



JOSEPH TAKEN TO EGYPT



Genesis 37, 39-46, 50

Jacob settled in the land of Canaan, where his father Isaac and grandfather Abraham had settled. Jacob had 12 sons, but his son Joseph was his favorite. Jacob made Joseph a special robe and all of Joseph's brothers were jealous and hated him.

Then Joseph shared with his brothers some dreams he had. In these dreams, his brothers and father and mother bowed down to him. This made his brothers hate him even more. One day, the brothers decided to get rid of Joseph. They sold him to some men who took him away to Egypt, where he became a servant in the house of a man named Potiphar.

Joseph served his master Potiphar well, and Potiphar placed him in charge of everything he owned. One day, Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph, accusing him of doing something he didn't do. Potiphar was angry, and he put Joseph in prison.

While Joseph was in jail, he met a man who had been the cupbearer for Pharaoh, the king of Egypt. This man told Joseph about a strange dream he had. God gave Joseph the ability to understand what the dream meant. This cupbearer would soon be freed from jail and serve the Pharaoh again. It happened just as Joseph had said!

Then, Pharaoh had some strange dreams. In one dream, seven healthy cows were eaten by seven thin, sickly cows. In another dream, seven thin heads of grain swallowed seven healthy heads of grain. The cupbearer told Pharaoh to send for Joseph. With God's help, Joseph told Pharaoh what the dreams meant: there would be seven years of great farming in the land followed by seven years of famine, when no food would grow. Pharaoh was so impressed that he put Joseph in charge of everything in Egypt!

When the famine came, Joseph's father and brothers had no food to eat. They went to Egypt to ask for grain. When they first saw Joseph, they did not recognize him. Then Joseph told his brothers who he was: their brother they had sold into slavery!

The brothers were afraid Joseph would be angry with them, but Joseph said, "You planned evil against me, but God planned it for good so that many people would be saved."



Big Picture Question: *Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.*



Christ Connection: *Even when bad things were happening in Joseph's life, God had a plan for good. Bad things also happened to Jesus. Jesus never sinned, but He was arrested, beaten, and killed on a cross. Those things happened to bring about our good—so people could be saved from sin and death through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.*