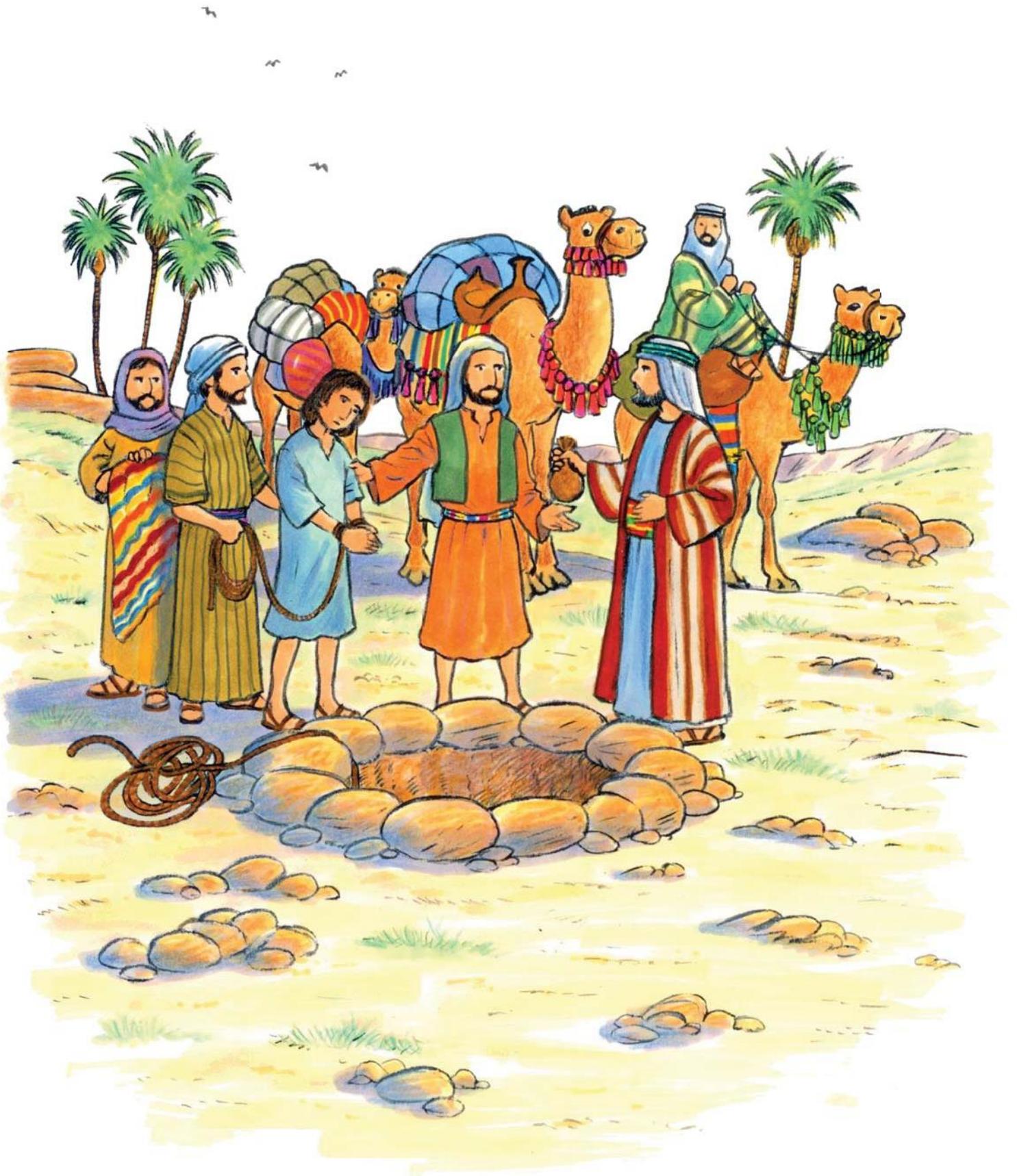


JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

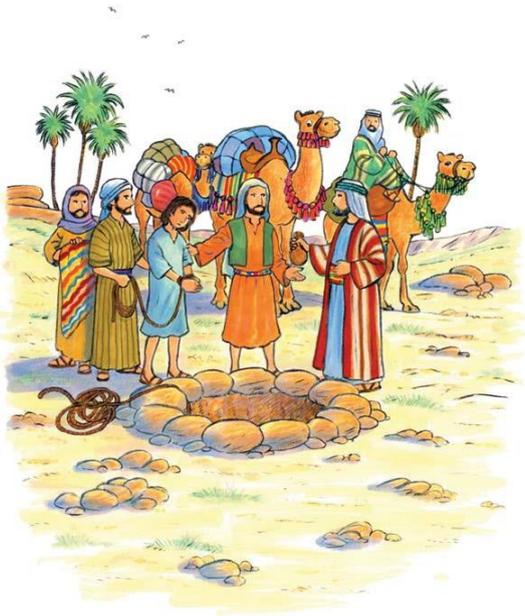
Genesis 37:3-14, 19-34



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|---------------------|---|
| Message | We should trust that God is with us always no matter what happens. |
| Learning Objectives | The children will learn: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Joseph's brothers sold him.■ God may permit things to happen to us that we do not understand. |
| Bible Text | Genesis 37:3-14,19-34 |

Joseph and His Brothers



Jacob had twelve sons. He loved Joseph more than all his other sons. Jacob gave Joseph a coat of many colours. When Joseph's older brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more, they did not like him.

Joseph had a dream. When he told his brothers about the dream, they hated him even more. He described the dream to them. "We were binding sheaves of grain in the fields. Suddenly my sheaf stood straight, while your sheaves all bowed down to my sheaf."

After Joseph told his brothers about his dream, they asked him, "Do you want to become our king and rule over us?"

Joseph soon had another dream and once again, he described his dream to his father and his brothers. Joseph said, "I dreamed that the sun, moon and eleven stars came and bowed down to me."

His father asked him, "Do you think your mother and I and your brothers should bow down before you?" Joseph's brothers hated him, but his father did not forget what Joseph told them.

Joseph's brothers went to look after their father's animals in Shechem. Jacob said to Joseph, "I am worried. Your brothers are far away in Shechem looking after the sheep. I have not heard from them. Please go there and see how they and the animals are. When you have found them come back at once to tell me." Joseph left right away. Joseph looked for his brothers everywhere. It was not that easy to find them. When his brothers saw him coming, they said, "Look, there is the dreamer! We should kill him, and throw him down a pit and then say that a wild animal has eaten him. Then we will see what his dreams are worth!"

