

YOUTH



LEVEL 1

BIBLE

LESSONS



LESSON 9



Joseph's Adventures in Egypt

JOSEPH'S ADVENTURES IN EGYPT

Joseph was the firstborn son of Rachel, Jacob's favorite wife. Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons, and gave him a beautiful coat of many colors.

Joseph's brothers became very jealous when they saw that their father loved him more than he loved them. This jealousy grew into hatred. They hated Joseph even more when he told them about his dreams of some day ruling over them.

One day, when Joseph was about seventeen, his brothers went a long distance from home to feed their father's flocks. When they had been gone for several days, Jacob called Joseph and said, "Go find your brothers and see how they're doing."

After much searching, Joseph finally found his brothers. When they saw him coming, they said to one another, "Here comes that dreamer. Let's kill him and tell our father that a wild animal killed and ate him." But Reuben, the oldest brother, said, "No, let's not kill him. Let's just drop him into a nearby **well**."

As Joseph came near, his brothers suddenly grabbed him. They ripped off his coat of many colors and dropped him into an empty well. Then they sat down to eat.

While eating, they noticed a **caravan** of traders passing nearby on its way to Egypt. "Let's sell Joseph to these traders and make a profit," one of his brothers suggested. They agreed

Parents: Explain the meaning of the **boldface** words. Discuss with your child the dreams that Joseph had as a teenager. They are found in Genesis 37.

and sold him for a small sum of money. Not wanting their father to know the truth, they took Joseph's coat and smeared it with the blood of a goat they had killed.

When Joseph's brothers returned home, they showed the coat to their father and said, "We found this coat. Is it your son's coat or not?"

Seeing the blood-stained coat, Jacob thought that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. He was very, very sad.

JOSEPH A SLAVE IN EGYPT

When the traders reached Egypt they sold Joseph to Potiphar, who was an **officer** of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Joseph became a servant in Potiphar's house. It wasn't long before Potiphar saw that Joseph did all his jobs very well. So he put Joseph in charge of all his servants. God was blessing Joseph in all that he did because he kept His commandments.

Joseph continued to serve his master well until Potiphar's wife **falsely accused** him of trying to harm her. When Potiphar heard this, he became angry and had Joseph put in prison. God was allowing these events for a purpose, as we will soon see.

Joseph continued to set a fine example in his work and his attitude. The keeper of the prison noticed this and decided to put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners.

Meanwhile, Pharaoh's **butler** and **baker** were put in the prison. One night, each of them had a dream. When they awoke the next morning, they were both very sad. Joseph noticed this and asked, "Why are you so sad?"

"We have each dreamed a dream," they said. "But there is no one to tell us what they mean."

Then Joseph said, "Do not **interpretations** belong to God? Tell me your dreams."

"I dreamed of a vine with three branches that had many

clusters of grapes,” the butler said. “I took the grapes and squeezed the juice from them into Pharaoh’s cup.”

God instantly put the meaning of the dream in Joseph’s mind. “In three days you will return to your job in Pharaoh’s court,” Joseph told the butler. “When this happens, please remember me. I was put in prison without having done anything wrong.”

The baker then told Joseph his dream. “I dreamed of three baskets on top of my head,” he said. “The top basket was filled with food for the king. Then birds came and ate the food from the basket.”

“Your dream means that in three days you will be hanged,” Joseph told the frightened baker.

In three days, both dreams came to pass — just as Joseph had said. The butler returned to work for Pharaoh and the baker was hanged. The butler was happy to be free. But he forgot all about Joseph.

JOSEPH BECOMES RULER OF EGYPT UNDER PHARAOH

Two years later, while Joseph was still in prison, Pharaoh had two dreams that worried him. None of his wise men could understand the meaning of the dreams. Then the butler remembered how Joseph had given him the meaning of his dream, and told Pharaoh about him.

“Have him brought before me at once!” ordered Pharaoh. Joseph was soon standing before the king of Egypt. With God’s help, he told Pharaoh the meaning of his dreams.

“God has shown Pharaoh what He is about to do,” said Joseph. “There will be seven years of good crops followed by seven years of terrible **famine**. You would be wise to put someone in charge of storing grain during the good years to save

for the years of famine.”

After hearing Joseph’s wise advice, Pharaoh decided to make him ruler, or governor, of all Egypt under him. He put Joseph in charge of storing grain for the coming famine. God was greatly blessing Joseph because of his continued obedience.

After the seven good years, the famine began as Joseph foretold. When people ran out of food, they went to Joseph who sold them the amount of grain they needed.

