

These are the chronicles of Jacob: Joseph was his beloved Rachel's firstborn son. Joseph was 17 years old, tending sheep with his brothers, when he brought a bad report of them to his father. Now Jacob, also called Israel, loved Joseph more than all his other sons and made him a special coat. When his brothers saw Joseph was whom their father loved best, they hated him and could not say a peaceful word to him.

Then Joseph had a dream and told his brothers. "In the dream we were piling up wheat in a field. Your wheat piles formed a circle around my wheat pile and bowed." His brothers responded even more hatefully, "Are you to become a king over us?" They hated him more. Then Joseph had another dream and told it to his brothers and father. "The sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me." His father said, "Do you really think that one day all your family will bow down to you?" His brothers were jealous of him while Jacob kept the matter in mind.

The brothers left with the flocks of sheep and Jacob sent Joseph to find them. A stranger points him in the right direction. That is when the brother's saw Joseph from far away. They said to one another: "Behold, here comes the master of dreams. Let's kill him and throw him in a pit, and say a wild beast ate him. Then we shall see what becomes of his dreams." Reuben, the eldest brother, stalled them, so he could come back and rescue Joseph later. He said, "What will we gain by killing our brother? Just throw him in the pit."

And so they did throw him in the pit. Then they saw a caravan going to Egypt and sold him to the Ishmaelite's for twenty pieces of silver. Afterwards, the brothers dipped Joseph's special coat into goat blood and told their father that Joseph was killed by a beast. And Jacob wept and was un-consolable.

Joseph from the caravan to Egypt and was sold to Potiphar, the Pharaoh's chief of the cooks. With God's help, Joseph rose to be Potiphar's highest and most trusted personal servant. Then Potiphar's wife tried to kiss Joseph every day and he refused each time. Then one day she screamed to her guards, "He attacked me!" And Potiphar threw him in the royal jail. God was still with Joseph there and aided the prison chief. Everyone knew God was with Joseph, for whatever Joseph did, God caused it to succeed.

Later Pharaoh ordered his chief butler and chief baker to be thrown into jail. Both, in their sleep that night had dreams. Joseph offered to interpret them. The chief butler said, "In mine three vines bloomed into ripe grapes that I pressed into wine in the Pharaoh's cup."

Joseph said, "God tells me what dreams mean. Yours means you will again be the Pharaoh's butler. If this comes true, tell the Pharaoh to let me out of jail for I am innocent."

Then the baker spoke, "In my dream, birds ate my basket of bread." Joseph said, "Your dream means that the Pharaoh will hang you."

And Joseph was right! The Pharaoh killed the chief baker and gave the chief butler back his job. But the chief butler forgot to tell the Pharaoh about Joseph.

Questions: 1) Joseph's brothers hated him. What does it mean, "to hate"? Do you hate anyone? 2) Is it possible to love and hate someone at the same time? 3) God helped Joseph. Name 3 ways God helped you. **Illustration Ideas:** Joseph in his special coat...Joseph's dreams...The brother's throwing Joseph into a pit or selling him into slavery...Joseph being thrown in jail...Joseph telling the butler/baker what their dreams mean