

# JOSEPH

God's Plan and Purpose

## Lesson 1

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum • Summer 2020

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# JOSEPH: God Has a Plan for Joseph

## Lesson 1

Genesis 37:2-36

\*Unless otherwise noted, Scripture is from the New Living Translation of the book of Genesis.

**Memory Verse:** "You watched me as I was being formed...You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed." (Psalm 139:15-16)

Many years ago, there lived a man named Jacob. Jacob was part of a special family. His grandfather's name was Abraham, the same Abraham that God chose to be the father of a great nation. God also promised Abraham something else, blessings; He would bless Abraham, He would bless those who blessed Abraham, and He would also bless us by sending Jesus. Jesus was one of Abraham's descendants. Those descendants began with God giving Abraham a son. That son, Isaac, had two sons, Esau and Jacob. That same Jacob who lived many years ago had twelve sons! From those twelve sons came twelve tribes that became the great nation of Israel.

The Bible tell us about those twelve sons, but it shares the most about one son in particular; his name was Joseph. He was the next-to-the-last son of Jacob. The Bible says almost nothing about Joseph's childhood except that he was born when Jacob was already older. It also tells us that "when Joseph was seventeen years old, he often tended his father's flocks." (37:2a\*) Jacob was a shepherd. Joseph was a shepherd and his brothers were shepherds. Of his eleven brothers, all but one were Joseph's half-brothers and he worked for them. Sometimes Joseph would report back to his father "some of the bad things his brothers were doing." (37:2b) How do you think that made his older brothers feel? And on top of that, it was obvious that Jacob loved Joseph most of all. Jacob even made a special coat for Joseph, a coat of many colors. As you can imagine, Joseph's brothers hated him. They hated him so much "they couldn't say a kind word to him." (37:4)

Then Joseph had a couple of dreams. In the first dream, Joseph was out in the fields with his brothers and they were tying up grain, when all of a sudden his bundle of grain stood

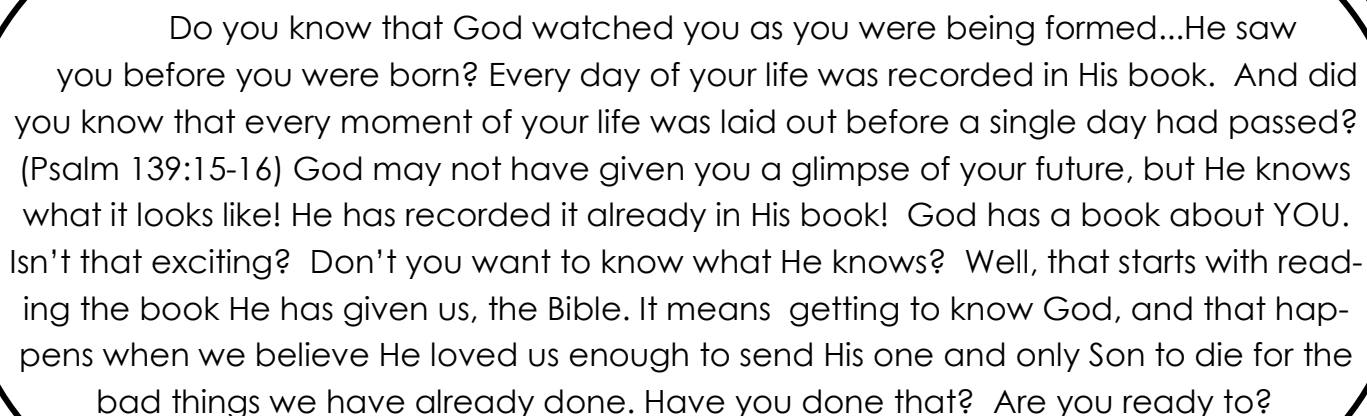
straight up and the other eleven bundles bowed down to his. Joseph didn't keep the dream to himself; he told his brothers and they hated him even more because of it.

It wasn't long before Joseph had the second dream. This time the sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to Joseph's star! Jacob wondered about this dream because it meant that he and his family would one day bow down to Joseph. Those two dreams from God had the same meaning and when that happened it was sure to come true!

