

GRADES  
K-6

# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

Printable Lesson Kit



**M** **GHTY MESSAGES**

# THANK YOU

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# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

## LESSON OVERVIEW



### JOSEPH IS KIDNAPPED TO EGYPT & SOLD AS A SLAVE MIGHTY MESSAGE

The Genesis story of Joseph being kidnapped will give children a great example of forgiveness. Joseph's big brothers were jealous and very mean to him. They sold him into slavery. Years later, when Joseph saw them, he forgave them all. If he can forgive such an evil deed, can't we forgive others who hurt our feelings or act thoughtlessly?



#### How to Use the Lesson Kit:

This kit includes a variety of activities that you can select from to customize your perfect lesson. We suggest beginning with the Scripture Reading & Lesson followed by the Discussion Questions. From there, feel free to mix & match the activities to build your lesson plan based on the time you have allotted and the age level/interests of your kids.



#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Scripture Reading & Lesson
- Discussion Questions
- Craft: Flipbook
- Game
- Coloring Page
- Wordsearch
- Crossword Puzzle
- Learning Lookups Journaling
- Parent Handout
- Quiz
- Reference Sheet
- Certificate of Completion
- Answer Page



#### MATERIALS LIST:

- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Roll of toilet paper (game)
- Pencils or pens
- Bibles (electronic or hardcopy)

# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

## SCRIPTURE & LESSON

### EXCERPTS OF GENESIS 37 & 45: (NIV)

Read the following excerpts as shown (NIV translation), or read from your chosen Bible translation:

#### GENESIS 37



<sup>2b</sup> Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

<sup>3</sup> Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.

<sup>4</sup> When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

<sup>12</sup> Now his brothers had gone to graze their father's flocks near Shechem,

<sup>13</sup> and Israel said to Joseph, "As you know, your brothers are grazing the flocks near Shechem. Come, I am going to send you to them."

<sup>17</sup> ...So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan.

<sup>18</sup> But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

<sup>28</sup> So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

**Note: Joseph had a rough time at first, working as a slave or servant, but God was always with him. He finally arose to a position in Egypt akin to prime minister! His brothers came to Egypt in a famine, looking for food, but did not recognize Joseph. He finally told them.**

#### GENESIS 45



<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt!"

<sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.

<sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping.

<sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> "So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

<sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay.

<sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have.

<sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

## Questions for Children about Joseph & His Brothers:

1. Joseph was actually in Egypt for 13 years before his brothers showed up. He had a very hard time at first. See Chapter 37, Verse 4. Why did his brothers hate Joseph so much? **A: They were jealous because their father Israel favored him.** What is the difference between hatred and jealousy? **A: Not much. Jealousy is a type of hatred.**

2. Did you ever feel like an adult—a teacher, coach, or even a parent--favored someone over you? What is or was the situation? How do you sometimes feel about that other favored person?

**Joseph forgave his brothers, which is really amazing. He lost his entire family, his father, his home, and he must have missed them badly. Look at 45:8-9.**

3. How was Joseph able to complete such a miraculous forgiveness? **A: He looked to see what God was doing, which is a higher activity than just being mad. What can we do to help us forgive when we are really mad about something?**



## TEACHER'S MIGHTY MESSAGE

Joseph became a slave in Egypt. But God kept blessing him. He interpreted dreams for the king. The king was so pleased. He made Joseph a very important and wealthy officer.

Years later, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt. They wanted food because there was a famine up north. Joseph recognized them. He was upset. Then he embraced his brothers and said, "You meant to hurt me. God used it for good!"

He gave land for his father and all their families.

Joseph forgave his brothers for a hurt so big it is even hard to imagine. Whom can we forgive so that we can keep God's joy in our hearts instead of hatred?



# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

## Printable Flipbook Craft

1

Print the pages into white cardstock or paper.

2

Cut into individual pages. You will have 1 cover page and 15 individual pages.

