

18. Joseph Sold into Egypt

The Word of the Lord: The Old Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

18. Joseph Sold into Egypt

- a. First, remind children how the brothers hated Joseph, which is a bad thing to do. (Don't suggest that they would be that way, because they are in an innocent state and on the side of the "good people." But you might talk about how evil spirits come close to people like the brothers when they have hatred and get them to do something very bad.)
- b. Reuben wanted to do the right thing, but didn't know how to get all the brothers to agree with him. So he was wanting to rescue Joseph in secret.
- c. They had sort of wanted to kill him, but Judah got them to sell him as a slave instead. That was still a very bad thing, of course.
- d. In the meantime another group came by, pulled Joseph out of the deep hole, and the brothers sold him.
- e. Then of course they had to lie to their father, to pretend that Joseph was dead. That hurt their father very much.
- f. Talk to them about how Joseph went a long way into Egypt, to a strange land.



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The Lord Keeps Joseph Alive

Now one day Jacob called Joseph and said, “Your brothers are out in the field looking after the flocks of sheep. Go and see if everything is well with them and come back to me.”

And when Joseph’s brothers saw Joseph coming, they talked to each other and said, “Let us kill this dreamer and throw him in that deep hole. We will pretend some evil wild beast ate him.” Now when Reuben, the eldest brother, heard them he said, “Let us not kill him but just throw him into the deep hole.” And Reuben secretly planned to come and rescue Joseph and take him back to his father.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped off his coat of many colors and they took him and threw him into the deep hole. Then they sat down to eat and Reuben was not with them. And when they looked up they saw a group of Ishmaelites coming on their camels. And Judah said to his brothers, “Let us not hurt Joseph as he is our brother. Why don’t we sell Joseph to these people?” And his brothers agreed with him.

But while they were eating, some Midianites passed by and found Joseph in the hole and pulled him out. Then Joseph’s brothers sold Joseph for twenty pieces of silver to them. And the men took Joseph as a prisoner to a land called Egypt.

Later Reuben came back to find Joseph, but Joseph was gone. So the brothers tore Joseph’s coat and put blood on it and told their father that a wild animal must have eaten Joseph.

Jacob was very, very sad.

Genesis 37