There was a problem, though. Joseph's brothers were so jealous of him that they planned something awful. One day, when Jacob sent Joseph to check on his brothers, they actually planned to kill their little brother! You see, when you hold on to anger it causes you to do terrible things. (Matthew 5:21-26) As soon as Joseph arrived, they grabbed him, ripped off his special coat, and threw him into a big hole in the ground. Thankfully the oldest, Ruben, talked them out of murder, but when he left to do something they wound up selling Joseph to some traders who were passing by!

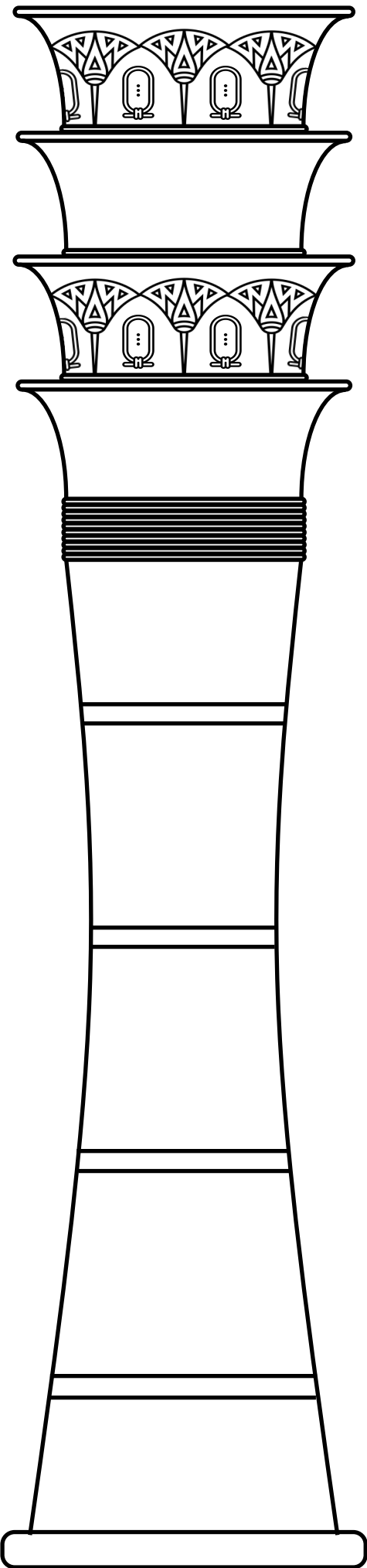
To cover up their sin, Joseph's brothers put blood on his coat so that their father would think he had been killed by a wild animal! Instead, Joseph was carried down to Egypt where he was sold as a slave.

God gave Joseph, and his family, a glimpse of the future. God already knew who and what Joseph would become because God had a plan for him. We will see that plan unfold over the next few weeks. Let's think about Joseph, though. Do you think Joseph understood God's plan just from a couple of dreams? The whole plan, no! But he had an idea. Will Joseph trust God and His plan, even in slavery, or will he become angry and seek revenge? We will find out over the next few weeks.



Do you know that God watched you as you were being formed...He saw you before you were born? Every day of your life was recorded in His book. And did you know that every moment of your life was laid out before a single day had passed? (Psalm 139:15-16) God may not have given you a glimpse of your future, but He knows what it looks like! He has recorded it already in His book! God has a book about YOU. Isn't that exciting? Don't you want to know what He knows? Well, that starts with reading the book He has given us, the Bible. It means getting to know God, and that happens when we believe He loved us enough to send His one and only Son to die for the bad things we have already done. Have you done that? Are you ready to?

# ACTIVITIES



- ◇ Memory Verse Activity: Make a “Me Book.” Have each student share things about themselves. Be sure to include the memory verse.
- ◇ Make colorful coats from large paper bags or butcher paper.
- ◇ Make paper bag Joseph puppets from paper lunch bags. Decorate or color the paper bag with bright colors.
- ◇ Decorate cookies like Joseph’s colorful coat. Use gingerbread cookies, graham crackers or wafer cookies as the base. “Glue” things together with icing or peanut butter. Decorate with colorful candy.
- ◇ Make an accordion fold 5 deep. Draw off a simple tunic pattern and cut all the way through, leaving the sleeves attached. Color each coat a different color, each representing the salvation story. Teach your students to share the plan of salvation.
- ◇ Provide coloring pages of Joseph’s coat and his dreams.
- ◇ Run a relay race to decorate Joseph’s Coat.
- ◇ Encourage your students to recreate Joseph’s dreams. Discuss the meaning of the dreams and God’s plan for Joseph.