3

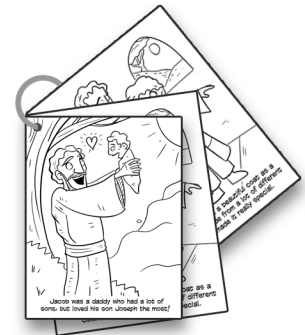
Punch holes where indicated and put the pages in order.

4

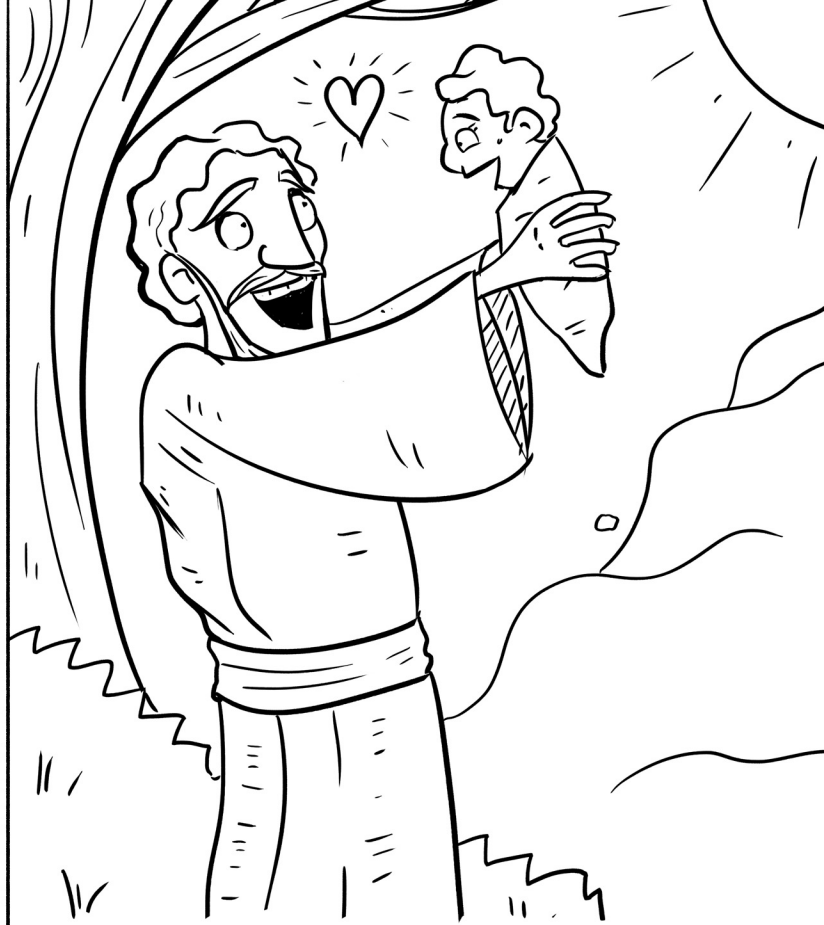
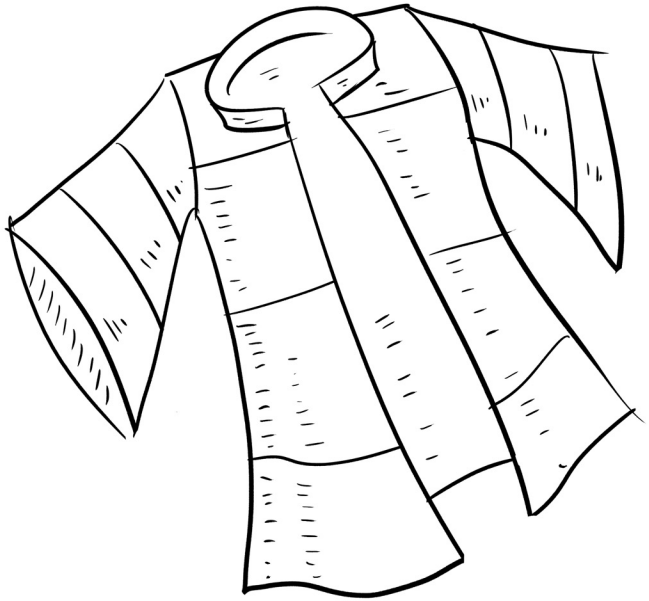
Connect the pages with a book ring or a string.

