

# JOSEPH IS SOLD INTO SLAVERY

Old Testament Lesson #27

Joseph was 17 and a shepherd like his brothers. He was the favorite son of Jacob, who gave him a richly ornamented robe. Joseph's brothers became jealous of him, and they never said anything kind to him.

Joseph had a dream about sheaves of grain. Joseph's sheaf stood upright, while the sheaves of each brother bowed to his sheaf. When he told his brothers about the dream, they hated him even more. In another dream, Joseph saw the sun, moon and 11 stars bow to him. Joseph's father scolded him for thinking the family might someday bow to Joseph. The jealousy of the brothers increased.

Some time later, Jacob sent Joseph out into the field to see if all was well with his brothers who were keeping the flocks. The brothers were near the town of Dothan (DOE-than). As they saw Joseph approaching them, they plotted to kill him. Reuben (ROO-ben) encouraged them not to kill Joseph but to just place him in a cistern there in the desert. Reuben planned to sneak back to free Joseph and return him to his father. The brothers did as Reuben suggested.

Later, as the brothers were eating, they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites heading toward Egypt. Judah suggested that instead of killing their own flesh and blood, they could sell Joseph as a slave. They sold Joseph to some Midianite (MID-i-an-ite) merchants. The merchants took Joseph to Egypt and sold him to Potiphar (POT-i-fer), the captain of Pharaoh's guard. To cover their crime, the brothers took Joseph's robe, dipped it in blood and ripped it into many pieces. They then returned and led Jacob to believe that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. Jacob recognized the robe and mourned for his son.

## POINTS TO CONSIDER:

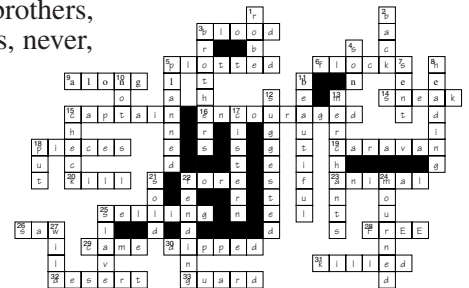
- A cistern is a receptacle for holding water. They were used to collect water during the rainy season, so that water would be available through the dry summer months. They were usually dug out of earth or rock and were large pits. Empty cisterns were often used as prisons. Like Joseph, the prophet Jeremiah was also thrown into one (Jeremiah 38:6).
- The Ishmaelites were descendants of Ishmael. He was born to Abraham through Sarah's handmaid Hagar (Genesis 25:12-18). But Joseph was sold to Midianite merchants. The Midianites themselves are not descendants of Ishmael, but of Midian, who was also an offspring of Abraham (Genesis 25:2).

## Joseph Is Sold Into Slavery

- I. Joseph was his father's favorite son.
  - A. Jacob gave Joseph an ornate robe.
  - B. Joseph's brothers were jealous of him.
- II. Joseph dreamed about his family.
  - A. In one dream, his brothers were sheaves of grain who bowed to him.
  - B. In another dream, his parents and brothers all bowed to him.
  - C. Joseph shared the dreams with his parents and brothers.
  - D. The brothers hated him even more.
- III. Jacob's sons plotted to kill their brother Joseph.
  - A. Instead, they left him in a cistern in the desert.
  - B. Then they decided to sell him to Midianite merchants.
  - C. Joseph was sold to the captain of Pharaoh's guard in Egypt.
  - D. Joseph's brothers dipped Joseph's robe in blood and returned it to Jacob, leading Jacob to believe Joseph had been killed by a wild animal.
  - E. Jacob grieved for his son.

## ANSWER KEY:

Joseph, Jacob's, favorite, son, shepherd, brothers, brothers, jealous, never, said, kind, word, beautiful, richly, ornamented, coat



sent, check, brothers, tending, flocks, brothers, saw, plotted, kill, encouraged, not, kill, put, cistern, desert, planned, sneak, back, free, brothers, suggested, caravan, merchants, came along, heading, suggested, selling, slave, sold, captain, guard, brothers, beautiful, robe, dipped, animal, blood, tore, pieces, killed, wild, animal, mourned

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I was \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

I was a \_\_\_\_\_.

like my \_\_\_\_\_. My \_\_\_\_\_ were

\_\_\_\_\_ They \_\_\_\_\_.

a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to me. My father gave me a



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Joseph was Jacob's favorite son. His brothers were angry and sold Joseph as a slave to merchants.

