

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Verse to be memorized: "All the nations of the earth will be blessed through you and your descendants." (Genesis 28:14)

Introduction

Do you have dreams? Are they good dreams or frightening ones? Do dreams have meaning? Will they come true? Today we are going to learn the story of a boy whose dreams became a reality.

Reading Passage

We have learned that Jacob had twelve sons. Among them, Jacob loved his eleventh son, Joseph, most.

One day Jacob made a gift of a brightly coloured tunic to Joseph. This caused jealousy in his brothers. Besides Joseph had two dreams. One was that while he and his brothers were binding sheaves in the field, the sheaves of others bowed before Joseph's sheaf. In the other dream the sun, the moon and elven stars were found to bow before Joseph. These dreams meant that Joseph will rule over others. When the brothers heard this they hated him all the more.

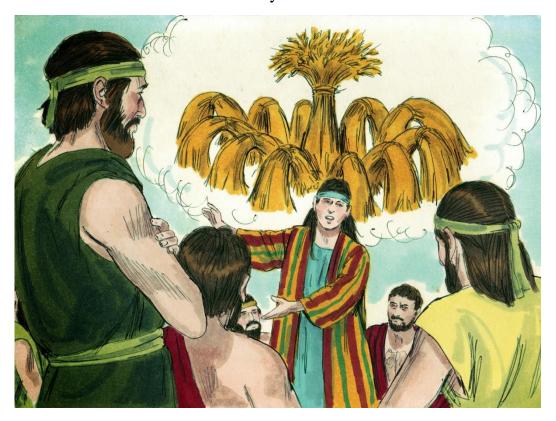
Do you think that Joseph is excessively proud and boastful? Joseph was quite innocent. What he did was only saying aloud the truths revealed by Jahweh.

•	Who among his sons did Jacob love most?
•	Why did the brothers feel jealous of Joseph?
•	Describe the dreams of Joseph?

One day, Joseph went to the place where his elder brothers were grazing sheep. The jealous brothers decided to kill the "dreamer". Then Reuben, the elder brother, hoped to spare Joseph's life and dissuaded others from committing murder. Finally, they threw Joseph into a dry well. When Reuben was away, the rest of the brothers sold Joseph to a caravan of Ishmaelite traders. The traders



took him to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar, the captain of bodyguards of King Pharaoh. See the fate of an innocent boy!



In Egypt, Joseph lived his days relying on God. Potyphar noticed that the Lord was with Joseph in a special way so that everything he did succeeded. Soon he was put in charge of Potiphar's household. Potiphar's wife fell out with Joseph. She told lies to her husband and got the poor Joseph imprisoned. But the Lord was with Joseph. Jahweh gave him great wisdom to interpret Pharaoh's dreams. Pharaoh was pleased with Joseph's interpretations and placed him in charge of all the land of Egypt. See how Joseph rose up from the dry well to the position of Pharaoh's second in-command.

Jahweh stood with him and made everything he did successful.

PRAYER:

Help us O Lord, as you have helped Joseph, to overcome the crises and difficulties encountered in our daily lives.

OUR DECISION:

We shall overcome temptations and live by trusting in God in our lives.