5

Color all of the pages.



# JOSEPH and the COAT of MANY COLORS



Jacob was a daddy who had a lot of sons, but loved his son Joseph the most!

1.



Jacob gave Joseph a beautiful coat as a present. It was made from a lot of different colors, which made it really special.

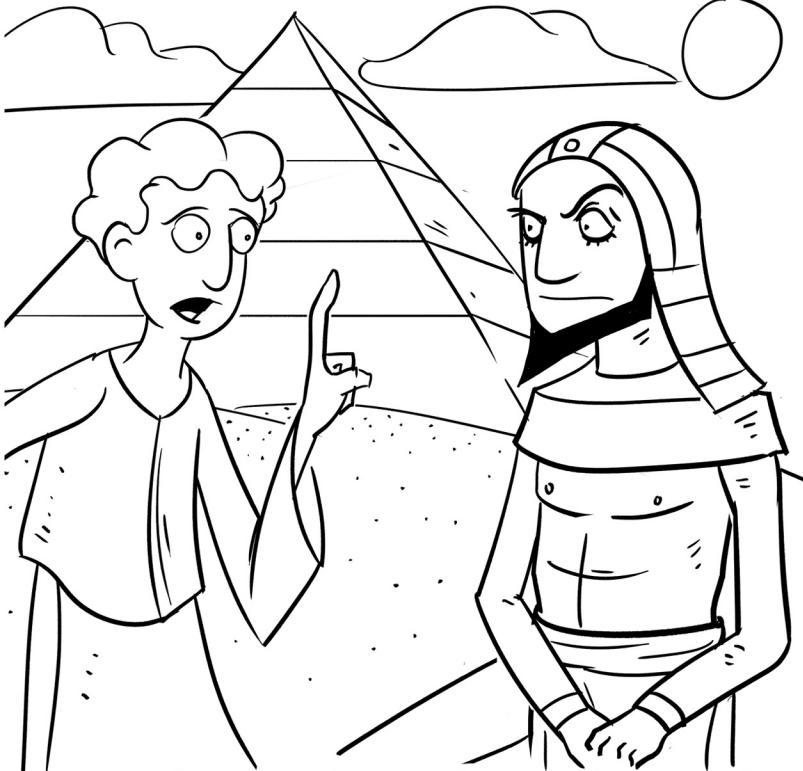
2.



Joseph's brothers were jealous. "Let's get even," they said. They sold Joseph to slave owners and told their dad Jacob that Joseph was killed.

