

Joseph's Colorful Coat

There once was a man named Jacob who lived in a place called Canaan. Jacob had lots of kids. He had twelve sons and one daughter. Of all his children, Jacob loved his son Joseph the most. Joseph was kid #11 but he was the first one born when Jacob was old, so he was very special to Jacob. When Joseph was 17 years old, his father gave him a very special gift. He gave him a colorful robe. This special gift made Joseph's older brothers very jealous. They didn't get special gifts from their father like Joseph did. Joseph's colorful coat made them very angry.

Soon after Joseph received his colorful coat, he started to have some strange dreams and he told his brothers about them. The first dream was about wheat. In the dream, Joseph and all his brother had cut a bundle of wheat. Joseph's bundle stood tall, but his brothers' bundles bowed down to his bundle. This made his brothers mad because they thought it meant they would one day have to bow down to Joseph as if he were a king. The second dream was about the stars. There was a sun, a moon, and eleven stars and they all bowed down to Joseph. This also made his brothers mad because they thought they, along with their parents, would one day have to bow down to Joseph. They hated to think that he might rule over them.

One day, soon after Joseph's dreams, Jacob sent Joseph out in the fields to find his brothers. They were still very angry with him, so when they saw him coming, they said, "Look, here comes the dreamer, let's kill him." Rueben, Joseph's oldest brother said, "No, let's don't kill him. Let's just throw him in a pit and leave him." That's just what they did, but first, they stole his coat.

After they had thrown Joseph into the pit they stopped to eat. As they were eating, some merchants came by on their camels. They were taking stuff to sell to the people in Egypt. Joseph's brother Judah had a sneaky idea. He said, "Instead of leaving Joseph in the pit, let's try to sell him to the merchant so he can be slave. They will make him do all kinds of hard work." They pulled Joseph out of the pit and sold him to the merchants for 20 pieces of silver.

The merchants took Joseph away and all that was left of him was his beautiful coat. His brothers ripped up his coat. Then they killed a goat and dipped Joseph's coat in the goat's blood. They took the ripped up, blood-stained coat back to their father and acted like they had just found it on the ground. When Jacob saw the coat, he thought for sure Joseph had been attacked by a wild animal and died. Jacob was very sad for a very long time not knowing Joseph was still alive in a faraway country working as a slave.