

Enrichment: Scripture

Joseph Sold into Slavery

Based on Genesis 37: 41–50

Jacob, one of Abraham's descendants, had twelve sons. He loved Joseph more than any of the others. This caused Jacob's sons to be jealous and hate Joseph. One day, they planned to kill Joseph. Instead, they decided to sell him into slavery. They then lied to their father, telling him that Joseph had been eaten by an animal.

Joseph loved the Lord. The Lord remained with Joseph. Joseph never stopped trusting God even when bad things happened to him. Joseph was taken to Egypt and became successful. The Lord remained with Joseph. So He helped Joseph interpret one of Pharaoh's dreams. The dream revealed that a seven-year famine was coming. Pharaoh considered Joseph to be wise, so he placed him in a position of power over all the land of Egypt. Joseph prepared for the famine.

When the famine came, all the world came to Egypt for food. Joseph's brothers also came, but they did not recognize Joseph when they saw him. Eventually, Joseph revealed himself to be their brother after seeing that their hearts had changed, and he forgave them. Joseph told his brothers that God had brought good out of evil. He said, "As for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (50:20). God used Joseph to save his family from the famine.

When Joseph's brothers came to him, he had every reason to be angry. He even had the power to punish them! Instead, he treated them with mercy.

Reflect on the following:

- ***When bad things happen, do we trust God like Joseph did?***
- ***Are we merciful and forgiving when someone has hurt us?***

Journal Reflection

How has God brought something good out of something bad in your life? Write your answer on the journal page. Journal pages are available on the parent and student portals.



Joseph Cast into the Well by His Brothers,
Anonymous