#### Lesson 4:

#### Joseph the Dreamer Sold into Slavery

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:

Genesis 35, 37

MEMORY WORK:

Insert your own

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants me to show love and kindness to others, instead of being jealous or resentful.

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| **LESSON STARTS HERE** |

INTRODUCTION:

Do you remember learning about a man named Jacob? How many children did Jacob have? (12 sons and one daughter)

How many of you have a brother or a sister? How should we treat our brothers and sisters? Today, we are going to learn about some brothers that did a very bad thing to their brother, Joseph

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. After 20 years of working for his uncle Laban, Jacob (Israel) and his wives and 13 children (12 sons and one daughter) moved back to Canaan near the town of Hebron. Jacob had large flocks and herds, and his oldest sons were in charge of them.
2. Of all his sons, Jacob loved Joseph the most and showed him more attention than the others. He gave Joseph a **special coat** when he was 17 years old, and this made the other sons very jealous. One day, when Joseph went into the pastures with his older brothers, he went back home to his father and told him that his brothers were not doing what they were supposed to do. This made his brothers more angry and jealous of him.

**Note:** The KJV says that Jacob gave Joseph a “coat of many colors.” It is possible that the translation was supposed to be a “tunic with long sleeves,” as in the RSV, or a “full- length robe.” The NKJV, ASV, and ESV, however, all support the idea of a many colored garment.

**Note:** Since we know of Joseph’s strong character, his “reports” were probably only the truth, not malicious or spiteful.

1. The older sons of Jacob became even more jealous of Joseph after he had two dreams that told about the future. The first dream was about sheaves (bundles) of grain. Joseph said that in his dream they were all working in the field together, gathering grain into bundles, when suddenly, his bundle of grain stood straight up, and the bundles of his brothers all bowed down to his. The brothers understood that this dream meant that some day they would bow down to Joseph like slaves to a king. They were very angry at the thought of that!
2. In Joseph’s second dream, the Moon, the Sun, and the eleven stars bowed down to him. He told his father about this dream and Jacob could hardly believe it. He knew that the Sun represented him, the Moon represented Joseph’s mother, and the stars represented the brothers. He could not believe that one day he and the rest of his sons would bow down to Joseph, and Jacob was upset with him for his dream, but Jacob “kept the saying in his mind.”
3. One day the older brothers left home to take the flock to Shechem. Jacob sent Joseph to check on them and bring him back a report of how they were doing. He finally found them at a place called Dothan (about 10 miles north of Shechem). When the brothers saw him coming in the distance, they began right away planning to get rid of this brother of whom they were so jealous. Most of the brothers wanted to kill Joseph, but Reuben stopped them. He persuaded them to put Joseph in a nearby, empty water pit. Reuben was planning to return later and rescue Joseph out of the pit and give him back to his father.
4. The brothers took the special coat away from Joseph and put him in the pit. Then they sat down to eat a meal! While they were eating, a caravan of Midianites (apparently, traveling in a group with Ishmaelites) traders came by, and Judah had an idea. He suggested to his brothers that they sell Joseph instead of leaving him in the pit or killing him. So, while Reuben was gone, the other brothers took Joseph out of the pit and sold him to the traders for 20 shekels of silver, the common price for a slave.Jacob had left his childhood home and family with nothing. He returned with many flocks, 12 children (11 sons, plus Dinah; Benjamin had not yet been born), two wives (Rachel and Leah), two women he treated like wives (Bilhah and Zilpah), and many servants.

**Note:** Midianites were descendants of Abraham, as well as the Ishmaelites and the Israelites. The Midianites came through Keturah (Genesis 25:1-2), Abraham’s second wife, and the Ishmaelites came through Hagar, Sarah’s Egyptian maidservant.

1. Reuben came back to the pit and found that Joseph was not there. He was very upset and tore his clothes (a sign of great grief or trouble). As the oldest of all the brothers, he was responsible for the safety of the flocks and of his brothers. He knew how upset his father Jacob would be that Joseph was gone. Instead of telling Jacob what they had done, the brothers made another bad choice: they decided to lie and tell him that a wild animal had killed Joseph.
2. The brothers killed a goat and dipped Joseph’s beautiful, special coat in the blood. They went back home and showed the coat to Jacob, asking him if he recognized it. They pretended that they had just found the coat and didn’t know if it was Joseph’s. They tricked Jacob into believing that his favorite son was dead. Jacob was so unbelievably hurt by the supposed death of Joseph that he said he would go to his grave miserable and unhappy (“would not be comforted”).
3. What did the brothers gain by selling Joseph? They were so jealous of Joseph that they let their anger control their thinking. Not only did they make their aged father very unhappy, but they each had to bear the guilt of what they had done, and pay the consequences for their bad choices for many years to come.
4. Does it help to have bad feelings toward someone else, to be jealous of what they are or what they have? No! God wants us to show love and kindness toward others, and jealousy is certainly not loving or kind, is it?

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL VISUALS (note disclaimers):

##### Betty Lukens’ felt pieces

* ABeka Flash-a-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, not the lesson book;)
* Free Bible Images – Saved on flash drive. Can be presented on classroom tv. Script included in lesson file. File will be labeled “04” in the Visuals folder.

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS:

**“THESE ARE THE** **SONS OF JACOB”**

(Tune: “10 Little Indians”)

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan and Naphtali, Gad, and Asher,

Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, and Benjamin,

These are the sons of Jacob.

