

Favorite Son

Genesis 37; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 208–212

Is there anything that you really wish you had? Have you ever wanted it so badly that it made you angry because someone else had it and you didn't?

Ten boys wanted what their brother had. They were so jealous of him that they planned something terrible.

Joseph had 11 brothers—ten older and one younger. The older brothers did not like him. They left him out of the games they played. They didn't take him with them when

they went somewhere. They didn't want to be around him.

Joseph was father Jacob's favorite son. Their father always gave him the best presents. When father Jacob made Joseph a colorful new coat, all the brothers were jealous. They didn't think Joseph deserved nicer things than they got.

Joseph's brothers also thought he was proud, which made them even angrier. Once God gave Joseph a dream that he and his brothers had been cutting stalks of grain and tying them into sheaves. Suddenly all of his brothers' sheaves bowed toward his.

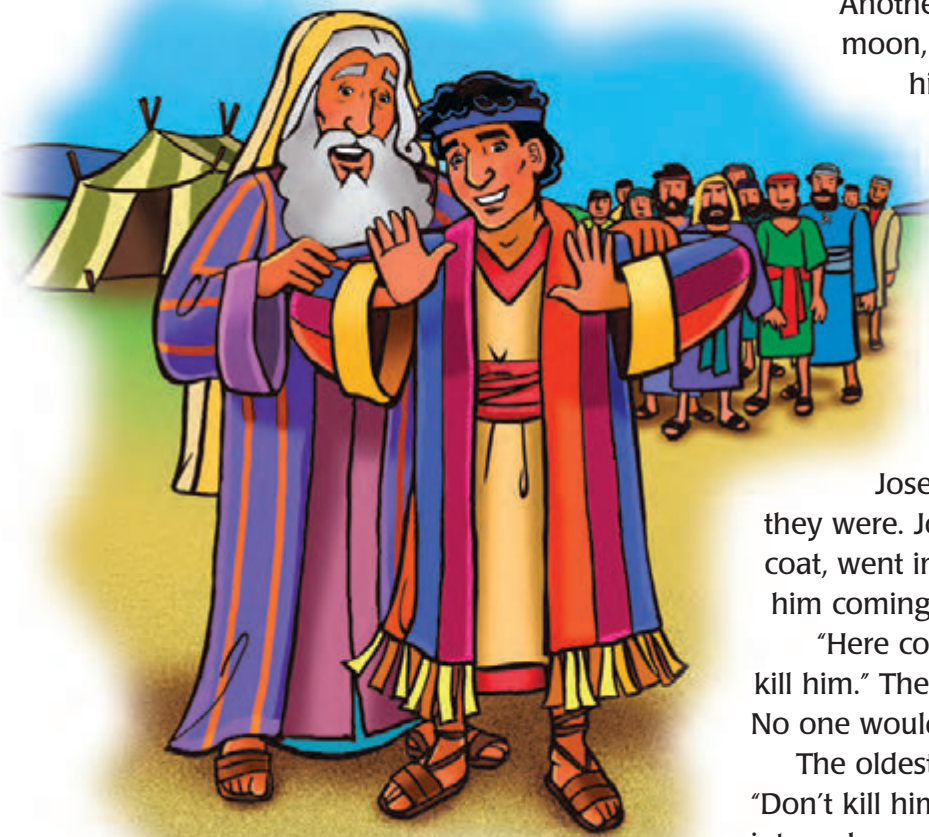
Another time he dreamed that the sun, moon, and 11 stars had bowed down to him. His father asked, "Does this mean you will even rule over your mother and me some day?"

Jacob's older sons often took their father's sheep far away from home to find good pasture. They enjoyed being out on their own with no little brother to annoy them. But one day Jacob asked

Joseph to find them and see how they were. Joseph, wearing his bright new coat, went in search of his brothers. They saw him coming.

"Here comes the dreamer!" they said. "Let's kill him." They were all alone with the sheep. No one would know what they had done.

The oldest brother, Reuben, disagreed. "Don't kill him," he argued. "Let's throw him into a dry well." (A dry well was a deep hole in the ground for storing water.) Reuben knew



The Message

God helps me love my
Christian family.