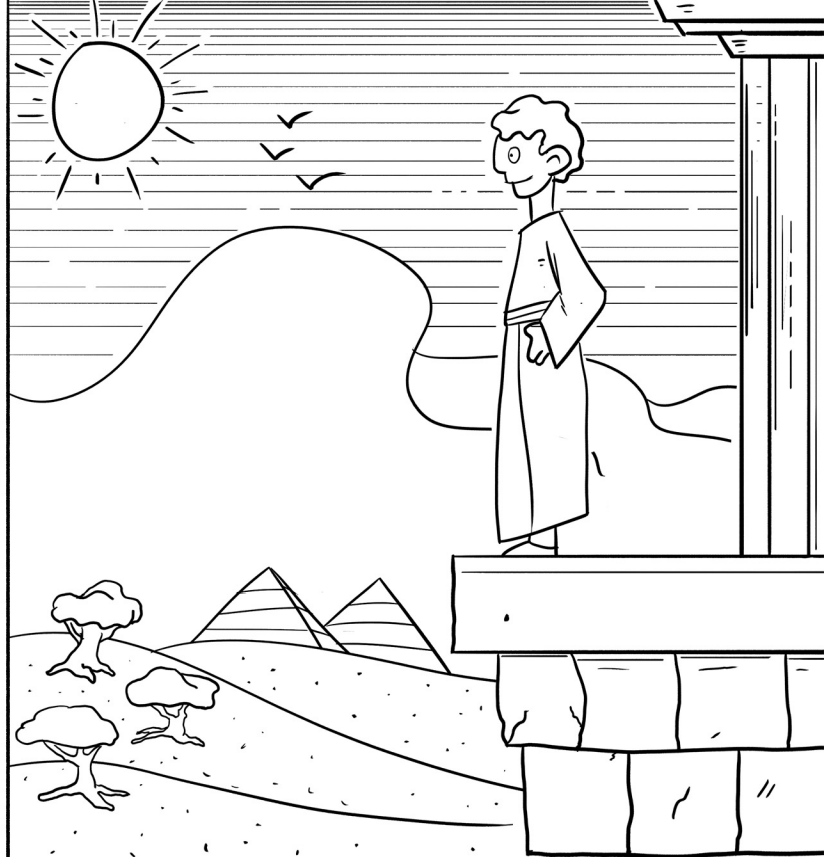
3.





Joseph was a slave in Egypt. The king of Egypt had a bad dream that really upset him. Joseph told him that his dream meant that there would be 7 years that Egypt would have a lot of food and 7 years they would hardly have any!

4.



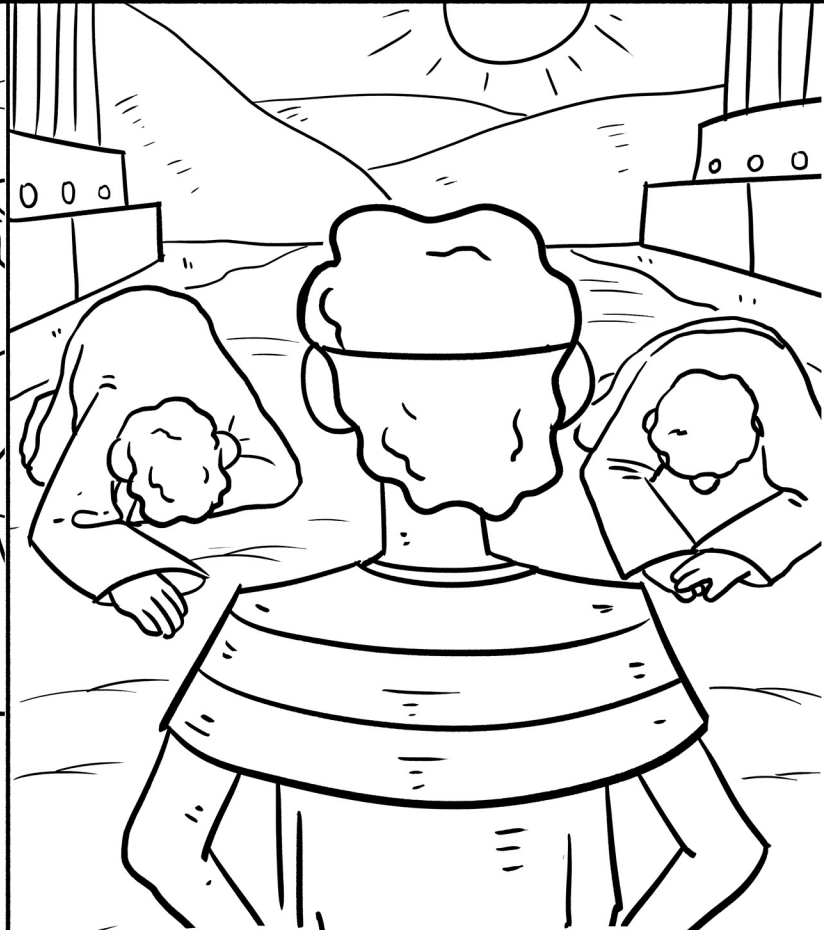
The King was really happy with Joseph! He gave him a special job to take care of Egypt and make sure they didn't run out of food.