When Reuben heard this, he said, "We should not kill him, but we should throw him in the pit." Reuben wanted to help Joseph. The brothers threw Joseph into the pit. But before Reuben could get Joseph out of the pit, the other brothers saw some men on their way to Egypt to sell their goods. Judah said to the other brothers, "We should sell Joseph to these men. That way we do not have to kill him, but we will still get rid of him." Joseph was taken out of the pit. The traders gave the brothers twenty pieces of silver, tied Joseph up, and took him away.

The brothers killed a young goat and soaked Joseph's coat in its blood. They gave the coat to their father and told him, "We have found this coat. Please look at it carefully. Is it not Joseph's coat?" Jacob said, "It is Joseph's coat! A wild animal has killed him!" He was very sad for many days.

Joseph and His Brothers

Suggestions for the Teacher

Lead-In

Show the picture to the children. Discuss with them what they see. Ask what she/he may feel...
Let the children play the story in a role-play. Instruct them before.

Lesson Instructions

Begin telling the story...

Discuss with the children...

- Why are the brothers so jealous of Joseph? (Jacob prefers Joseph and gives him a colourful coat.)
- What is the result of their jealousy? (They hate him, want to kill him, and sell him to traders.)
- How does Joseph feel after they sold him as a slave? (Lonely, disappointed...)
- How does Jacob react when his sons tell him that a wild animal killed Joseph?

Have the children repeat...

- Joseph's brothers sold him.
- God may permit things to happen to us that we do not understand.

Real-Life Application (explain the following)

- Have you ever felt jealous of a sibling or a friend?
How did you overcome the jealousy?
- God does not always spare His people from hardship.
- We also have to go through situations we do not understand.
- What helps us in those situations? (God is close to us in all situations.)

Repeat the Message

We should trust that God is with us always no matter what happens.