

The Story of Joseph

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 37, 39-50

MEMORY VERSE: Be kind and forgive one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

CHARACTERS: Joseph, Jacob, brothers, merchants

The Bible says that Jacob had 12 sons, but he loved Joseph of all. So he made him a special coat with many colors. When the brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more they hated him and would not speak kindly to him. Joseph also had dreams about the future, and when he told it to his brothers they hated him even more.

One day when Joseph was 17 he went out into the fields to check on his brothers. When they saw him coming, they plotted against him to kill him. "Look, here comes that dreamer. Come, let's kill him and throw him into a pit. We will say that a wild beast killed him." But the big brother Reuben said, "Don't kill him. Just throw him into the pit," thinking he would come back and rescue him later.

So when Joseph came up to his brothers they ripped his beautiful coat off of him and threw him down into the pit. Then they sat down to eat and laugh while ignoring Joseph's cries for help. When they saw a group of merchants who were on their way to Egypt, big brother Judah said, "Let's not kill Joseph! Let's sell him instead!" So they sold Joseph to the traders for 20 pieces of silver and Joseph was carried away to Egypt to be sold as a slave.

This was terrible for Joseph to be treated this way by his brothers! But God had a plan and He took care of Joseph. The Bible says, "The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered and the Lord gave him success in everything he did." (Gen 39:2-3) Joseph worked hard and tried to do the right thing, and God blessed him. By the time he was 30 years old he became the Pharaoh's helper - in charge of the whole land of Egypt. Joseph had become rich and powerful and important.

The Bible says that years later there was a famine in the land, and Joseph's brothers had to come to Egypt to buy food. Because they had to buy the food from Joseph, they were worried that he might put them in prison or kill them because of what they had done to him. But Joseph chose to forgive his brothers. He showed kindness to them and gave them gifts and even invited them to come live in Egypt with him. Joseph loved his brothers and forgave them, and that is a good example for us.

**Jesus loves us and forgives us of our sins. He wants us to love each other
and be kind and forgive each other!**