

Bible Story 8: JOSEPH: GOD TAKES CARE OF HIS LIFE

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 37:1-5,12-14,23-36; 39:1-23; 40:1-13,21;
41:1-4,8-16, 28-43,46-49,54-57; 42:1-8; 45:3-5; 47:27; 50:19-22

MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 5:7

BIBLE STORY:

Jacob had twelve children. Joseph was next to the youngest son. The father loved Joseph more than his other children and gave him a beautiful, colorful robe.

Joseph's brothers did not like him. One day they sold Joseph to a caravan of people going to Egypt. But God was with Joseph. There he was sold to Potiphar, captain of the king's guard. He took care of Potiphar's home and all his belongings. One day Potiphar's wife told a lie about Joseph and he was put into prison. God was still with Joseph, taking care of him and protecting him.

In prison the guard found favor in Joseph and put him in charge of all the prisoners. Two prisoners, the chief cup bearer and the chief baker, had dreams, Joseph told them what they meant. Soon afterwards the cup bearer went back to work for the king.

Two years later the king of Egypt had two dreams and he was sad, because he did not know what the dreams meant. The cup bearer told the king about Joseph and he was brought to the palace. With God's help, Joseph told the king what the dreams meant. There would be seven years when there would be lots of crops and food. Afterwards there would be seven years of drought, with little rain and very little food.

The king put Joseph in charge, second-in-command of Egypt. Joseph helped take care of the country. He had the people store and save food during the prosperous years, when there was lots of food. This way the people could buy food during drought years, when little food could be grown.

One day his brothers came to Egypt to buy food and Joseph gave them food. When they found out that he was their brother, they asked him to forgive them for the wrong things that they had done against him. He forgave them. He invited his whole family to come live in Egypt where he could help take care of them. Joseph was happy to be together again and to see his father again.

Joseph told his family that God was always with him, helping to take care of his life.

PART 1: PERSONAL QUESTIONS

1. What did you learn from the story?
2. How can you apply this story to your life?

PART 2: GENERIC QUESTIONS

1. What do you like about the story?
2. What is there in the story that you do not understand?
3. Who are the main people in the story?
4. What problems did the people face?
5. How did the people face their problems?
6. How have you faced similar problems?
7. Is there someone in the story who is similar to you or who is different from you?
8. What does the story tell about God?

PART 3: SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

1. Did Jacob love one son more than the others? Who? What did he give his favorite son?
2. Do you know a parent who loves one child more than another? Is this right? Why not?
3. Why did the brothers sell their brother Joseph? Was it right to do this? Why not?
4. Have you ever been treated wrongly? What happened?
5. How can you avoid or stop someone from mistreating you? When should you resist and flee or fight back? Why? When should you let it pass without doing anything at that time? Why?
6. Besides God, who can you ask for help if you are being mistreated?
7. What did Joseph do in Potiphar's home in Egypt? Who was with Joseph? Why was Joseph put in prison? What happened when he was in prison? Who was with Joseph?
8. How can God help you face problems when someone is mistreating you?
9. The brothers asked Joseph to forgive them for the things they had done wrong to him. Did Joseph forgive his brothers for treating him wrongly? What did he do? (*Joseph forgave them but he did not allow them to continue to mistreat him.*)
10. Should you forgive someone who has mistreated you? Why would this be difficult to do? Why should you do it? If you forgive that person, should you allow him to continue to mistreat you? Why not?