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as I was being formed...

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Psalm 139:15-16



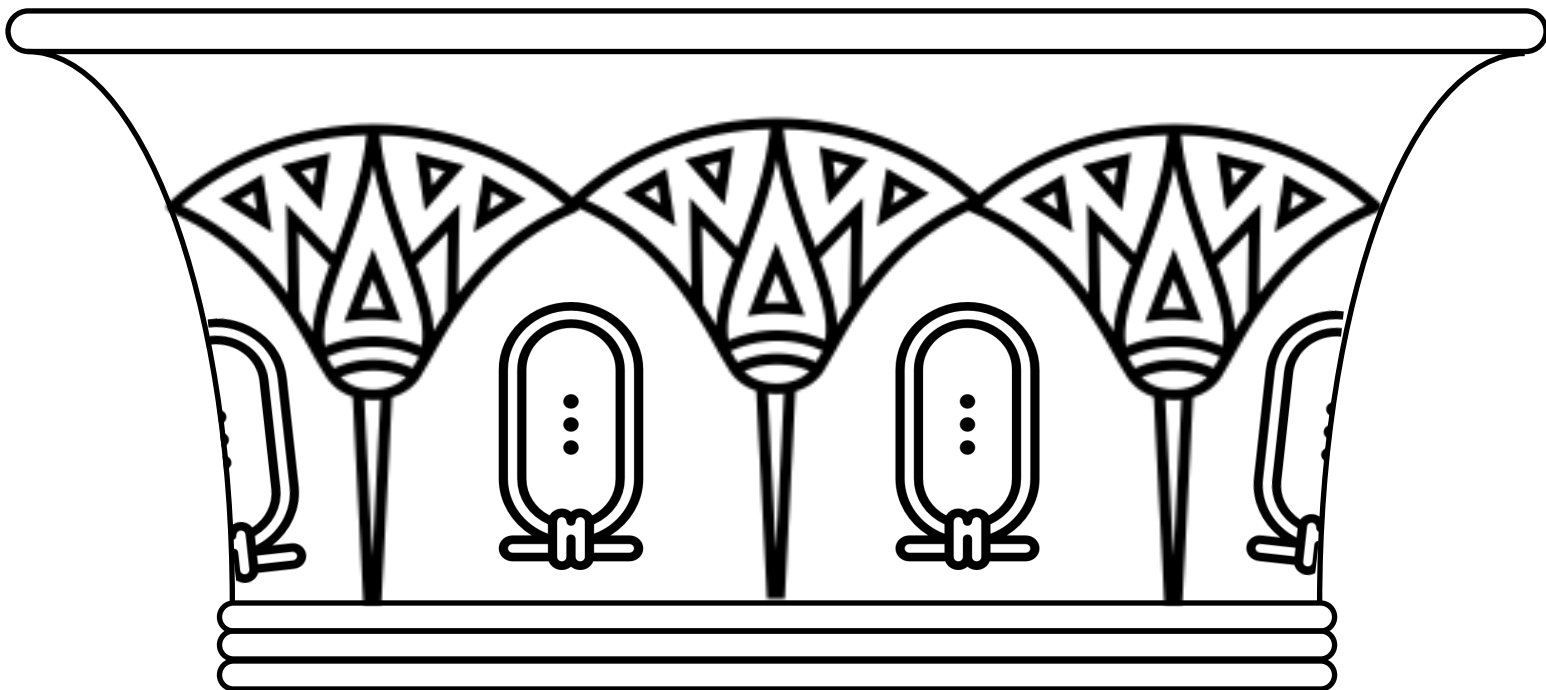
YOU

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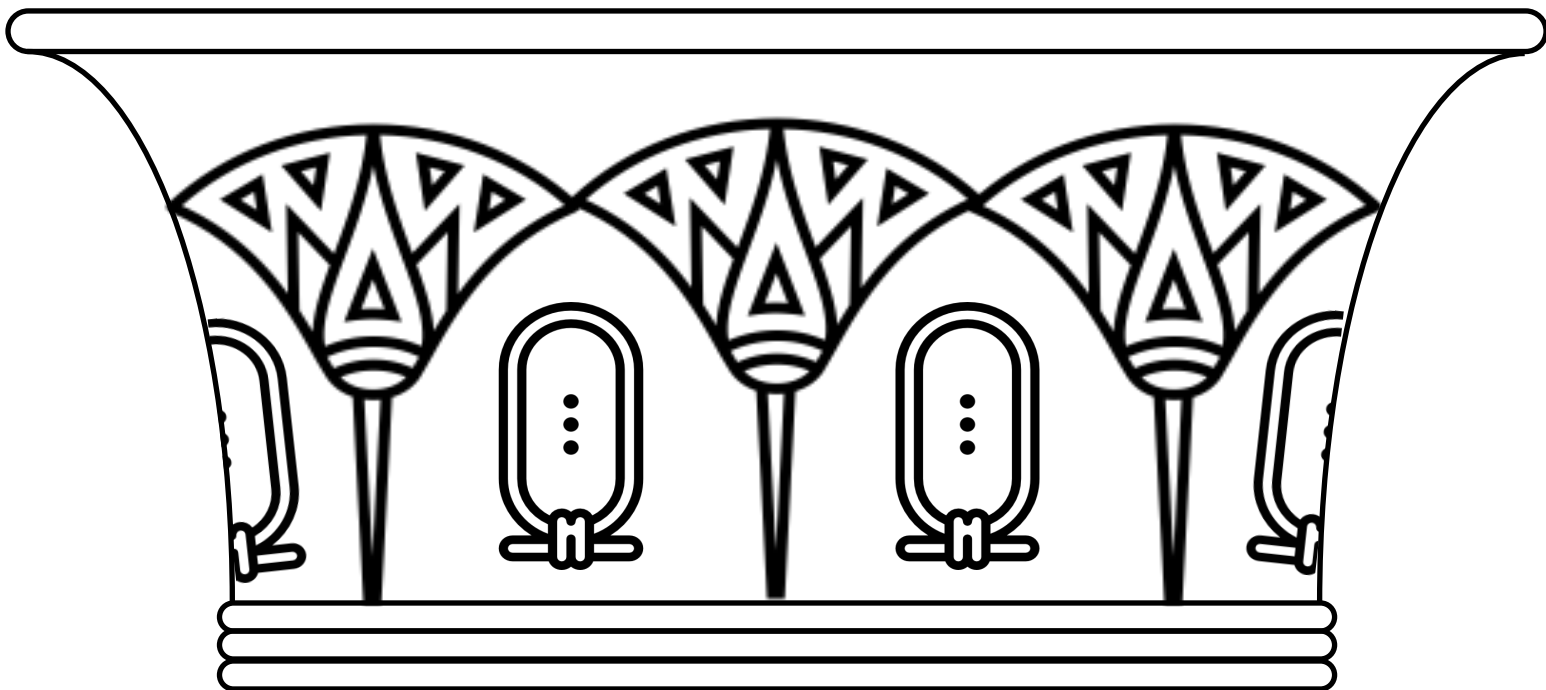
Psalm 139:16



# WORD SEARCH

j	o	s	s	e	p	h	d	l	o	c	a
i	h	l	t	p	t	e	l	v	e	w	t
e	a	n	a	m	w	e	l	v	e	i	s
s	l	j	o	s	e	p	h	o	l	d	i
b	u	n	c	s	l	e	w	t	s	h	e
m	a	e	r	b	v	l	e	t	h	e	s
e	j	o	d	r	e	a	m	s	s	k	u
c	o	k	l	s	i	n	k	h	w	e	n
e	g	j	o	s	e	j	h	e	s	e	n
p	e	s	s	t	r	r	d	e	a	m	s
n	e	h	a	h	o	e	o	p	d	t	f
p	l	u	k	k	l	d	r	a	n	e	m

twelve	Joseph	sheep
coat	dreams	sold



# WORD SEARCH

j	o	s	s	e	p	h	d	l	o	c	a
i	h	l	t	p	t	e	l	v	e	w	t
e	a	n	a	m	w	e	l	v	e	i	s
s	l	j	o	s	e	p	h	o	l	d	i
b	u	n	c	s	l	e	w	t	s	h	e
m	a	e	r	b	v	l	e	t	h	e	s
e	j	o	d	r	e	a	m	s	s	k	u
c	o	k	l	s	i	n	k	h	w	e	n
e	g	j	o	s	e	j	h	e	s	e	n
p	e	s	s	t	r	r	d	e	a	m	s
n	e	h	a	h	o	e	o	p	d	t	f
p	l	u	k	k	l	d	r	a	n	e	m

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