

JOSEPH'S DREAM

A man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.



THE STORY: GENESIS 35: 1-14 & 23-27

MONDAY

God reaffirmed his covenant with Jacob and his descendants.

God reaffirmed his covenant with Jacob and his descendants. Once again God initiated contact with Jacob. God repeated the promise given to Abraham and gave Jacob the new name, Israel. God commanded Jacob to be fruitful and multiply and increase in number. Through this man, God would make a nation called Israel and out of that nation kings would come.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who else was told to be fruitful and multiply? (*God first spoke this command to Adam and Eve in Genesis 1:22. He repeated it to Noah and his sons after the flood in Genesis 9:7*)

Who would be the most important king to come out of the future people of Israel? (*Jesus, the King of Kings was the most significant king to come out of the line of Israel.*)

PRAY:

Thank God for the promise he made to Jacob which was fulfilled with the coming of Jesus, the King of Kings.



THE STORY: GENESIS 37:1-4

TUESDAY

Joseph was favored above his brothers.

Joseph was favored above his brothers. Jacob gave Joseph a special coat, setting him apart from his brothers. In Genesis 48:22 and John 4:5 we learn that Jacob gave him the only ground he owned in Canaan. Although traditional translations of Joseph's tunic are that it was a richly ornamented or colorful coat, the actual Hebrew translation is that it was a long coat with long sleeves. This type of coat would not be worn by a laborer, but rather a manager or official. It is possible that Joseph was appointed heir over his older brothers. This favored treatment left Joseph's brothers jealous. They hated Joseph so much they would not speak a kind word to him.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How did the sin of jealousy affect the relationship between Joseph and his brothers? *(Joseph's brothers became so jealous that they hated Joseph.)*

Can jealousy work like that in our hearts too? *(Yes. Paul finds it important to warn us against jealousy in Galatians 5:19-20 saying that it is an obvious sin for us as well.)*

Think of a time when you were jealous of someone. *(Have the children share their own struggle with jealousy.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for dying on the cross for our sinful jealousy and ask forgiveness of God for our sins.



THE STORY: MATTHEW 1:18-15

WEDNESDAY

Where is Jesus?

God used Joseph's dream to save the new nation of Israel from famine. Joseph's dream would eventually lead him to Egypt. As a result of the famine, all of Jacob's children and grandchildren move to Egypt. After many years of blessing, Israel became slaves in Egypt. They could not leave Egypt until Moses led them out.

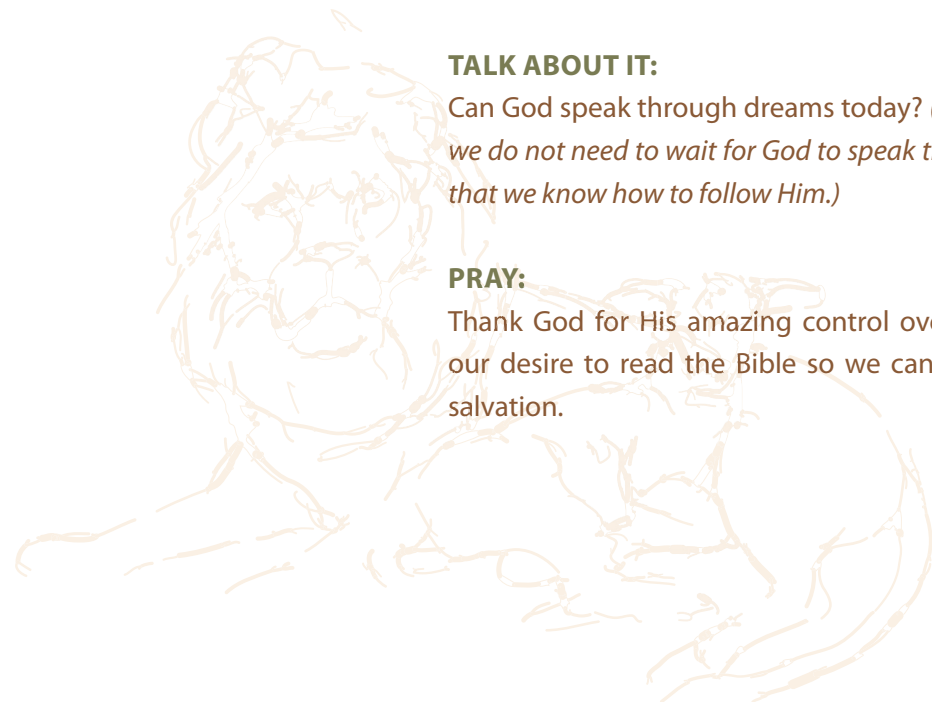
This was not the only time God used a dream to protect His great plan of salvation. God spoke to Joseph, Mary's soon-to-be husband, in two dreams. First, God instructed Joseph to take Mary as his wife. In a second dream God instructed Joseph to flee to Egypt. When the threat was over, God called Joseph back out of Egypt. What happened to Israel in the days of Jacob and Joseph was a prophetic foreshadowing of what would happen to Jesus in the days of Herod.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Can God speak through dreams today? *(Yes. God can still speak through dreams. But we do not need to wait for God to speak through dreams. He has given us His Word so that we know how to follow Him.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His amazing control over all things. Ask God to help us grow in our desire to read the Bible so we can learn more about God's amazing plan of salvation.





THE STORY: GENESIS 37:5-10

THURSDAY

God gave Joseph two dreams.

God gave Joseph two dreams. Joseph told his brothers about his dream, perhaps with pride. This lack of wisdom did not serve his already jealous brothers.. His brothers responded with a deeper hatred. Later, when he walked toward them in the fields, they planned on killing him and said, "We will see what will become of his dreams" (Genesis 37:20). Their plan was more than a plot against Joseph, the dreamer. They were ultimately sinning against God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Who gave Joseph his dream? *(God was behind the dreams. Joseph didn't make them up, he actually dreamed them.)*

Did Joseph's brothers understand the meaning of the dreams? *(Joseph's brothers did not know all that the dreams predicted, but they understood that Joseph would one day rule over them.)*

PRAY:

Thank God for His complete control over every part of our lives. He is in control of his good purpose for our lives, the way others treat us, and even the dreams we dream at night.



THE STORY: ZECHARIAH 6:9-13

FRIDAY

On the road to Emmaus.

Jesus is the high priest who would receive the crown. The high priests of Israel wore a turban, not a crown. Jesus is the priest who would also be king and sit on the throne. Revelation 19:12 tells us He will wear many crowns. He is the only priest bearing the glory of God.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Did the priests or kings of Israel wear crowns? *(The kings wore crowns.)*

Who was the only priest and king? *(Jesus is the only one who fits the description of this passage. As a priest Jesus is able to offer prayers on our behalf before God. He continually intercedes for us. As King, He is ruler over all things.)*

PRAY:

Thank Jesus for his constant prayers and ask Him for grace to follow and obey.