5.



One day his brothers came. There was no food left in their town and they were hungry.

6.



They saw Joseph and bowed. They didn't recognize him.

7.



Joseph said, "Don't you know me, I'm your brother Joseph!?" They were scared.

8.



But Joseph forgave them. "God planned this so you could have food," he said.

9.



He took care of his family and got to see his dad Jacob again! They all sang and danced!

10.

### POWER RACING WITH TOILET PAPER

Joseph had siblings—10 older brothers and a younger brother. But they didn't work well together. Nobody wanted to work with Joseph because they were jealous! Sometimes siblings and friends are hard to get along with. However, if we learn to work together instead of arguing, God can bless us better.



#### MATERIALS:

Roll of toilet paper



#### PREPARATION:

1. Tear off enough toilet-paper squares for each pair of students to have several.
2. Prepare a clear playing area the length of the room.



#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have students make pairs.
2. Give each pair one square of toilet paper.
3. Each party should pinch their lips on opposite sides of the square. Explain that without dropping it or breaking it, they must race to the other end of the room and back.
4. Start the race.
5. If they tear the sheet or if one of them drops it from their lips, they have to start over again. The team who gets back first wins.
6. If you have enough children, this works great as a relay.

#### CONCLUSION:

How hard was it to work together with one of your brothers or sisters in Christ? Let's ask God this week to help us remember that families are one of the most important gifts he's given us. We want to get along and work well with our sisters and brothers and moms and dads and to forgive them when they annoy us. And when things go wrong? We should ask God to help us remember that if Joseph could forgive his brothers, surely we can forgive ours. Let's try to remember that.

# JOSEPH



GENESIS:37

# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

## WORD SEARCH

Joseph had 11 brothers. They all became the 12 tribes of Israel! Joseph's father is listed below also. He has the two names followed by the \*\* stars. His name was Jacob, but God changed it to Israel. Do you notice a name missing?? It is Joseph himself! Israel was so happy to have found his favorite son alive that he gave Joseph two tribes, one for each of his two sons. They are Manasseh and Ephraim. Find all these names in the word search!

Z	G	B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N	E	O
G	M	A	D	N	A	P	H	T	A	L	I
R	X	M	D	H	K	N	J	E	R	E	L
J	E	E	J	M	U	A	R	J	H	J	U
A	I	U	U	U	A	X	S	W	T	T	K
C	I	M	B	R	D	N	R	H	Y	E	R
O	S	W	E	E	R	A	A	L	E	C	W
B	R	E	K	O	N	U	H	S	R	R	D
Q	A	S	D	B	N	R	X	W	S	Z	A
S	E	W	E	P	H	R	A	I	M	E	N
S	L	Q	Z	I	S	A	C	H	A	R	H
D	M	R	Z	E	B	U	L	U	N	B	J

