

Genesis: God and the Originals

THE BEGINNING OF JOSEPH'S STORY

Favoritism and Two Dreams (37:1-11)

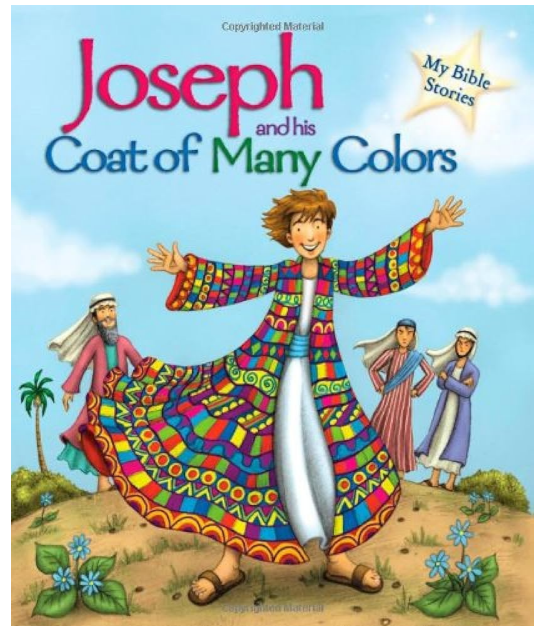
Vv. 1-4

1. How old is Joseph in v. 2? What would he be doing at that age? What does this tell us about the timeline of Jacob's life in Canaan?
2. Who of Jacob's wives is absent in v. 2? Why do you think that is?
3. One issue leads to another. What problem leads to another that leads to the biggest issue in vv. 3-4?

BONUS: How has favoritism destroyed family systems in your life?

Vv. 5-11

4. What are the two dreams, and what do they mean?
5. How do Joseph's brothers feel about the dreams? How does Israel feel about them? Is there a difference and if so, why?



BONUS: Does favoritism cause the two dreams? Do the two dreams reinforce the favoritism? Is it favoritism that leads to Joseph in Egypt or God's will?

The Boys Act (37:12-28)

Vv. 12-18

6. How far does Israel send Joseph to find his brothers? Where are they supposedly, and why is this ironic? Why would Israel send Joseph on this "foolish" quest?
7. How do Joseph's brothers initially know he is coming in v. 18? What's ironic about this?

Vv. 19-28

8. What are the brothers' initial intentions? How does Reuben (of all people!) save the day? What becomes the alternate plan?
9. To whom do Joseph's brothers sell him? Where do they take him? How much is he worth? How does Judah (of all people considering ch. 38!) save the day?
10. What do Joseph's brothers do after they sell him? What goes through your head when you think about it?

The Conclusion and Its Ramifications (37:29-36)

11. Reuben is distraught. Israel is deceived. Where does the story leave Joseph's brothers?
12. How does Israel/Jacob respond to the news of Joseph's death?
13. Jacob says he will not stop mourning until he meets his son in the grave (v. 35). Grave is the Hebrew word "sheol." What does Sheol mean?
14. Where does Joseph end up?

BONUS: Joseph and Jesus share similarities in their "death" stories. What are some that come to your mind?