

JOSEPH IS SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS

Genesis 37:1-36.

LESSON 10 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: "Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44).

TEXT

Genesis 37:1-36.

1 And Jacob dwelt in the land wherein his father was a stranger, in the land of Canaan.

2 These are the generations of Jacob. Joseph, being seventeen years old, was feeding the flock with his brethren; and the lad was with the sons of Bilhah, and with the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives: and Joseph brought unto his father their evil report.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age: and he made him a coat of many colours.

4 And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably unto him.

5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.

6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:

7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.

9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

12 And his brethren went to feed their father's flock in Shechem.

13 And Israel said unto Joseph, Do not thy brethren feed the flock in Shechem? come, and I will send thee unto them. And he said to him, Here am I.

14 And he said to him, Go, I pray thee, see whether it be well with thy brethren, and well with the flocks; and bring me word again. So he sent him out of the vale of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

15 And a certain man found him, and, behold, he was wandering in the field: and the man asked him, saying, What seekest thou?

16 And he said, I seek my brethren: tell me, I pray thee, where they feed their flocks.

17 And the man said, They are departed hence; for I heard them say, Let us go to Dothan. And Joseph went after his brethren, and found them in Dothan.

18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.

19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.

20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.

21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.

22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.

23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stripped Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;

24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty, there was no water in it.

25 And they sat down to eat bread: and they lifted up their eyes and looked, and, behold,

a company of Ishmeelites came from Gilead with their camels bearing spicery and balm and myrrh, going to carry it down to Egypt.

26 And Judah said unto his brethren, What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood?

27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content.

28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt.

29 And Reuben returned unto the pit; and, behold, Joseph was not in the pit; and he rent his clothes.

30 And he returned unto his brethren, and said, The child is not; and I, whither shall I go?

31 And they took Joseph's coat, and killed a kid of the goats, and dipped the coat in the blood;

32 And they sent the coat of many colours, and they brought it to their father; and said, This have we found: know now whether it be thy son's coat or no.

33 And he knew it, and said, It is my son's coat; an evil beast hath devoured him; Joseph is without doubt rent in pieces.

34 And Jacob rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days.

35 And all his sons and all his daughters rose up to comfort him; but he refused to be comforted; and he said, For I will go down into the grave unto my son mourning. Thus his father wept for him.

36 And the Midianites sold him into Egypt unto Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's, and captain of the guard.

Jacob's Sons

Jacob had twelve sons, and Joseph was the name of the one next to the youngest. Joseph's father was now an old and he loved his young son very much. Because his father gave Joseph a coat of many beautiful colours, the brothers thought their father loved Joseph more than he loved them. Perhaps he was a better boy than they were. The brothers were jealous of Joseph and hated him very much, which was a wicked thing for them to do. Brothers should love one another.

Joseph's Dream

Perhaps it was because God wanted to encourage Joseph in the years to come, when he would be in great trouble, that He gave Joseph some strange dreams. He dreamed that when the brothers were in the field harvesting grain, his brothers' grain would bend before Joseph's grain. And he dreamed, too, that the sun and moon and stars bowed to him. When Joseph told his brothers his dreams, they hated him still more. They understood the dreams meant that they, the older brothers, would bow down before their little brother. Even Joseph's father did not seem to understand that the dreams were given by God.

The Cruel Brothers

Jacob had cattle that the brothers took care of in a pasture some distance from home. One day Joseph's father told him to go and see how his brothers were. Joseph went to find them, but they had moved farther away, perhaps to find better pastures for the cattle. Joseph went on until he found them; and, no doubt, was very glad to see them. But they were not glad to see Joseph, and began to plan how they would get rid of him. One of the brothers said that it was not right to kill him and throw him into the pit, but that they could put him in there alive. That would mean that he would starve to death unless someone saw him and took him out of the pit. Perhaps that brother intended to get him out of the pit.

After they had put him into the dry well they sat down to eat, but their food could not have tasted very good after the cruel thing they had done to their little brother. Then one of them said that it would be better to sell him to some traders who were passing by at that time. So they lifted him out of the well and sold him to the traders for about ₦6.50. We can imagine how he must have begged them not to be so cruel to him, but their hearts were full of hatred and jealousy and they listened to what Satan told them to do.

The Sad Father

The brothers dipped the beautiful coat in the blood of an animal and told their father that perhaps a wild animal had killed Joseph. He was very sad and wept for his boy. He believed that he was dead; but God had some work for Joseph to do and He had protected him. God has some work for all to do when they are saved; and God knows who will do it, and who will be saved.

