

246 IN THE BEGINNING

lesson 09— joseph

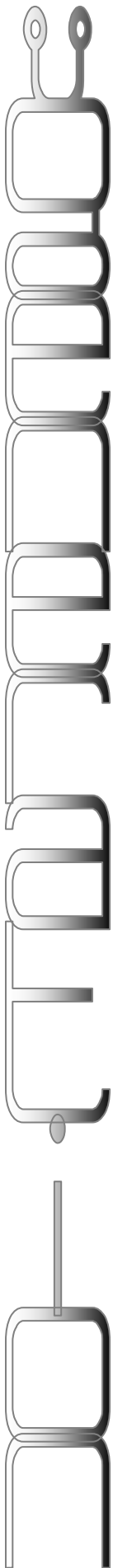
I. The Story

- A. Jacob had 12 sons, and loved JOSEPH the most (**Genesis 37:1-4**)
 - *the jealousy increased as Jacob gave Joseph a “COAT OF MANY COLORS”
- B. Joseph had a DREAM that his brothers would one day bow down to him (**Genesis 37:5-36**)
 - 1. the brothers got so mad they SOLD Joseph to merchants who took him to Egypt
 - 2. the merchants then sold Joseph as a slave to Potiphar (one of Pharaoh’s officials)
- C. Potiphar’s wife tried to “get romantic” with Joseph, but he RAN AWAY (**Genesis 39:7-23**)
 - 1. Joseph left behind a piece of his clothes that she had grabbed when he ran off
 - 2. she lied and said Joseph tried to “get romantic” with her (using the clothes as proof)
 - 3. Joseph was then put in PRISON
- D. While in prison, God gave Joseph the gift of interpreting DREAMS (**Genesis 40:1-41:46**)
 - 1. Joseph interpreted a dream for one of the prison officials
 - 2. 2 years later, Pharaoh had a troubling dream that no one could interpret. The official remembered Joseph and Joseph was able to interpret the dream
 - 3. Joseph was then put at the 2nd highest position in EGYPT
- E. Pharaoh’s dream told of 7 years of harvest and 7 years of famine (**Genesis 41:47-42:8**)
 - 1. this warning allowed Egypt to store up food in the 1st 7 years
 - 2. the next 7 years, people traveled to Egypt for food...including Joseph’s BROTHERS!
- F. Joseph’s brothers would BOW DOWN to him (not knowing it was their brother) for food
 - 1. eventually, Joseph would reveal himself to them and FORGIVE them (**Gen. 45**)
 - 2. the 12 sons moved to Egypt where their descendants would live until Moses (**Gen. 46**)

II. Application:

- A. God is always at work in my life; He sees the BIG PICTURE
- B. God wants us to be consistently follow Him in the GOOD and the BAD
- C. When we consistently follow God, the end always results in God’s BEST

Ask Yourself: What is God teaching me through the life of Joseph?



246 IN THE BEGINNING



lesson 09— joseph

Small groups

Talk About It: Imagine you are Joseph. You have heard your father, Jacob, talk about how great God is, and now you are hated by your brothers, sold into slavery, and thrown in prison. What do you think is going through Joseph's mind?

Talk About It: Read **Genesis 37:19** as the brothers were making fun of Joseph. Can you think of a time when you have been hated, made fun of, or looked down on by people? How did you handle it? Did you try to do something you shouldn't to get them to like you? Did you act like someone you weren't? Did you get even?

Discuss: Joseph trusted God no matter what others did or thought. He was consistent. He never stopped doing what was right. He even was put in charge of other slaves and even prisoners while in jail! He could have got a bad attitude in prison, slept with Potiphar's wife, or even sought revenge on his brothers. Joseph never changed.

Discuss: If we know that we are following God, but the road seems "tough", we can be assured that God knows best. In doing what is right, you will sometimes be made fun of, rejected, etc., but God has a reason. Read and discuss the following 2 verses about what God was doing during Joseph's trials:

1. While a slave (**Genesis 39:2**)
2. While in prison (**Genesis 39:21, 23**)

Question: As we have talked about, Joseph never changed. What was the result of Joseph trusting God?

- *brothers eventually bowed before him (respected him)
- *was given high positions
- *saved his family and Egypt from famine