

## God Sees Joseph's Trouble with His Brothers

Genesis 37:1-36, 39:1-20

The Bible tells us that Jacob had 12 sons and one daughter and that he loved one son more than the others. His name was Joseph and he was Jacob's favorite! This made Jacob's other sons very jealous. Joseph had dreams that he told his family. He told his brothers that he would be very important one day and they would all bow down to him. This made the brothers more jealous.

One day Jacob called Joseph and gave him a beautiful new coat. This special coat showed everyone Jacob thought Joseph was the most important of his sons and that he loved Joseph more than the others. Joseph put the beautiful coat on. He was very proud of it and ran to show his brothers. They were not happy about Joseph's new coat because it showed that their father loved Joseph the most. They became very angry with Joseph.

One day Joseph's father called him and said, "Joseph, your brothers have taken the sheep to find green grass and water. I want you to go and check on them. Take them some food and then come back to me and tell me how they are doing." Joseph packed some food. He put on his beautiful coat and set out to find his brothers. He walked for a long time. He looked everywhere for his brothers. He went up and down the hills and finally he found them.

When they saw him coming, some of them wanted to kill Joseph because they were jealous and angry. But the oldest brother said, "Don't kill him, just throw him in this big hole." He was secretly planning to come back later and rescue Joseph out of the hole.

The brothers threw Joseph in the big hole in the ground with no food and water and they took away his beautiful coat. Joseph was afraid and all alone in the deep, dark hole but he remembered that God was with him and God was taking care of him even in the dark hole. It was God who caused his oldest brother to keep the others from killing Joseph. God was with Joseph!

When the brothers sat down to eat, they saw people coming. They were on their way to sell their spices to the markets in Egypt. One of the brothers said, "Let's don't kill Joseph! Let's just get rid of him. We can sell him to these travelers, and he will be gone forever. They will take him far away from here." And the brothers agreed! His brothers told their father that Joseph was killed by a wild animal and Jacob was very sad.

The travelers took Joseph to Egypt. Joseph was afraid to leave his home and family. He did not know if he would ever see his father again, but he knew God was watching him. He knew God would be with him every day and give him what he needed every day. Joseph depended on God and God was there for him!

In Egypt, Joseph was sold to a very rich man named Potiphar. He lived and worked in Potiphar's house and he had food and clothes to wear. He missed his home and his family, but God protected Joseph. Joseph worked very hard for Potiphar in Egypt. God saw everything Joseph did. God helped Joseph do his work well and take good care of Potiphar's house. But Joseph was far from home and family. Potiphar was so pleased with Joseph's good work that he put him in charge of his house and all of his money. Potiphar did not worry about anything with Joseph in charge of everything! Potiphar grew richer every day.