**“Three Wandering Jews**

Once there were three wandering Jews. Once there were three wandering Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Wandering, wandering, Jews, Jews, Jews.

Once there were three wandering Jews.

The first one’s name was Abraham. The first one’s name was Abraham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

Abra-Abra,Ham-ham-ham.

The first one’s name was Abraham.

The second one’s name was Isaac. The second one’s name was Isaac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

I-I,Saac-saac-saac.

The second one’s name was Isaac.

The third one’s name was Jacob. The third one’s name was Jacob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

Ja-Ja, Cob-cob-cob.

The third one’s name was Jacob.

They all went down to Canaan’s land. They all went down to Canaan’s land.

Canaan-Canaan, Land-land-land. Canaan-Canaan Land-land-land.

They all went down to Canaan’s land.

### SUNDAY

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Start a Joseph book. An example is in the lesson file. Each lesson Joseph should be wearing different clothes (coat of many colors, prison clothes, Egyptian clothes)
* Foam Sticker Scene – Paper is not included in this so use construction or cardstock for the background. The pieces will have to be placed in a certain order to make sense, so the teacher should have an example for the students to follow. These scenes could be used as part of the Joseph book, but the foam pieces will probably make the sheets too thick to laminate.
* “Pin the Coat on Joseph” Game: Draw or copy a cutout of a man on half of a sheet of poster board. Copy coats of many colors to pass out to the children. Blindfold the children and see who can stick his coat closest to the body.
* Bring a “coat of many colors,” and let the children act out the story taking turns being Joseph.
* Have children draw a picture of themselves and their brothers or sisters, and write or print the memory verse on the paper. (If they don’t have siblings, they can draw friends.)
* Print a picture of Joseph wearing his coat of many colors on cardstock, and have the children color Joseph. Then paint the coat with watercolors to make it colorful.
* Lots of ideas available on internet
* “Joseph mini sticker scenes” are available to order through orientaltrading.com

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

INTRODUCTION:

Review Sunday’s lesson. briefly (See [Review Questions](http://www.apcurriculum.com/dcirfol/4-24-32RQ.pdf) for example questions.)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

* Discuss the idea that when we are jealous, it means that we are not being grateful/thankful for what we have. It’s like telling God that He has not given us enough—that He should have also given us what someone else has.

LEARNING CENTERS AND ACTIVITIES:

* Object Lesson: Set two clear glasses on the table, half full of water. Set one clear glass on the table, half full of vinegar. Put green food coloring in one glass with water as you talk about the brothers being “green with envy.” Talk about being so mad you “boil over” inside; mix red food coloring and soda with vinegar. Jacob was so very sad (“blue”); mix blue food coloring in other glass of water. Can use attitude faces with each color. Be sure to have glasses in some type of pan, such as a disposable cake pan for easy clean up.
* Work on Joseph book
* Refer to Sunday’s lesson for any activities not done on Sunday
* Make a game using a human cutout and colorful coats. Write questions on the men and the answers on the coats. Help the children read and match the right coat to the Joseph cutouts.

### Review Questions

1. Who was Jacob’s favorite son?
   1. Joseph
2. What did Jacob give Joseph that was very special?
   1. A coat of many colors
3. Why did Joseph’s brothers dislike him so much?
   1. He was his father’s favorite.
4. What did Joseph do that made his brothers angry with him?
   1. He went out into the field to “check up” on them, and if they were misbehaving, Joseph would report back to Jacob.
5. What was Joseph’s first dream?
   1. Joseph and his brothers were working in the field, and Joseph’s bundle of grain stood straight up and his brothers’ bundles of grain all bowed down to his.
6. What did the dream mean?
   1. That one day the brothers would bow down to Joseph.
7. What was the second dream?
   1. The Moon, the Sun, and the eleven stars all bowed down to him.
8. What did that dream mean?
   1. Jacob knew that he represented the Sun, and Leah was the Moon, and the brothers were the stars, which meant that they would all bow down to Joseph one day.
9. How did the brothers feel about the dreams?
   1. They were very angry at the thought that they would one day bow down to their younger brother.
10. Where were the brothers when Jacob sent Joseph to check on them to bring a report back to him?
    1. Shechem
11. Where did he find them?
    1. At a town called Dothan
12. What did the brothers do when they saw Joseph coming?
    1. They made a plan to get rid of Joseph for good; they wanted to kill him.
13. Who stopped the brothers from killing Joseph?
    1. Reuben
14. Where did the brothers put Joseph?
    1. In a pit
15. What did they do after they put Joseph in the pit?
    1. They sat down and ate a meal.
16. Who came by as they were eating?
    1. A caravan of Midianite traders
17. What did they decide to do with Joseph?
    1. Sell him.
18. How much did they sell Joseph for?
    1. 20 shekels of silver
19. What happened when Reuben came back?
    1. He was so upset that he tore his clothing.
20. What lie did the brothers tell Jacob concerning what happened to Joseph?
    1. They told him he had been killed by a wild animal.
21. The brothers had kept Joseph’s coat. What did they do to it so that Jacob would believe them?
    1. They killed a goat and dipped Jacob’s coat in the blood of the goat.
22. What did Jacob say when he was told of his favorite son’s death?
    1. That he would go to his grave miserable and unhappy

Additional Notes / Activities Performed & Curriculum Feed Back

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