General Church Education

Joseph's Coat and Dreams

Genesis 37:2-11

Lesson 8

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

JOSEPH'S COAT AND DREAMS
Genesis 37:2-11

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

Joseph was the eleventh of Jacob's twelve sons. His father loved him more than all the others and gave him a special coat made of many colors. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him because of the coat and because of his special dreams.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

❖ Jacob had twelve sons and one daughter with his two wives (Rachel and Leah) and their two handmaids (Bilhah and Zilpah). At this time people thought it was all right to have more than one wife.

❖ Jacob favored Joseph because he was the long awaited firstborn of his beloved wife Rachel. Rachel later had another son, Benjamin.

❖ Joseph's older brothers hated him because he was his father's favorite and because his dreams predicted he would rule his family.

❖ Jacob represents the stage of life when a person is grown up and becoming independent.

❖ Jacob's twelve sons picture all the abilities we use when we are independent and act on our own. The ten older sons represent practical, worldly abilities. The two youngest sons picture our higher, spiritual thoughts and feelings.

❖ At times our practical abilities seem to hold the most prominent place in our lives. However, our spiritual nature can be preserved and is able to guide us in all we do if we turn to the Lord for His help and follow His teaching. The true order of human life is for the spiritual to rule over the natural part of our being.

Joseph's Coat and Dreams

Important Ideas for Children

Joseph got a special coat from his father.

The Lord gave Joseph two wonderful dreams that showed he would one day rule over his family.

Let's Remember:

Last time we learned how Jacob had to leave his home in Canaan that he loved because his brother Esau was so angry with him. On the first night of his journey he slept on the ground at Bethel and had a wonderful dream.

- **Whom did he see in the dream?** (Angels.)

- **What were they doing?** (Going up and down a ladder that reached from the earth to heaven.)

- **Whose voice did Jacob hear speaking from the top of the ladder?** (The Lord's.)

- **What did the Lord promise Jacob?** (The Lord would be with him on his journey and bring him back home again.)

- **What did Jacob promise the Lord?** (That the Lord would be his God and he would give one tenth of all he had back to the Lord.)

- **What is it called when a two-way agreement like this is made?** (A covenant.)

Our Story for Today:

The Lord did as He promised. He helped Jacob find his relatives in Haran. Jacob stayed there twenty years. He married and had many children. He also became very rich with many herds of animals.

Many years later when Jacob returned home his brother Esau welcomed him. Esau had also become very rich in all that time. He had long ago forgiven Jacob and was happy to see him again.

Jacob's children were growing up. He had twelve sons and one daughter. The older sons cared mostly about themselves while the two younger ones—especially Joseph, the eleventh son—were more unselfish. Jacob, who is sometimes called Israel, loved Joseph best of all. When Joseph was seventeen years old, Jacob or Israel made him a special coat or tunic. Let's find out what color it was.

Read Genesis 37:2-4.

What color was Joseph's coat? Yes, you're right. It was not just a plain color but had many beautiful colors in it.

How did his brothers feel about Joseph? (They hated him.) Yes, they were so jealous they could not speak to him.

Then Joseph had two dreams that made his brothers hate him even more. Listen now to the two dreams.

Read Genesis 37:5-11.
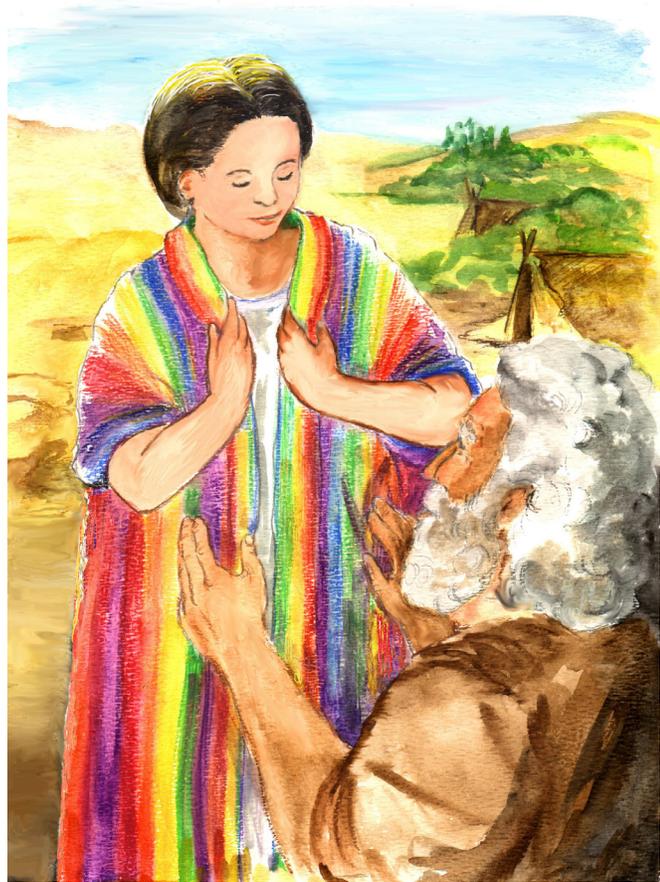
In the first dream the brothers were all out in the field tying their stalks of grain into bundles or sheaves. Joseph's sheaf stood upright which means it stood up straight.

