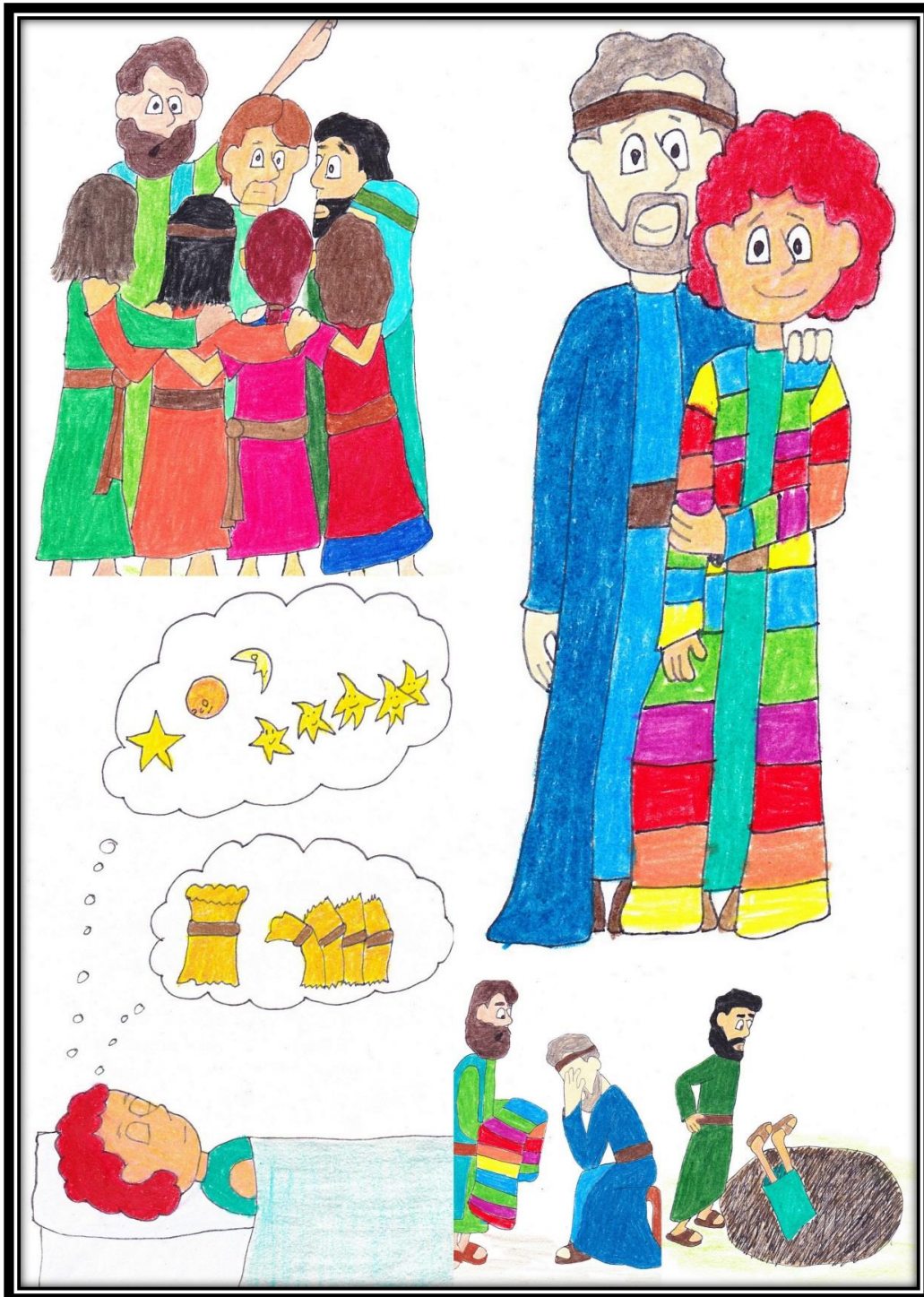


Joseph and his brothers

Genesis chapter 37





Jacob and his family moved back to Canaan with all of their livestock. Jacob's sons had all grown up into fine young men, but Joseph was Jacob's favorite.