The famine was very great in Canaan too. Hearing that the Egyptians were selling grain, Jacob sent ten of his sons there to buy some. He kept his youngest son Benjamin at home for fear of losing him as he had lost Joseph several years earlier.

Joseph **recognized** his brothers when they came to buy the grain, but they did not recognize him. He wanted to welcome them, but decided to be **harsh** with them for a while to teach them a lesson.

“You are spies!” he accused his brothers. “We are not,” they replied. But Joseph had them put in prison anyway. Three days later, he released them all, except for Simeon.

Joseph said to his frightened brothers, “I shall keep your brother Simeon here in prison. The rest of you may return home. When you bring your younger brother Benjamin, I’ll know you are telling the truth and will release Simeon. Don’t come back to Egypt for more grain unless you bring Benjamin with you!” The brothers returned home and told their father all that happened. But Jacob refused to let Benjamin go to Egypt.

JOSEPH REVEALS HIS IDENTITY

The famine continued to worsen, and once again Jacob’s food supply was low. He had no choice but to let Benjamin go to

Parents: Explain what Pharaoh’s dreams were, and how Joseph was able to interpret their meaning.

Egypt. So Joseph's brothers quickly returned to Egypt for more food.

Joseph invited them to eat lunch with him, but did not tell them who he was. The next day they received their grain and began the long trip home.

Suddenly, they saw men on horses riding toward them! The leader was Joseph's chief servant. "Why have you stolen the governor's favorite silver cup?" he demanded.

"We are not thieves," they explained. But after a search was made, the cup was found in Benjamin's sack of grain. Earlier, Joseph had the silver cup placed in Benjamin's sack. Now the brothers would have to go back to Egypt and appear before Joseph to explain.

Looking at his fearful brothers, Joseph pointed at Benjamin and said, "You will stay here and be my servant. The rest of you may return home."

"But our father will die of sorrow if Benjamin does not return with us," pleaded Judah, the brother responsible for Benjamin.

Joseph was unable to hold back his true **identity** from his brothers any longer. With tears streaming down his face, he cried out, "I am Joseph your brother, whom you sold!" His brothers were surprised and frightened!

"Don't be fearful," said Joseph. "God has caused events to work out so that I would be here to help prepare for the famine. I want you to return to Canaan and bring your father, your families and all your **possessions** to Egypt."

When the brothers returned home, they told their father about the unusual turn of events. Jacob was shocked, but very happy to hear that Joseph was still alive. When he arrived in Egypt, Jacob was happy to see the son whom he thought was

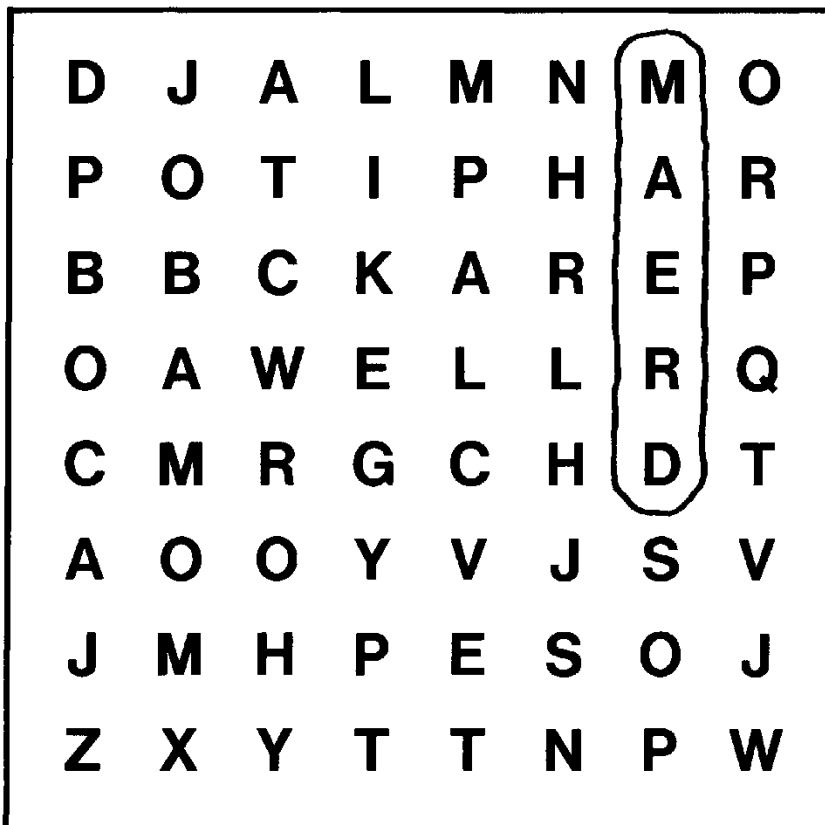
Parents: Explain why Joseph treated his brothers so harshly. Also, explain why Jacob crossed his arms when he blessed Manasseh and Ephraim, and explain who their modern-day descendants are.

dead. He and his family were allowed by Pharaoh to live in the part of Egypt called Goshen.