What did the eleven other sheaves do? (Stood all around his sheaf and bowed down.)

The brothers thought Joseph was saying that he would be more important or rule over them. He was not the firstborn or oldest son of the family and they were angry with him.

Then in the second dream what bowed down to him? (Sun, moon and eleven stars.) This dream sounded like Joseph's father, mother and brothers would bow down to him.

How did they feel about this? (His brothers envied him or were jealous. His father "kept the matter in mind" or thought about what it could mean.)

What do you think these dreams mean? Do you think Joseph will rule over his family? Usually the firstborn became the ruler of the family, but not always.

Joseph's dreams were a special gift from the Lord. The Lord sent these dreams to Joseph to tell him what would happen some day. Next time we will learn how Joseph used his special gifts to help himself and his family.

What Did We Learn Today?

- **How many sons did Jacob have?** (Twelve.)
- **Which one was Jacob's favorite?** (Joseph, the eleventh son.)
- **What special gift did Jacob make for Joseph?** (Coat of many colors.)
- **What happened in Joseph's first dream?** (Joseph's sheaf stood up straight and his brothers' eleven sheaves bowed down.)
- **What happened in Joseph's second dream?** (Sun, moon and eleven stars bowed down to Joseph.)
- **How did Joseph's brothers feel about him?** (They were jealous.)
- **Do you think Joseph liked being the favorite one?**

Joseph's Coat and Dreams
Activities

Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

> Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
>
> <div align="right">Matthew 7:12</div>

Project choices:

Joseph's Dreams project
Color a picture of Joseph

Songs:

Joseph's Coat—Listen or download at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-josephs-coat/

Love Divine, All Love Excelling—Listen or download at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-love-divine-all-loves-excelling/

Additional Activities:
Weaving projects wit be fun and are helpful in understanding to use natural materials to make useful items.

- ❖ Weave strips of paper together to make a placemat.
- ❖ Make a simple yarn weaving.
- ❖ Learn an action rhyme about the sheaves bowing down. Online at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-sheaves-bow-down-action-rhyme/
- ❖ Learn the song *The Twelve Sons of Israel*. Listen online or download at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-the-twelve-sons-of-israel/
- ❖ Or, watch a video of *The Twelve Sons of Jacob Song*. Watch or sing along at https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-twelve-sons-of-jacob-song/

Joseph's Dreams

Help children remember Joseph's dreams. As you work, remind children why there were eleven sheaves and eleven stars.

Supplies:

1 piece of black construction paper
1/2 piece of green construction paper
1/2 piece of blue construction paper
scissors
oil pastels or crayons
glue

Project instructions:

1. Cut around the edges of the green paper in a wavy fashion so that the piece looks like a cloud. Be careful not to cut off too much paper.

2. Using a yellow oil pastel or crayon, draw a big sheaf of wheat standing upright in the center of the green paper. Look at the story to remember what a sheaf looks like.

3. Draw eleven smaller sheaves of wheat around the center sheaf. These should be bent over as if bowing to the center sheaf.

4. Cut around the edges of the blue paper to it looks like a cloud. Again, be careful not to cut off too much paper.

5. With oil pastels, draw Joseph in his coat of many colors in the middle of the black paper.

6. Using a yellow oil pastel, draw the sun, moon and eleven stars around Joseph.

7. Glue the two pictures onto the black paper and write "Joseph's Dreams" in white white or yellow oil pastel at the top.
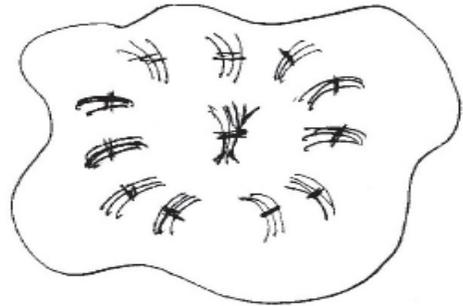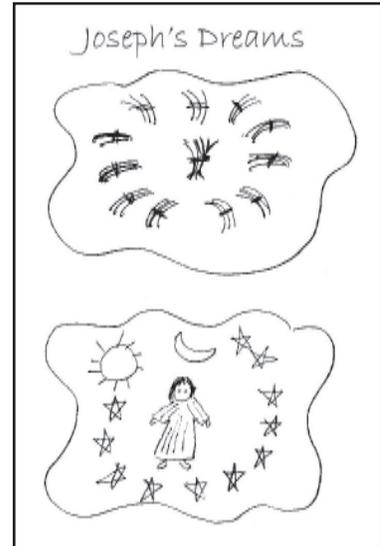
Recitation Award: Joseph's Coat and Dreams

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.