



## Lesson 19: Joseph and his brothers

### *Scriptural Basis:*



Genesis 37

### *Overview:*

Joseph, the favored and spoiled young brother among Israel's sons, is betrayed by his brothers. Being favored, by his father, Joseph enjoys a privileged life as exemplified by the coat of many colors in the story. Being hated by his brothers, Joseph is sold into slavery, which (thanks to Reuben) turns out to be better than the first option of being murdered. The brothers deceive their father into believing he is dead using the same animal (a goat) that Jacob used to deceive his father.

### *Things to consider:*

Joseph is Jacob's favorite son, and is hated by his brothers because of it. Joseph seems to make matters worse by being a "tattle tale" and by arrogantly telling them about his dream of ruling over them. The hatred was so intense, that if Reuben hadn't stepped in, the brothers would likely have killed their own flesh and blood. Even though God's hand is not obvious in this particular portion of the story, we can trust He is at work, even when we cannot see it. Though it is hard to read about such depravity, it is important to know that without Jesus, we all could be capable of such darkness!

### *Bible Study for Preparation:*



Read Genesis 37. Consider the promise God issued to the descendents of Joshua and his brothers just before they crossed the Jordan river to receive the promised land: For it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you. (Duet. 31:6b). We know that Joshua's story will portray this message.

### *Teaching the lesson:*

- A: Review – Last week: Jacob returns home (wrestles with God, makes peace with Laban, is forgiven by Esau).
- B: Bible verse memory activity
- C. Story
- D. Additional activity