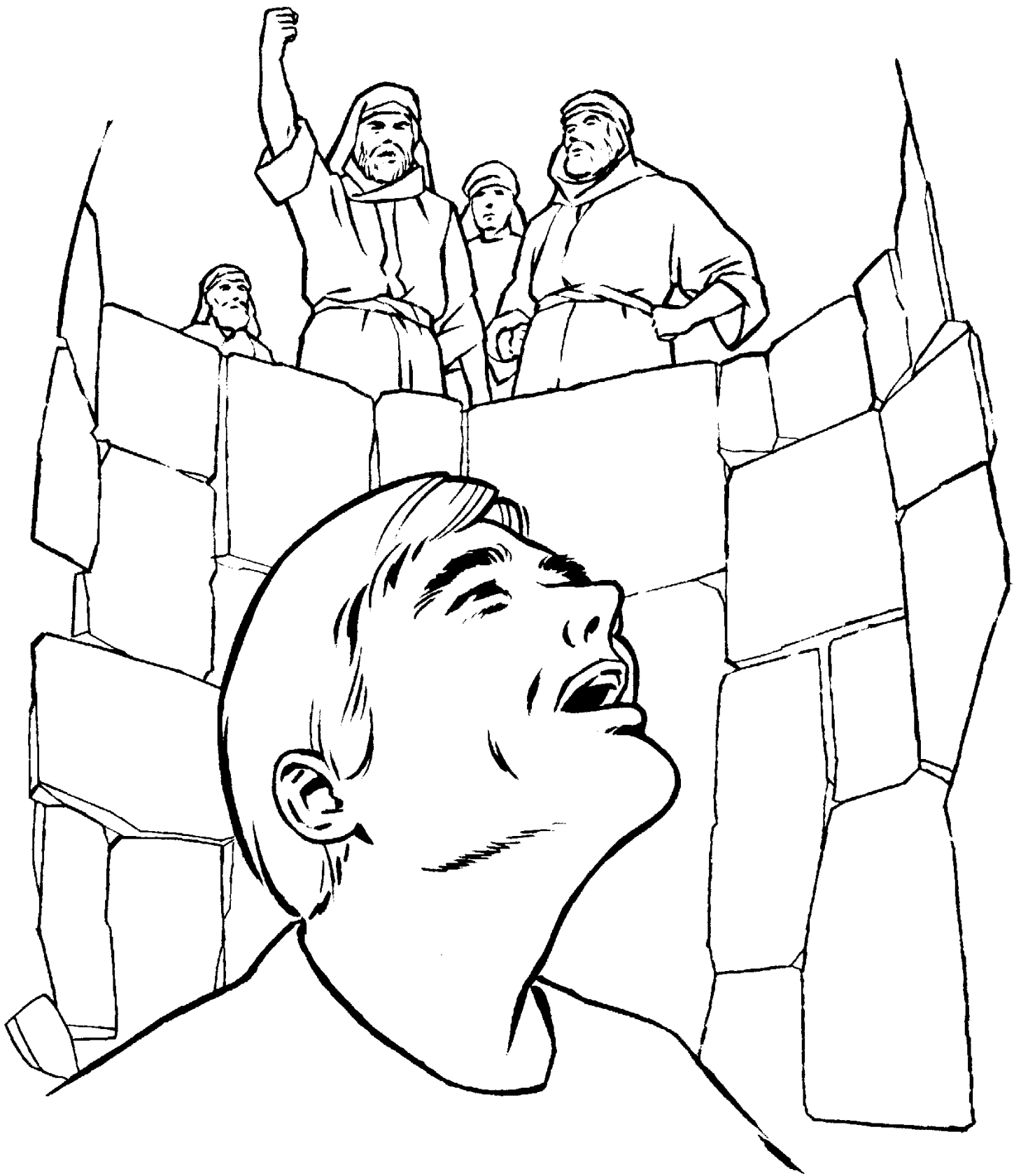
Just before he died, Jacob adopted Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, as his own. Jacob then crossed his arms and blessed his two grandchildren, asking God to give the greater blessing to Ephraim, the younger brother. Jacob then blessed his own sons, after which he died at the age of 147. His body was taken to the land of Canaan where he was buried.

Joseph and all his brothers and their families continued to live in the land of Egypt. There they grew great in number. Joseph continued to live a full and eventful life with God's blessing until his death at the age of 110.