**Words to Find:**

ASHER  
 BENJAMIN  
 DAN  
 ISRAEL\*\*  
 JACOB\*\*

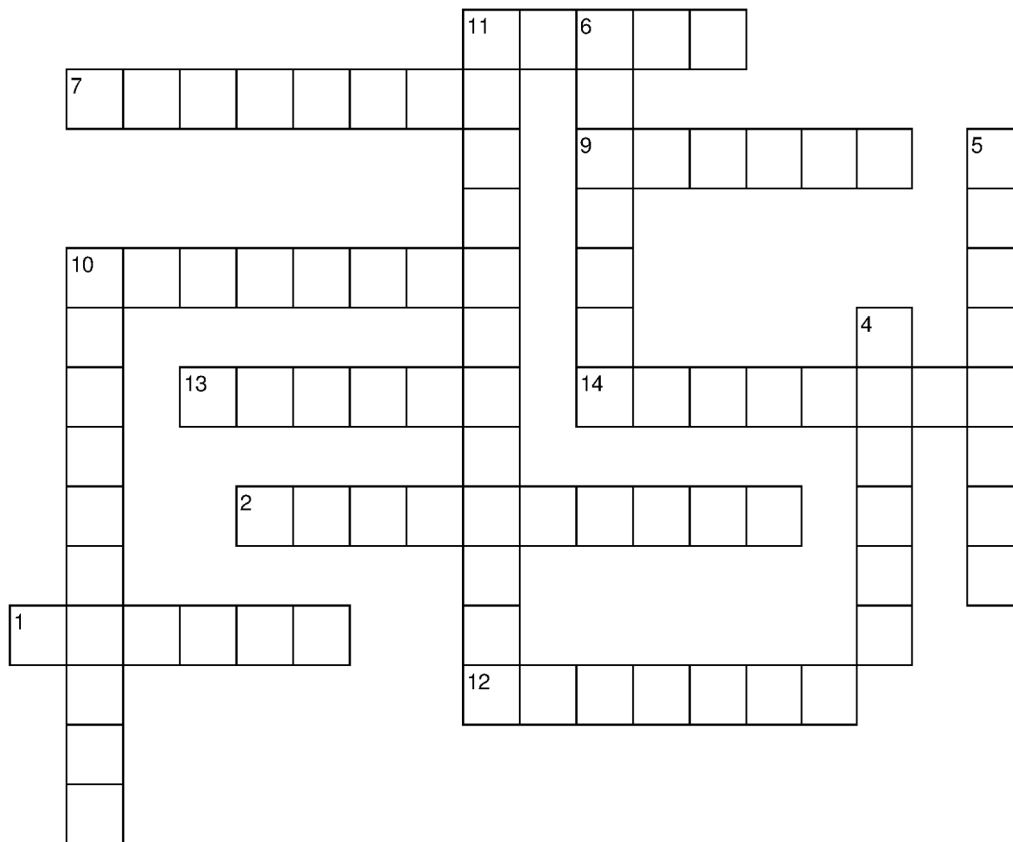
EPHRAIM  
 JUDAH  
 GAD  
 MANASSEH  
 ISACHAR

NAPHTALI  
 REUBEN  
 IMEON  
 ZEBULUN

# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Joseph is part of a very important family! They take up most of Genesis. Use the 'Joseph At-a-Glance Reference Sheet' to help you fill in the answers:



### Across

1. Joseph and his brothers became the heads of 12 of these
2. Century BC of Joseph's birth
7. Brother who was not involved in the treachery
9. Joseph's oldest brother's name
10. Joseph was sexually harassed by this man's wife
11. Name of Joseph's grandfather
12. Book of the Bible containing 4 generations of stories about Joseph's family
13. What Joseph eventually became in Egypt, like a prime minister
14. One of Joseph's two sons to become tribes

### Down

4. The new name God gave Joseph's father Jacob
5. 10 of these sold Joseph into slavery
6. Name of Joseph's great grandfather
10. The Lord was with Joseph and brought him from poverty to being this
11. Joseph grew famous by doing this with others' dreams

# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

## PARENT HANDOUT



**Scriptures to Read:** Genesis 41:39-43



### This Week We Learned About ...

Joseph was sold into slavery by his 10 older brothers who were jealous of him. What can we learn about unfair treatment by others? What can we learn about forgiveness? As with Joseph, his happy ending had to do with God's constant presence in our lives. God kept blessing him. He became a very important and wealthy officer, akin to being a prime minister!

Years later, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt. They wanted food because there was a famine up north. Joseph recognized them. He was upset. Then he embraced his brothers and said, "You meant to hurt me. God used it for good!"

He gave land for his father and all their families.

Joseph forgave his brothers for a hurt so big it is even hard to imagine. Whom can we forgive so that we can keep God's joy in our hearts instead of hatred?