Joseph was responsible, when his brothers failed to take care of the sheep Joseph told Jacob. Joseph was Rachel's first son, and he reminded Jacob of Rachel.

Jacob wanted everyone to know Joseph was special, so he gave Joseph a spectacular coat. This made all of Joseph's brothers very jealous because they saw Jacob putting their younger brother ahead of them.



God sent Joseph special dreams. One night he dreamed he and his brothers gathered grain and put them in sheaves. Then their sheaves of corn all turned and bowed to his sheaf.

Joseph told his brothers, but they weren't excited like he thought they'd be. Instead they were angry.

Joseph had another dream in it he and his brothers were stars, and their parents were the sun and the moon. This time all the stars AND the sun and the moon bowed to the star that was him.

When he told his Dad about it, his Dad pulled him to the side and said, "Don't talk about it again." Jacob remembered what Joseph had said and thought about it often.



Many days later Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers and the sheep. Joseph searched for them and was finally told they were another 15 miles North of where he had expected them.



As Joseph walked up, all of his older brothers saw him and complained to each other, “Oh look here comes the DREAMER again. Why don’t we kill him and that’ll stop his dreams!”

Reuben heard this and was appalled, “Kill him? No, let’s throw him in this pit. Then we’ll decide what to do.”

They all agreed this was a good idea, and got ready to carry out their plan.



They grabbed Joseph and threw him into the well, and then they went to eat lunch.

While Reuben was away, they saw some traders and Judah said, “We can sell Joseph and make some money.” Everyone else thought this a was a brilliant idea.

They sold him for 20 pieces of silver.

Reuben went back to the well and discovered Joseph was gone. “What happened to the boy?” asked Reuben.

“We sold him,” answered his brothers, “and we have a plan!” They took his coat and covered it in blood. Then they took it to Jacob.



“It was terrible Dad! You won’t believe what happened!” Reuben said.

Judah interrupted him, “We were heading back with the sheep and we found this coat. We think it’s Joseph’s coat. Do you recognize it?”

Jacob grabbed the coat to him sobbing, “My son, my son is dead.” They all tried to comfort him, but Jacob would not be comforted.

Questions

Younger Kids

1. How did Joseph's brothers feel about him?
2. What did Joseph dream about?
3. What did Joseph's brothers do wrong?
4. How did they hide what they did?

Middle Kids

1. Why did Joseph's brothers dislike him? Genesis 37:4 and 8
2. What do Joseph's dreams mean? Genesis 37:6-7 and 9
3. Why is Joseph going to see his brothers? Genesis 37:12-14
4. Read Genesis 37:2. What do you notice?

Older Guys

1. How did Jacob create some of the problems between Joseph and his brothers? Read Genesis 37:3, 9-11, and 12-14
2. What other examples of prophetic dreams can you think of?

3. How does Joseph lack maturity in this passage?
4. Read Genesis 37:12-13. What do you learn about Joseph?
5. Read Genesis 37:19-20 and 32-35. Look at what the brothers do. Is this spur of the moment?
6. In reading this chapter which brother is the leader? Who tries to lead?

Activities

1. Brainstorm how to react to favoritism.
2. Play a round of “poor kitty.” Everyone sits in a circle, and one person is in the middle and is the cat. They can choose a person and try their best to get their chosen victim to laugh. If the person can say “poor kitty” without laughing or smiling then the “cat” has to try again.
Now, imagine how the brothers felt having to hide for years what they did to Joseph, and trying for years to keep a straight face whenever Jacob would wonder how Joseph died.

3. Play “Two truths and a Lie.” How hard was it to come up with a believable lie? Think about how much work the brothers had to put into telling Jacob this lie and keeping a straight face through all of it.

Online

1. puppets- <http://embracinglife-rose.blogspot.com/2011/03/joseph-story-songs-coloring-page-and.html>
2. Joseph paper bag puppet- <http://ingles360.blogspot.com/2011/05/j-is-for-joseph.html>
3. Joseph coat of many colors craft- <http://www.makingfriends.com/joseph.htm>
4. Joseph in the well craft or game- <http://bibleclasscreations.blogspot.com/2012/08/joseph-in-well.html>