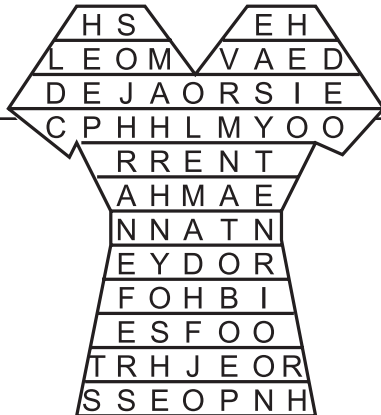
Color the picture.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Old Testament Lesson #27

Joseph had 2 dreams in which his family bows down before him. When he tells his brothers about his dreams, they become jealous of him.



How did Joseph's father (Jacob or Israel) treat Joseph? Begin with the very first letter H at the top of the robe and put every other letter in the blanks. You will need to return to the top of the robe to fill in all the blanks.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

Joseph had 2 dreams. Put words from the list into the blanks to form new words.

DO HE MOO OWN SHE TAR EVEN RAIN WING BROTH HEAVE OWING

MY \_\_\_\_\_ERS' S \_\_\_\_\_S  
ARE BO \_\_\_\_\_WN TO MY  
\_\_\_\_\_AF OF G \_\_\_\_\_!

THE SUN, T \_\_\_\_\_N, AND  
EL \_\_\_\_\_S \_\_\_\_\_S ARE  
B \_\_\_\_\_D \_\_\_\_\_ TO ME!



Use the decoder grid to find how Joseph's brothers felt about him.

	( )	[ ]		{ }
1	S	K	E	W
2	P	O	N	D
3	H	U	R	T
4	J	A	I	L

THEY \_\_\_\_\_ HIM.  
(3) [4] {3} ||| {2}

THEY COULD NOT \_\_\_\_\_ A \_\_\_\_\_  
(1) (2) ||| [4] [1] [1] [4] [2] {2} {1} [2] [3] {2}

TO HIM. THEY WERE \_\_\_\_\_ OF HIM.  
(4) ||| [4] {4} [2] [3] (1)



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**JOSEPH'S DREAMS**

Old Testament Lesson #27

**ANSWER KEY:**

He loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. He made a richly ornamented robe for Joseph.

My brothers' sheaves are bowing down to my sheaf of grain.