**“One little sin brings many more,
It pushes through the half-closed door
Of careless minds and hearts;
Then a host of other sins come too,
They find the door and they scramble through,
And the trouble quickly starts.”**

QUESTIONS

1. Why was Joseph hated by his brothers? Genesis 37:4, 5, 8.
2. What name did they call Joseph? Genesis 37:19.
3. What lie did the boys tell to their father? Genesis 37:32.
4. How do we know that Joseph's brothers were not saved?
 - They hated, verse 4.
 - They planned to kill Joseph, verse 18.
 - They were deceitful, verse 31.
 - They envied, verse 11.
 - They sold him, verse 28.
 - They lied, verse 32.

LESSON RESOURCES

TOPIC

**JOSEPH IS
SOLD BY HIS
BROTHERS**

Lesson 10

Genesis 37:1-36

MUSIC

Do No Sinful Action

WATCH AND PRAY 61

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SONG

Do No Sinful Action

Do no sinful action,

Speak no angry word;

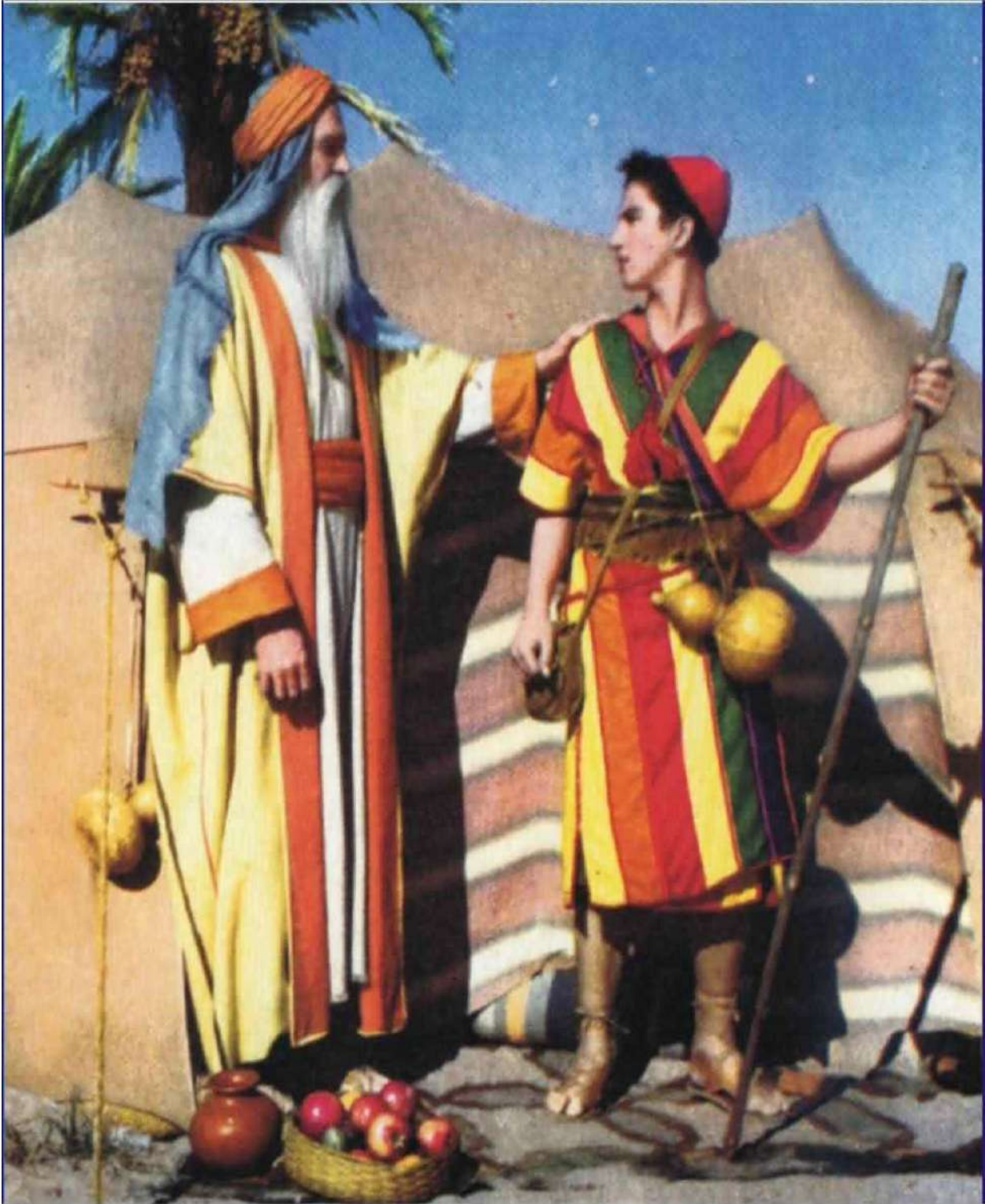
Ye belong to Jesus,

Children of the lord.