Memory Verse

“ ‘Love each other as
I have loved you’ ”

(John 15:12, NIV).

that Joseph wouldn't be able to get out. The brothers could scare Joseph by leaving him in the well. Reuben didn't want to kill Joseph. He secretly planned to take Joseph out of the well later. Then he would take him back to their father.

When Joseph arrived, what a shock was waiting! His brothers didn't welcome him. They grabbed him and threw him into the well! Then Reuben left for a while.

Before Reuben returned, a caravan of traders passed by, and the nine brothers sold Joseph to them. He would become their slave.

When Reuben returned, he was shocked to hear what his brothers had done to Joseph. "What shall we tell our father?" he cried.

"We'll tell him that Joseph is dead," the

brothers replied. Then they killed a goat and soaked Joseph's beautiful coat in its blood. They would tell their father that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.

Joseph was on his way to Egypt. He would be far away from his father, his brothers, and his lovely coat. What would become of him?

Jesus asks us to love our brothers and sisters. He says this for a reason. Our families fall apart when we don't love one another.

Jesus doesn't want His family—the church—to fall apart. He will help you love your home and church family. Ask Him to help you be loving.



S A B B A T H

DO Hang your "Chain of Love" at home to remind you to show love to your family this week. (If you were not in Sabbath School, cut some narrow strips of paper. Write on each the name of someone in your family and how you can show love to them. Glue the ends together to make a chain.)

READ Go for a Sabbath walk with family or church members to enjoy each other's company. During your time together read today's lesson story.

DO Read John 15:12 and tell what it means. Thank God for people who love you.

M O N D A Y

READ Together with your family, read and discuss Genesis 37:12-22. How do you feel about how the brothers treated Joseph? About Reuben?

MAKE Start a *Story of Joseph* picture book. Add to it each week through Lesson 13. For today, draw some scenes from Genesis 37:1-22. Add words that show what some of the characters said. Number the pages.

DO Say your memory verse. Who is the "I" in the verse? Ask Jesus to help you love each one in your family.

W E D N E S D A Y

DO Read and discuss Genesis 37:28-30 with your family. Draw more scenes for your *Story of Joseph* book.

SHARE Have you done what you wrote on your "Chain of Love"? If not, do something today. Also pray for each person by name during your prayer time.

DO With your parents' help, draw a family tree.

DO Say your memory verse without help.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read and discuss Genesis 37:1-11.

DO Make an "I Love You!" coupon for every family member. On each write one special thing you will do for that person this week. ("I want to love you by _____.") Hide the coupons and let your family find them.

PRAY Pray for each family member today.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Genesis 37:23-27 for family worship. Draw some scenes from these verses for your *Story of Joseph* book.

DO Pray for each person in your family by name. Show extra kindness to one of them today.

SING Sing "A Happy Home" (*Sing for Joy*, No. 136).

T H U R S D A Y

DO For worship, read and discuss Genesis 37:31-36. What did Joseph's brothers' jealousy finally lead them to do? Add more scenes to your *Story of Joseph* book.

DO Other Bible stories tell about jealous people. Draw lines to match the jealous pairs below. Tell a little about each story.

Jacob	Hagar
Sarah	Esau
Cain	Leah
Rachel	Abel

PRAY Pray for people who may be jealous of you or someone you know.

Jacob loved Joseph and Benjamin more than his other sons. Doing that caused a lot of trouble.



F R I D A Y

DO For worship, tell the lesson story as you show pictures from your *Story of Joseph* book.

DO Tell your family members what you like most about each one. Make right any unloving acts from this past week. Then read Ephesians 4:31, 32.

DO Sing songs about showing love to others. Say your memory verse together before prayer. Thank God for a loving family.

Favorite Son

PUZZLE

Directions: In addition to his coat of many colors, Joseph had two dreams in which items bowed to him. To find these objects, cross out every other word, beginning with the first one. Then draw the objects in the area provided.

DREAMED SHEAVES BROTHERS OF CUTTING GRAIN; AND THE BOWED
SUN COAT MOON BY AND FATHER ELEVEN PROUD STARS

