

## STORY: GENESIS: JOSEPH THE BELOVED SON (Genesis 39)

## REVIEW

We're learning about one of Jacob's sons. What's his name? *Joseph*

What happened to him? *Brothers angry with him. Sold him to traders. Lied to father that he died.*

## STORY

Older kids can read **Genesis chapter 39** together.

Else paraphrase for the younger kids.

*Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh's officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there.*

<sup>2</sup> *The LORD was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master. <sup>3</sup> When his master saw that **the LORD was with him** and that **the LORD gave him success in everything he did**, <sup>4</sup> Joseph found **favor** in his eyes and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned. <sup>5</sup> From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the LORD blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the LORD was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. <sup>6</sup> So Potiphar left everything he had in Joseph's care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.*

*Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, <sup>7</sup> and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, "Come to bed with me!"*

[Teacher's note: This was wrong because Potiphar's wife was asking Joseph to do something that only husband and wife can do together.]

<sup>8</sup> *But he refused. "With me in charge," he told her, "my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. <sup>9</sup> No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" <sup>10</sup> And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.*

<sup>11</sup> *One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household servants was inside. <sup>12</sup> She caught him by his cloak and said, "Come to bed with me!" But he left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.*

<sup>13</sup> *When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house, <sup>14</sup> she called her household servants. "Look," she said to them, "this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to*

sleep with me, but I screamed. <sup>15</sup> When he heard me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

<sup>16</sup> She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home. <sup>17</sup> Then she told him this story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me. <sup>18</sup> But as soon as I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

<sup>19</sup> When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated me,” he burned with anger. <sup>20</sup> Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place where the king’s prisoners were confined.

But while Joseph was there in the prison, <sup>21</sup> *the LORD was with him*; he showed him kindness and granted him *favor* in the eyes of the prison warden. <sup>22</sup> So the warden put Joseph in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. <sup>23</sup> The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because *the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did*.

## LESSON

**God was with Joseph.**

Joseph was sold by his own brothers and ended up a slave in Egypt ... far from his father and home.

Can you imagine being abandoned by your own family?

But the good news is, God never left Joseph, and He was with him in Egypt.

And even when he was thrown into prison for something he did not do, God was there with him too.

Today, when we believe in Jesus, God's Holy Spirit is in us forever. So no matter what happens, always remember that God is always with us!

**God's presence gave Joseph favour and success.**

Joseph served in Potiphar's house. Potiphar was a captain of the guard, a high-ranking official.

Potiphar realised there was something different about Joseph and put him in charge of his household. Everything Potiphar had was under Joseph's care. That was a very big and important responsibility.

Because of Joseph, Potiphar and all he had were blessed by God too!

Even in prison, the Lord granted Joseph favour in the eyes of the prison warden who put him in charge of all in the prison.

**Genesis 39:23** *the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.*

When we have Jesus, we have His favour and success. And all around us are blessed because of us. We are blessed to be a blessing!

**God's presence gave Joseph power to resist temptation.**

When Potiphar's wife tried to get Joseph to do something bad, Joseph refused because:

- He knew his master trusted him
- He knew his position in the house — he could have everything except his master's wife
- He knew God had blessed him so much ... so how could He sin against God?

Jesus was also tempted in every way, yet He did not sin.

When we believe in Jesus, we become Jesus' boys and girls. When we know who we are and who we belong to (Jesus), we can also say no to sin and temptation. We don't have to listen to or follow our friends when they do naughty things. We can remind ourselves, "I'm a Jesus-boy/girl, and I don't do these sort of things!"

**Joseph was falsely accused and punished for what He did not do.**

Jesus was also falsely accused by the chief priests and false witnesses (Matt 26:59-60).

Jesus took the punishment that was meant for us.

And there was a time when even God left Jesus' presence — as He was hanging on the cross, carrying all our sin and shame, Jesus cried out, *"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* (Matt 28:46).

Because of Jesus, we can have God's presence and favour in our life!

**Take-Home Lesson:**

Jesus is with me and gives me success in whatever I do.

Genesis

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# JOSEPH: THE LORD WAS WITH HIM

## ACTIVITY SUGGESTION

**Memory Verse activity, craft or game:**

**Genesis 39:23** *the LORD was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.*