

CHILDREN'S STORIES FOR GROWN-UPS
Part 8: Joseph and the Ministry of Reconciliation

“How wonderful it is, how pleasant, when brothers live together in harmony!” (Psalm 133:1 NLT).

THE BROKEN FAMILY

The Favorite

“Now Israel (Jacob) loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him” (Genesis 37:3 NIV).

The Jealousy

“When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him...Joseph had a dream and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more...They hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said...His brothers were jealous of him...” (Genesis 37:4, 5, 8, 11 NIV).

THE TREACHERY

“But when they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. ‘Here comes that dreamer!’ they said to each other. ‘Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of those cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what come of his dreams’” (Genesis 37:18-20 NIV).

THE DECEPTION

“So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe – the ornate robe he was wearing – and they took him and threw him into the cistern. The cistern was empty; there was no water in it...Judah said to his brothers, ‘What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood. His brothers agreed...Then they got Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, ‘We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son’s robe’” (Genesis 27:23-24, 26, 31 NIV).

THE NEW LIFE

“Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, brought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken him there...From the time (Potiphar) put (Joseph) in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph” (Genesis 39:1, 5 NIV).

“The Lord was with Joseph...” (Genesis 39:2 NIV).

THE ENCOUNTER

“So Pharaoh said to Joseph, ‘I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt’...Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully...Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain...And all the world came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe everywhere” (Genesis 41:41, 46-48, 57 NIV).

“When Jacob learned that there was grain in Egypt, he said to his sons, ‘Why do you just keep looking at each other?’ He continued, ‘I have heard that there is grain in Egypt. Go down there and buy some for us, so that we may live and not die.’ Then ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain from Egypt” (Genesis 42:1-3 NIV).

(continued)

First Baptist Church of Hopewell

Pastor W. Darrell Boggs — November 2, 2025

THE RECONCILIATION

“His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. ‘We are your slaves,’ they said. But Joseph said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:18-20 NIV).