

# JOSEPH'S DREAM

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: GENESIS 37:1-11



## The STORY

Read the story of Joseph's dreams from the NIV Bible, Genesis 37:1-11.

**Please note:** *The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.*

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What is this story about? (Joseph's dreams.)
- What did Joseph see in his dream? (Sheaves of wheat bowing down to him and stars and the sun and moon bowing down to him.)
- Who did Joseph's brothers think the wheat and the stars were? (They thought the stars and the wheat were a picture of them bowing down to their brother.)
- Did Joseph's brothers like his dream or did it make them angry? (It made them angry.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: Joseph telling his brothers about his dream. Engage the children by asking:**

- How do Joseph's brothers look as he tells them his dream? (They look upset.)
- What is Joseph wearing? (A special colorful coat that his father gave him. Have the children color the coat many different colors.)
- Read aloud Joseph's dreams again. (Ask the children to draw some of the things found in Joseph's dreams in the sky above him. Have them color the sheaves of wheat yellow.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- Did you ever have a dream? (Allow some of the children to share about their dreams, being ready to cut them off if they share inappropriately.)
- Did you know that God could speak to people in dreams? (Accept any answer.)
- Who can remember another person God spoke to in a dream? (Joseph, God used an angel appearing in a dream twice. First to convince Joseph to marry Mary who was with child and second to tell them to run away to Egypt to escape Herod who wanted to kill Jesus.)
- Does God speak to us in every dream? (No, most dreams are just normal dreams. God does not usually speak through our dreams, but He can.)

### WHERE IS JESUS?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

God used Joseph's dream to save the infant nation of Israel from famine. Joseph's dream would eventually lead him to Egypt which set the scene for all of Jacob's children and grandchildren to move to Egypt during the famine. After many years of blessing, Israel became slaves in Egypt, and finally they came out of Egypt under Moses.

This was not the only time God used a dream to protect His great plan of salvation. God spoke to another Joseph, Mary's betrothed, in two dreams. First, God instructed Joseph to take Mary as his wife and 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 and Moses was a prophetic foreshadowing of what would happen to Jesus in the days of Herod.

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*