

SOLD

Genesis 37:12- 36

Jacob had a troubled family. Anger and jealousy were a big part of their lives. There was constant fighting in the home.

Jacob had sent all his sons except Joseph to keep the flocks in Shechem. He called Joseph and said, "Aren't your brothers feeding the flocks in Shechem? Come now, I am sending you to them. Please go and see whether everything is going well for your brothers, and the flocks. Then return to me and bring me the news."

Joseph answered, "Here I am."

Sometime later a man found Joseph wandering around in the field. The man asked Joseph, "What are you looking for?"

Joseph replied, "I am looking for my brothers. Could you please tell me where they are feeding the flocks?"

The man answered, "They left here. I heard one of them say that they were going to go to Dothan."

So Joseph followed his brothers to Dothan, where he found them.

But while he was still a long ways off, the brothers saw Joseph coming. They conspired with each other to kill him. The brothers had let their hate for Joseph grow and fester to the point where they were now ready to murder their own brother. They said to each other, "Look, here comes that dreamer. Now let's kill him, and throw him into some pit. We will tell everyone that some wicked beast has eaten him. Then we will see what becomes of his dreams."

When the oldest brother Reuben heard these wicked plans, he said, "Don't shed his blood. Just throw him into this pit here in the wilderness. But do not kill him."

Reuben planned to secretly rescue Joseph from the brothers and return him safely to their father.

By the time that Joseph finally arrived at the brother's camp, the plan had been made. The brothers grabbed Joseph and ripped his beautiful coat of many colors off of him. Then they took him and threw him into an empty pit, that had no water in it.

After doing this wickedness, the brothers sat down to eat. Their hearts had become so hard from hate that they weren't bothered by Joseph's cries for mercy or help. As the brothers sat around eating, they looked up and saw a caravan of Ishmeelite traders coming from Gilead, with their camels bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, which they were carrying down into Egypt.

Judah said to his brothers, "What good is it to us if we kill our brother, and hide his blood? Why don't we sell him to these Ishmeelites. Then his blood will not be upon us. After all, he is our own brother, our own flesh and blood."

All the brothers were quite satisfied with Judah's suggestion. As soon as the Midianite merchants drew close to them, the brothers lifted Joseph out of the pit, and took him over to the traders. They sold him to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver. Joseph was to be taken to Egypt to be sold to the highest bidder as a slave.

Sometime later, Reuben returned from his duties and looked into the pit. When he saw that Joseph was not in the pit, Reuben tore his clothes. He said, "The child is gone. Now what shall I do?"

The brothers took Joseph's beautiful colored coat. They killed a kid of the goats, and dipped Joseph's coat in the blood. Then they took the coat and brought it to their father, saying, "We found this coat. Is it the one that belonged to your son?"

When Jacob recognized the coat as Joseph's, he said, "An evil beast has eaten my son, and torn him in pieces." Then Jacob tore his clothes. He put on sackcloth, and went into mourning. Jacob mourned for his son Joseph for many days. All his sons and daughters tried to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted, saying, "I will go to the grave in sorrow."

Can you imagine trying to comfort their father when in their hearts they knew what they had done. How miserable to live with such deception and wickedness. The brothers loved their father, and now they were the cause of his great sorrow.

Jacob wept for his son Joseph. Meanwhile, the Midianites sold Joseph to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh's and captain of the guard.

What a terrible thing envy, and anger become. If we let these things live in our hearts, they will grow and grow until they become hate. Then hate will continue to grow until becomes the desire to do harm to another. I am sure that at the beginning of their hate the brothers would have never thought of killing Joseph, but as they let that hate consume them, they came to the point of murder.

If you are harboring envy, jealousy, or anger in your heart towards someone, ask God to forgive you. Ask him to make you love that person and turn your envy into contentment. Be thankful for all that God has done for you, and given you. Every person is capable of doing what Joseph's brothers did, if they do not let go of their envy, jealousy, and hate.

PRINCIPLE: Turn away from envy, jealousy, and hate. Be content and thankful for who you are and what you have.

LEARN: Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Hebrews 13:5

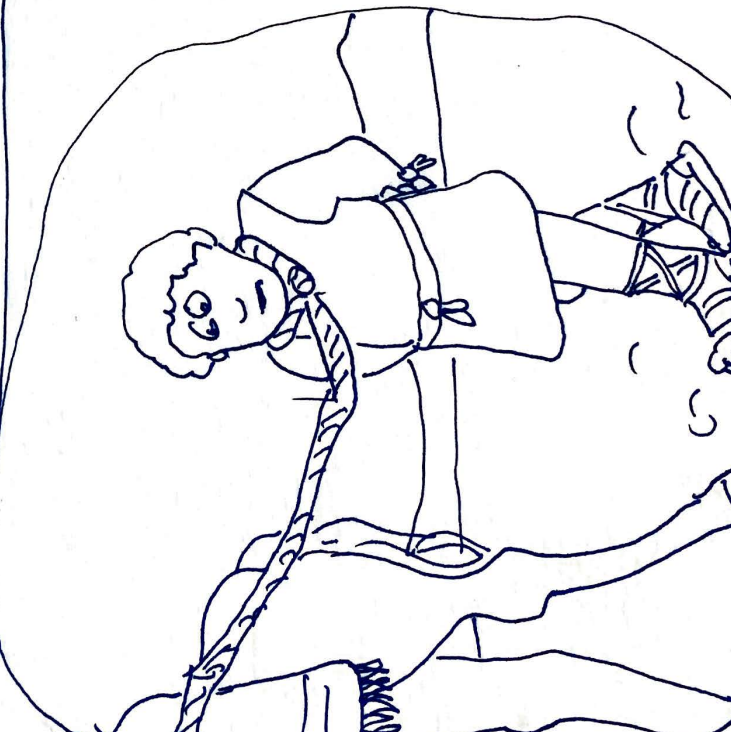
1 Joseph's brothers plotted to kill him.
But Reuben convinced them to throw him into a pit rather than kill him.

2 The brothers sold Joseph to some Ishmeelite merchants, who took him to Egypt to be sold as a slave.

The brothers took the colored robe that they had stripped from him. They dipped the coat in a goat's blood, and took it to their father. When their father recognized the coat as Joseph's, he mourned for the son that he thought had been killed by a wild animal.

4 Joseph's brothers let their envy and hate for Joseph make them liars and murderers in their hearts.

5 God wants us to turn away from envy, jealousy and hate. He wants us to be content with what we have, and to love each other.



1. Color these pictures.
2. Cut them out and paste on booklet page with corresponding title.
3. Color the blood on Joseph's torn coat.
4. Put your book together.
5. Make a title & cover.
6. Paste the last paragraph on a plain last page.