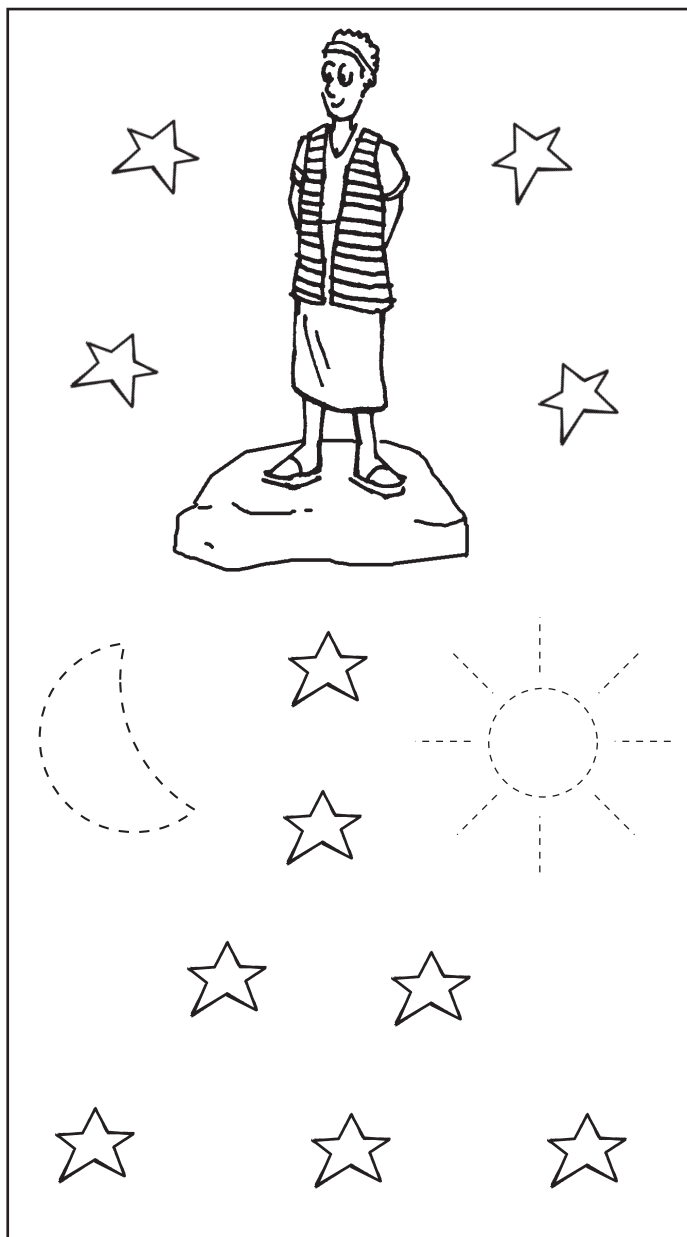
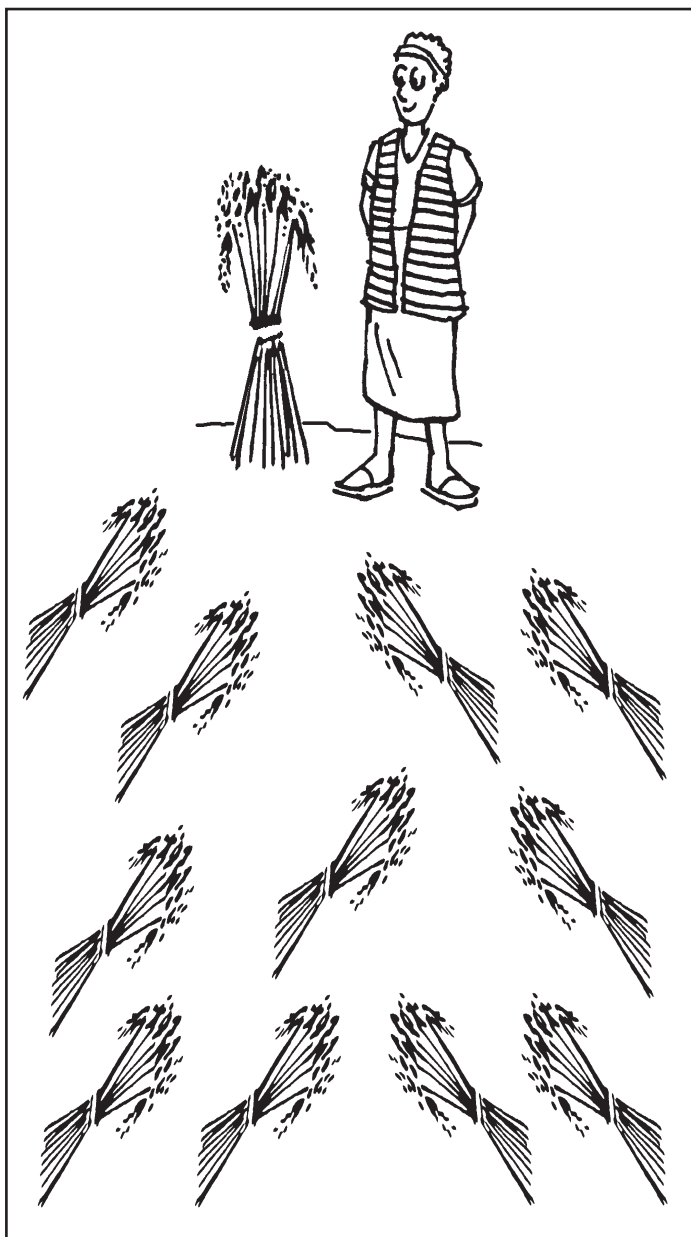
The sun, the moon, and eleven stars are bowing down to me!

They hated him. They could not speak a kind word to him. They were jealous of him.

Joseph's brothers became jealous of him.

Count the  that are bowing down to Joseph's sheaf. Circle the correct number. 10 11 or 12 ?

Trace the sun and moon. Count the . Circle the correct number. 9 10 or 11 ?



Name \_\_\_\_\_