, was his gift.  
A coat of many colors was his gift,  
Oh, what a family.

All his brothers were jealous,  
Were jealous, were jealous.  
All his brothers were jealous,  
Oh, what a family.

His brothers threw him in a pit,  
In a pit, in a pit.  
His brothers threw him in a pit,  
Oh, what a family.

Egypt bought him as a slave,  
As a slave, as a slave.  
Egypt bought him as a slave,  
Oh, what a family.

God caused famine in the land,  
In the land, in the land.  
God caused famine in the land,  
Oh, what a family.

By then Joseph was a mighty man,  
Mighty man, mighty man.  
By then Joseph was a mighty man,  
Oh, what a family.

His brothers came to him for food,  
Him for food, him for food.  
His brothers came to him for food,  
Oh, what a family.

Joseph forgave and fed them all,  
Fed them all, fed them all.  
Joseph forgave and fed them all,  
Oh, what a family.

**“THREE WANDERING JEWS” ([Click to Hear](#))**

Author: Unknown\*

Once there were three wandering Jews.  
Once there were three wandering Jews.  
Wandering, wandering,  
Jews, Jews, Jews.  
Wandering, wandering,  
Jews, Jews, Jews.  
Once there were three wandering Jews.

The first one’s name was Abraham.  
The first one’s name was Abraham.  
Abra-Abra,  
Ham-ham-ham.  
Abra-Abra,  
Ham-ham-ham.  
The first one’s name was Abraham.

The second one’s name was Isaac.  
The second one’s name was Isaac.  
I-I,  
Saac-saac-saac.  
I-I,  
Saac-saac-saac.

The second one's name was Isaac.

The third one's name was Jacob.

The third one's name was Jacob.

Ja-Ja,

Cob-cob-cob.

Ja-Ja,

Cob-cob-cob.

The third one's name was Jacob.

They all went down to Canaan's land.

They all went down to Canaan's land.

Canaan-Canaan,

Land-land-land.

Canaan-Canaan

Land-land-land.

They all went down to Canaan's land.

[NOTE: Technically, the term “Jew” was not used at the time of Abraham, but later was used in the Bible to describe Israelites in general (which is the intended meaning here). See John 6:4; 7:2; Romans 1:16.]

\*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

\*\*\* IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.







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### WEDNESDAY EVENING

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## PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to show love and kindness to others, instead of being jealous or resentful.

## INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 3 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 3 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

## POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 3 Review Questions](#) for example questions).
2. Discuss the idea that when we are jealous, it means that we are not being grateful/thankful for what we have. It’s like telling God that He has not given us enough—that He should have also given us what someone else has.
3. Object Lesson: Set two clear glasses on the table, half full of water. Set one clear glass on the table, half full of vinegar. Put green food coloring in one glass with water as you talk about the brothers being “green with envy.” Talk about being so mad you “boil over” inside; mix red food coloring and soda with vinegar. Jacob was so very sad (“blue”); mix blue food coloring in other glass of water. Can use attitude faces with each color.

## PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- See Sunday morning’s lesson

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