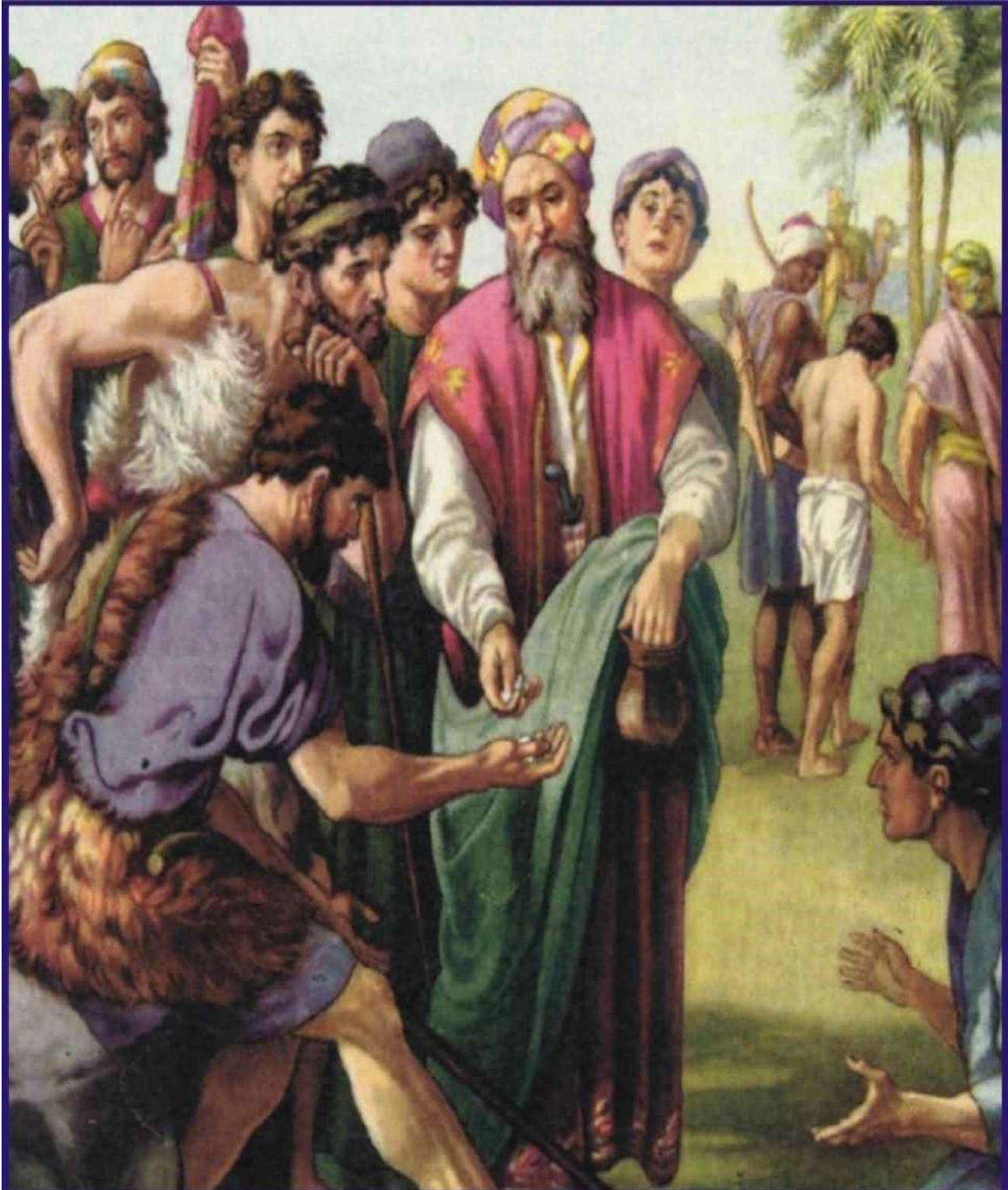
PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2



PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4