### ✓ Questions for Kids:

1. To get these rewards from Pharaoh, Joseph had interpreted his dreams. What are some of the ways Pharaoh rewarded him? **Power, leadership, respect, jewels, clothing, chariot, riches.**
2. Pharaoh saw that Joseph had something special. What was it? **Power of God**
3. What is the only way Pharaoh said he would be greater in Egypt than Joseph? **The throne.**

### ✓ Dinner Table Discussion:

God had a lot of twists and turns in his plans for Joseph. He meant for Joseph to be something akin to prime minister. Why do you think he let Joseph be put into prison first? Think of something that happened in your life that seemed quite bad. Now think of a plan God may have had in mind to bring good for you from it.

Joseph forgave his brothers, which is hard to imagine. Genesis does not describe the pain and suffering Joseph went through in losing his family, parents, homeland, belongings, etc. Think of a time you felt you were treated unfairly. Were you able to forgive? How is your situation similar to Joseph's? How is it different?

### Scripture Notes (tuck in lunchboxes, tape to mirrors, etc.):



*For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. 15 But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.*  
**Matthew 6:14-15**



*<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"  
<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Matthew 18:21-22*



*...all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*  
**Luke 18:14b**

# JOSEPH

## AT-A-GLANCE



### CHILDHOOD:

- Joseph was kidnapped by his 10 jealous older brothers and was sold into slavery in Egypt
- He had a younger brother Benjamin who was not part of the treachery
- Joseph's brothers, who eventually would head the other 11 Tribes of Israel included, from oldest to youngest: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin
- God was with him and he became a vizier (similar to a prime minister) of Egypt.
- The trouble started when Joseph "snitched" on his brothers who were misbehaving while tending flocks. Shortly thereafter, Jacob made Joseph an ornate robe.
- Joseph was known as his father's favorite.
- Joseph had a dream as a child that his brothers would bow down to him.
- Joseph's ornate robe has become known today by the Broadway musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat.



### FAMILY:

Wife: Anesath

Abraham was Joseph's great-grandfather; Isaac was his grandfather; Jacob (aka Israel) was his father. His brothers are listed above.

Joseph was given two tribes of Israel after his father learned he was alive. The tribes are named after his eldest sons, Manasseh and Ephraim

Birth of Jesus

Birth: Approx. 1914 BC

2000's AD

Death: Approx. 1805 BC

## CLAIMS TO FAME:

- 1 He was sexually harassed by his master Potiphar's wife and resisted, so she falsely accused him of rape. He was sent to prison but there started interpreting people's dreams.
- 2 His fortune turned in Egypt as he was able to interpret Pharaoh's dreams

## FAMOUS QUOTES:

"You intended to harm me but God intended it for good." *Genesis 50:20*

"And the Lord was with Joseph and he was a prosperous man." *Genesis 39:2*



**Bible Lookups:** Hebrews 11:22, Genesis 39:7-12, Genesis 45:1-28





# LEARNING LOOKUPS

# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

**Lookup:** Hebrews 11:22 and write it down:

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**Lookup:** Genesis 45:1-28. Write down verse 5:

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Joseph lived 400 years before Moses. Yet he knew there would be an Exodus and that his bones would have to be taken out of the Promised Land. He was used to God's twists and turns by this point! Have you ever had something go so terribly wrong that it was hard to believe God's plans were in it? Describe, and if anything good has come, write what it is:

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Create a prayer below. Speak to God and write it. Tell God how much you want to love him and ask him to let you get to know him better. Use your own words.


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# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

## QUIZ



Learn more about what set up Joseph to be kidnapped! You'll find out as you look up the passages and finish this quiz.