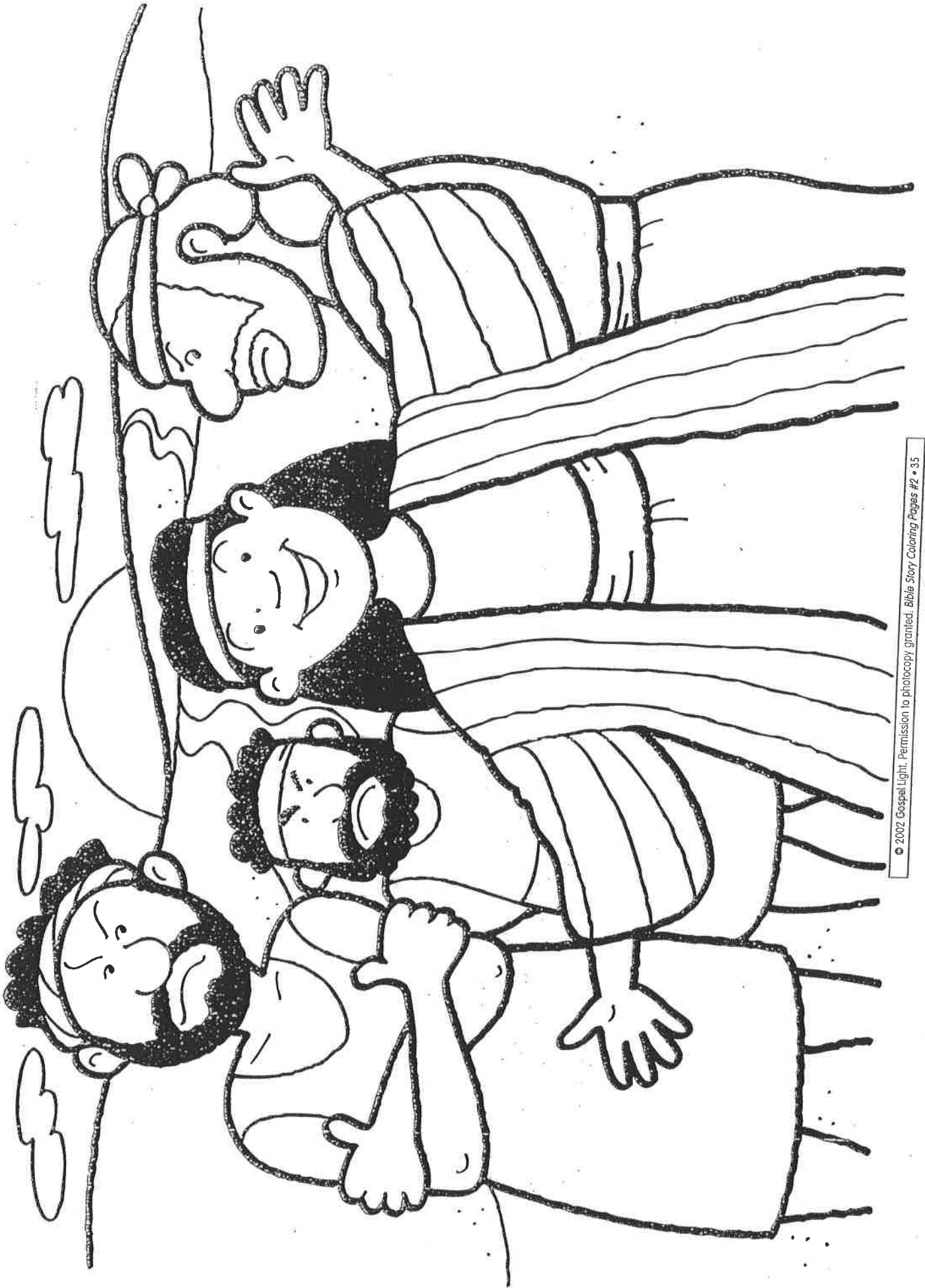
One day the rich man's wife wanted Joseph to do something wrong. Joseph said no and she became very angry. Joseph did not want to do wrong and he knew God was watching to help him do the right thing. It was hard because Potiphar was his boss and he didn't want to make his wife angry, but Joseph knew God would care for him if he did the right thing.

Potiphar's wife was so angry Joseph did not do what she wanted that she told a lie about Joseph. She told Potiphar that Joseph did do something wrong! Even though Joseph worked hard for Potiphar, Potiphar believed his wife and not Joseph. He became very angry with Joseph too. He had Joseph put in jail! But Joseph knew God saw where he was, and he knew God would be with him! Even in jail!

When something seems too hard for us or we are lonely or sad, God sees us! He is always with us and He gives us everything we need just like he did for Joseph. I'm sure Joseph thought it was impossible for him to get out of jail, but not for God!

### **August Bible Verse:**

Be strong and courageous!  
Do not tremble or be dismayed  
for the Lord your God is with you  
wherever you go. Joshua 1:9



## Learning Activity (Craft)

### Joseph's Coat

Materials: one copy of the coat printed for each child

The children paint or color Joseph's Coat. You can get extra creative, and they can glue strips or squares of tissue paper on the "coat". Joseph's father gave him a brightly colored coat that caused his brothers to get jealous. They made a plan to get rid of Joseph. Joseph was sent far away but God saw everything that happened to Joseph, and He was with Joseph. He gave Joseph a job working for a rich man, so he had food, clothes and a place to sleep! Everything Joseph needed! He helped Joseph work well.