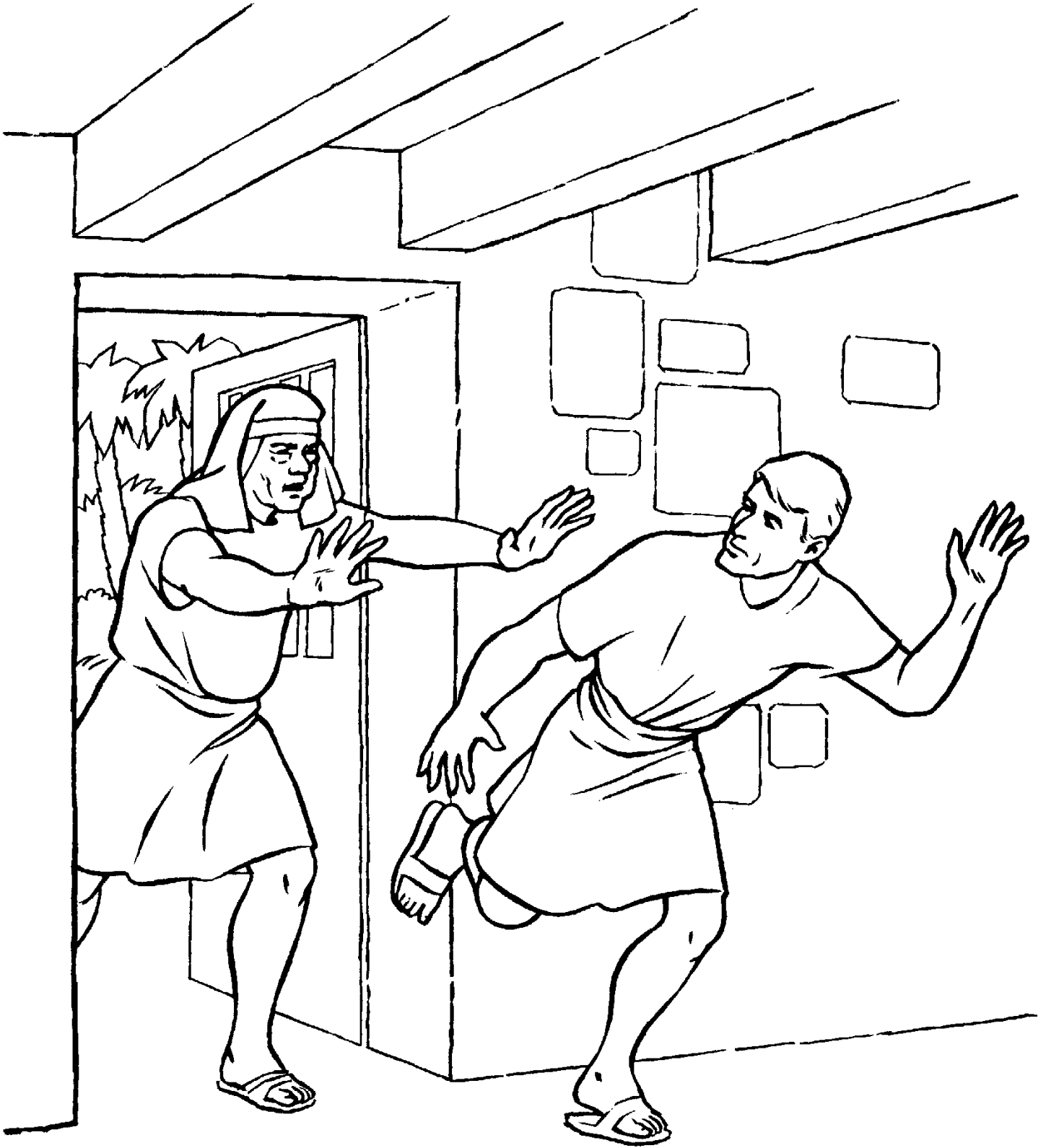
WORD SEARCH In the puzzle below, find the six words listed to the right and draw a circle around them. The letters may go up, down, across or backwards. The first word is done for you.



DREAM ✓
EGYPT
JACOB
JOSEPH
POTIPHAR
WELL



Joseph was dropped into an empty well
by his brothers.



Joseph is thrown in prison.



**Benjamin finds Joseph's favorite silver cup
in his sack of grain!**

Parents: Explain why Joseph had his silver cup placed in Benjamin's sack of grain.



Joseph tells his brothers who he is!

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BIBLE MEMORY

Ephesians 6:1-3

DOT TO DOT

Connect the dots to see what Joseph's father gave him.

