

“Dreamer” - Genesis 37:5-8, 18-28

Ask - “What is the strangest or most memorable dream you’ve ever had?”

Background - Jacob and his family returned to and settled in Canaan. Sadly, his beloved wife Rachel died along the way. Without her, he went on and raised his 12 sons. Of them, Jacob had a particular fondness for and showed parental favoritism to Joseph, her firstborn.

“Joseph’s Dream” - Genesis 37:5-8

(v5) Read verses 1-4. Who was Joseph? How did his father feel about him? How did his brothers feel about him? What did he have and how did his brothers react to it?

(v6-7) Describe the dream that Joseph had in your own words. Also read and discuss his second, similar dream in verse 9. How do they compare?

(v8) How did Joseph’s brothers interpret or understand Joseph’s dream? Compare this with that of his second dream in verse 10.

WHILE STILL A YOUNG MAN OR TEEN, JOSEPH HAD A DREAM THAT HIS BROTHERS WOULD SOMEDAY BOW BEFORE HIM. THEY HATED HIM AND THOUGHT HE WAS ARROGANT AND ENTITLED.

“Joseph In a Pit” - Genesis 37:18-24

(v18-20) Read verses 11-17 for context. What did Joseph’s brothers plan to do with him? Why? What would their alibi be? Discuss.

(v21-22) Who proposed that they not kill Joseph themselves, but rather leave him to die? Was this proposal made out of concern for Joseph or for another reason? What was it?

(v23-24) What did the brothers actually do to Joseph? What was the condition of the pit that he’d been thrown into?

FILLED WITH BITTERNESS TOWARD HIM, JOSEPH’S BROTHERS CONSPIRED TO KILL HIM. INSTEAD, THEY THREW HIM IN A WATERLESS PIT INTENDING FOR HIM TO DIE THERE.

“Joseph Sold to Traders” - Genesis 37:25-28

(v25) After casting Joseph into a pit, what did his brothers do? How does this reflect on their callousness? What or what did they see?

(v26-27) Who proposed an alternative plan? Rather than letting him die, what did he suggest they do with Joseph? Why did he make this proposal? How would the brothers benefit?

(v28) What did the brothers ultimately do with Joseph? What did they get for him? Compare this with Matthew 26:14-16. Where was Joseph taken?

IN THE END, JOSEPH'S BROTHERS SOLD HIM TO SOME ISHMAELITE TRADERS FOR 20 PIECES OF SILVER. THEY TOOK JOSEPH TO EGYPT.

Application - Jacob favored Joseph more than his other sons and they hated him for it. When he told them that he'd dreamed that some day they'd all bow before him, his brothers had finally had enough. They plotted to kill him and discard his body. However, their plot evolved and eventually they sold him for profit, thinking they'd never see or hear from him again. Have you ever been jealous of or bitter toward another person? Did you cause or wish them harm? Do you have such feelings now? If so, pray for forgiveness and release from these negative feelings.