### CIRCLE YOUR ANSWER

**1. After Jacob was renamed Israel, he did this for his 11th son Joseph (Genesis 37:3)**

- a. made him an ornate robe
- b. bought him a house
- c. crowned him king

**2. True or False: Jacob's brothers loved him and paid him great respect (Genesis 37:4)**

**3. Joseph told his brothers a dream in Genesis 37:6-7 that implied they would all**

- a. bow before him
- b. kill him
- c. form a choir

**4. When Joseph reported his second dream in Genesis 37:10, his father asked him if**

- a. he and his mother would also bow down
- b. he was losing his mind

**5. When Joseph went to find his brothers in Genesis 37:18, they did this**

- a. plotted to kidnap him
- b. plotted to kill him
- c. tried to stone him

**6. According to Genesis 37:21, which brother prevented Joseph's murder?**

- a. Judah
- b. Levi
- c. Reuben
- d. Dan

**7. According to Genesis 37:26-27, which brother got the idea to sell Joseph?**

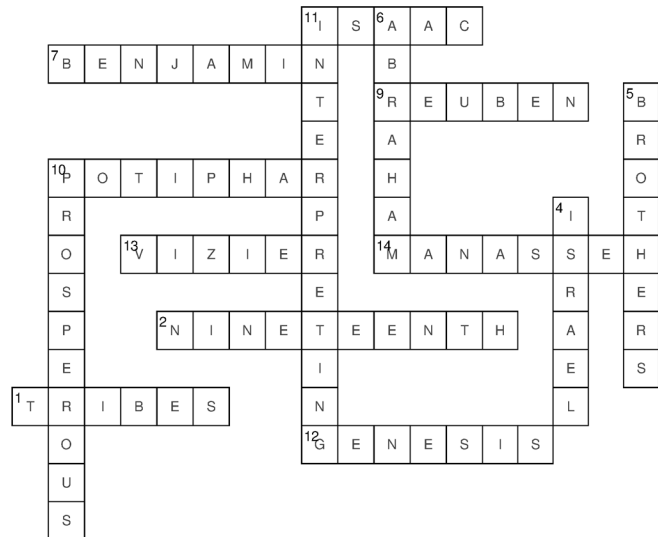
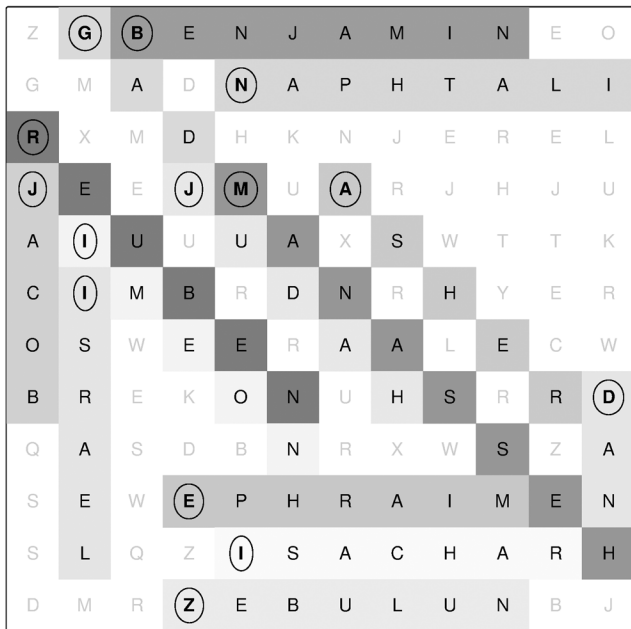
- a. Judah
- b. Levi
- c. Reuben
- d. Dan

**8. Joseph's brothers went to Egypt and rediscovered Joseph because (Genesis 42:3-5)**

- a. there was a famine in Canaan
- b. they felt bad for what they did
- c. Jacob died

# JOSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

## ANSWER KEY



1. After Jacob was renamed Israel, he did this for his 11th son Joseph (Genesis 37:3)

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- a. **there was a famine in Canaan**
- b. they felt bad for what they did
- c. Jacob died

# JOSSEPH & HIS BROTHERS

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

NAME:

DATE:

